

Harmon Room - Library

October 3rd, 2024 | 12:00 PM CST



MACALESTER COLLEGE
STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Legislative Body Meeting Agenda

Land Acknowledgement ~ *Liv Peterson* ~ 2 minutes

We would like to acknowledge that Macalester College and the College Archives are located on the traditional, ancestral and contemporary lands of the Waŋpékhute band of Dakhóta Oyáte, the Dakota nation. We make this acknowledgement to respect and affirm the sovereignty of the Dakota people, ancestors and descendants, and to respect the land itself. We recognize that this acknowledgment is but a first step in recognizing and dismantling aggressive and persistent policies of settler colonialism that continue to oppress to this day. These are the contexts in which the archives functions to this day. The work of acknowledgement must be paired with active practices like the amplification of Indigenous voices and land repatriation in order to be substantive and meaningful. With thanks to Jennings Mergenthal, Class of 2021, for their time and effort in crafting this land acknowledgement.

FAC Appeal ~ *Luke Evans* ~ 10 minutes

- Explanation of Request
 - Luke: Hello, everybody. Just to remind people, FAC at this point 2 weeks ago received a request from Chess Club that was rejected in FAC. Chess Club appealed that and now it is coming in front of LB where this body will have a chance to decide whether to overturn the FAC's decision. Today, I'll explain the original request, then the FAC's process of amending the request and then Chess Club will have a chance appeal, then FAC will discuss their rationale in their decision making.

- Luke: The original timeline is from the 12th to the 15th with tournament play on the evening of the 14th. The club would fly into Toronto on the evening of the 12th and leave early on the 15th. In the original travel accounted for it was \$2,730 for plane tickets and \$1,510 for hotel rooms. The original operating for the food would be \$945 for meals which would have to come out of operating if it were to be passed. But it's important to remember that the precedent FAC has set this year is if two requests are over \$4,000 together it has to come in front of LB to be voted on. This request, even if that amount were to be removed, it would still total over \$4,000 and in the amended request, as well. The original total is \$5,186.25. In our meeting with Chess Club, we wanted to amend the request to get it in a better position to be passed. Unfortunately, that didn't happen. The amended timeline shaved off the 12th, so they would leave on the 13th and stay until the 15th. The appealed total is for \$4393.22. They removed one night of stay and food that was calculated for that night. This is a little rough but it's in the ballpark. This is the specific amount that was appealed today and rejected in FAC. Are there any questions?
 - Chloe: The amended timeline is still 6 people?
 - Luke: Yes.
 - Aditya: How much is the total per person?
 - Luke: \$717 per person in the amended request.
Today, we're looking at the amended request, this original request is just for context of amendment.
 - Luke: I think we can move on, going to invite reps from Chess Club up now.
- Appeal from Chess Club:
 - Chess Club Reps: Originally, we had a request where I was planning on giving my players some rest. Meeting with the master would've cost more money but because we have POC and women he was willing to meet with us for cheaper. I want to make this club more competitive. I want a professional chess team. There are 1500 grand masters that are men and only 40 that are women so that's a big gap. I want these new women members to stay and they're not going to stay if you don't show them connections or any of the chess world. I'm a senior, I want him [point to the club VP] to have these connections, too. I've been hearing that the reason it was rejected was because it's

in Toronto, actually cheaper than going to D.C. or California. I want people to have an idea of what a real chess tournament is like in preparation for nationals. I want to spend time exploring some historical spots with some context like this is where this famous grandmaster played this game. We're going to be visiting historical areas. We're both people of color, and we both really want to see the growth of people of color and minorities in general in chess. Our team is going to be a bit out of place because there's virtually no POC or women. This year we've had the most POC and women on the team, and we're trying to keep them on the team and grow this.

○ Liv: Any questions?

■ Laurice: I have a few questions. Has chess club ever requested FAC money before?

- Chess Club Rep: Yes, we've just never requested for a trip. Last year I wanted to for a much smaller trip, but I didn't have the connections I have now.
- Laurice: Usually, every year how many trips does the chess club have?
- Chess Club Rep: Not a lot. At the end of last year we got a coach and as a club it's only been 2 or 3. It's also because we understand people don't have that much time, but it's good practice. He [vice president] won a tournament not that long ago and got some recognition for that which is great.
- Laurice: In terms of the importance of this trip for the chess club, would you say if you don't do this trip the the club would suffer?
- Chess Club Rep: I think so. We're not going to get the women to be able to see these connections. We can go to local ones but the majority of the people are old white men who are barely at playing level. At least in Toronto, we'll see at least a few more women. We want them to get the connections and talk to people... Sorry, I lost my train of thought but basically we just want them to enjoy the game for itself with all the clubs were going to be meeting.
- Ryan: You speak a lot about tournament play and meeting with masters. Can you give a morespecific timeline?

- Chess Club Rep: The master, it's my side of things. I haven't said anything because it's just my personal connection with me going "Hey, we might have some women and POC coming." I didn't reach out to him before we put in the request just so I could be sure about it. I'd feel kind of bad about it if I reached out to him and then had to tell him we weren't coming. But that's ok, I can tell him that. The timeline is amended so we'd come in the morning of the 13th. We'd meet with him and let him show us some historical areas. We want to catch great chess players and great chess clubs. Toronto has some of the oldest clubs in the world. On the day of the 14th, I was going to try to prepare people for blitz and try to get them tournament ready. They're going to be exhausted from the day before so we want to make sure we're giving everyone enough time to recover. Meeting with the master and playing in the tournament is a lot for one day and the blitz tournaments go until midnight. We have to be very ready. It's hard mentally to sit there for a long time, like you have to actually do it to understand.
- Ryan: Since this is an international travel request, you're going to have to have study away insurance. Have you explored domestic options which will be easier?
 - Chess Club Rep: Ok, we can try to explore other options but I've just been basing this on my connections. Flights to California where there's another good tournament are more expensive compared to the Toronto tickets.
- Cooper: I understand the desire to want to keep people involved, I'm wondering if there would've been a different option. I don't know how often there are tournaments in Minnesota or the Midwest area. Because this is a trip for only 6 people so is there a way to get more people involved by doing local stuff.
 - Chess Club Rep: We have some Minnesota stuff planned but they're far in advance. We have weird levels - we have super high and super low and no in between. I want people to stay on the team when I'm gone. I want people to keep playing so I want to foster a competitive

environment. We have local tournaments too, it's already in the budget.

- Liv: We're running out of time for questions. Do we have any sort of motion?
 - Ryan: Oh, FAC needs to speak.
 - Liv: Oh, I'm sorry, guys.
- FAC Decision Rationale
 - Luke: I'm going to be explaining the FAC rationale for rejecting their request. The biggest reason for rejecting was the price per student going on the trip. Dividing it out among the 6 people was \$715.54 per person. The student activity fee each person pays is \$230 - so this would be multiple people's fees going to just one person. FAC likes to make that distribution a little more equitable. We want to make sure these events are having an impact on the campus community. While chess club is part of the campus community, it's more limiting in scope because it's difficult to bring the impacts of these chess tournaments onto the broader campus. Also, international travel would be a logical hassle, and there hasn't been international travel in about 9 years and so we're unsure of the logistics of that. While the benefits of attending the tournament are valuable for those going, we don't think the purpose of chess club as it currently exists is to be competitive, it hasn't been in their history. As a college, we don't have the capacity to allow clubs that haven't been competitive to be more competitive because we are so small. Furthermore, this didn't weigh too heavily in the request but there were some specifics like we want to know the specific miles.
 - Chess Club Rep: Yea, for the answer of "a lot of miles" some of the keys on my keyboard don't work so I'm sorry about that.
 - Luke: That's ok. So, are there any questions?
 - Jordan: So, I'm not sure how the study away process works, but this trip is proposed for October 12th? And these flights haven't been booked since there hasn't been money allocated.
 - Luke: Yes, and possibly hotel price would fluctuate.

- Jordan: So, would study away even be able to do this so quickly and flight tickets 2 weeks away go up by the day, would this be the actual amount?
 - Luke: We are often flexible in accommodating flight tickets because clubs often don't buy the same day.
 - Chess Club Rep: Flight tickets are still the same, I just checked.
- Joel: I wanted to speak to LB and we need to remember that the decision we make as LB sets a precedent for our relationship with FAC. FAC's role is to evaluate requests based on the budget. I would caution us to think hard about when it makes sense to overrule FAC's decision-making.
- Chess Club Rep: I feel like we weren't given all these reasons and it would've been nice to have these reasons before so I could actually respond to this. We are bringing something to this campus. People aren't going to want to get involved because they see we're only doing local things. As a woman, one of the very very few ones, this is more than chess to me. There's so much sexism in there. I want women to see that yeah we can do this.
 - Luke: I want to make it clear we don't have a vendetta against Chess Club and we appreciate the leadership displayed by Chess Club. It's just that we just judge the request on this criteria.
- Ryan: Motion to vote on this appeal.
- Liv: Ok, motion to approve the appeal of \$4,293.20 for Chess Club.
 - FOR: 3
 - AGAINST: 18
 - ABSTAIN: 1
- Liv: The appeal does not pass with 18 opposed, 3 for. And one abstention.
- Liv: We will move on. Next on the agenda is the Community Chest request that has been tabled until next week. So next is bylaw edits.

Bylaws Edits ~ Ryan Connor ~ 10 minutes

-  TO EDIT MCSG Bylaws 2024-2025


- Ryan: As we've been talking about for the past few weeks we're going to be discussing bylaws this week and then the election code next week. We're going to go through the big ones right now as a whole group and then we're going to vote. If there's an issue we want to discuss, please bring this up and we can discuss it. This is just a simple majority. Feel free to pull them up on your laptop and we can talk about it. There should be reasoning to all edits made if they're not just grammatical.
 - Luke: It's 2/3 majority.
 - Ryan: 2/3? Ok.
- Elizabeth: I'm looking at page 19 under section 4 and I'm seeing that Emi put some question marks on "designing and coordinating the MCSG swag". I know what that means but I think we should have some clarification on what that means for the bylaws.
 - Ryan: Any suggestions aside from swag? Apparel? Merchandise?
 - Samantha: I think merchandise is fine.
 - Ryan: Ok. Else when you get a moment can you add that in.
 - Sean: I just added a suggestion. Should I bring it up?
 - Ryan: Which one?
 - Sean: Page 19. Its sub clause B sub sub clause 1: Student orgs will undergo a formal check in once every 3 years. I think it should be MUST be at least every 3 years. Some orgs have been uncharted because they haven't had this meeting.
 - AnLian: I couldn't find the place where to put this but I want to recommend changing voting to be secret voting like how we did speaker voting.
 - Ryan: This has been a past discussion last fall. We did ultimately decide to stick with open balloting, because of transparency. Part of being in MCSG is taking a stand on things and holding your position. Laurie, do you have anything to add?
 - Laurie: I think it would fundamentally change what MCSG is as an organization. We talk about transparency and I think that would change that but I'm just the advisor.
 - David: Can we also not have the voting process be secret and have the results be announced so that people aren't voting because people think it'll be passed. Like if we have the actual voting process be secret and then have voting results announced then people aren't voting as a herd because they think things will be approved.

- Joel: We will have the time, we'll go through the process.
- Ryan: We're just talking about online publications. We had the discussion last year, and decided that it could be damaging for future interactions outside the college. For example, if an employer can look back at your voting. We've had to take things off the website so people aren't getting harassed by employers.

Vote on Bylaws Omnibus Bill ~ *Ryan Connor* ~ 10 minutes

- Cooper: Motion to approve omnibus bylaw edits.
 - FOR: 21
 - Opposed: 0
 - Abstain: 1

Judicial Council Nominations ~ *Joel Sadofsky* ~ 10 minutes

-  Judicial Council Nominations
- Joel: For those who are new. Judicial council to use a US government analogy is kind of like the supreme court but unlike the US government they generally decide very little and are only called upon in special cases outlined in the bylaws and the constitutions.. At this point they've only been used when people aren't showing up to meetings and we need people to do their work. How the judicial process goes is that the Associate Dean of Students Angela Walker nominates several students and we as the Legislative Body approve them in this space. The constitution says there needs to be at least 3. Last year Angela Walker, and some others worked together to make sure that there are more than 3 people. This school is small, people always have conflicts of interests and we need more people when everyone knows who this is about. Let's take 2 minutes and then come back together to vote on the judicial council.
- Joel: Are we good? Cool. I motion to approve all 7 members of the judicial council.
- Liv: All those in favor?
 - FOR 23
 - AGAINST: 0
 - ABSAIN: 0

Class Leads Discussion ~ *Ryan Connor* ~ 5 minutes

- **Ryan:** Just a little about what they are, I'll give a brief overview of it. Every individual class will choose a class lead who will plan class nights and serve as the exec member of the class reps and take any questions about your years. It is in the bylaws. We'll take 30 or 40 seconds to talk with your class reps to see if anybody wants to be the lead.

- Ryan: Are there any class years who are not able to select a class lead at this time?
 - Ryan: 2028?
 - Chloe: We don't know anything about the position so we need more time to discuss it.
- Ryan: 2027?
 - Liv: We selected David.
- Ryan: 2026?
 - Samantha: We selected Marina. She's not here though.
 - Ryan: Is marina ok with that? Ok, let's table that.
- Ryan: 2025?
 - Cooper: We chose Sylvia.

Committee Updates ~ *Committee Chairs* ~ 3 minutes

- Liv: Come to the podium to give your update.
- Aditya: The AAC met this week on Monday and began brainstorming new ideas we could work on this year and ways to better implement our existing programs. Better communication around Mac Books for the spring sem will be one of our main focuses but other ideas as well. We sent out applications for the GSAT grant but there's also a post in the Mac Daily. If you know any juniors or seniors who are interested in going to grad school, encourage them to apply.
- Liv: SOC hasn't had a meeting this week. Last week we held office hours, but didn't meet with anyone. Chloe and I met and there's a lot of things in the works, so expect charters soon.
- David: FAC met this Tuesday with a couple orgs. Bigger ones are that badminton requested a large amount of capital. We worked with them and got it to \$1,600 for capital. Mac Slam has \$1000 for each poet. Mac Investment Group and two of them have been approved, two have been tabled. We're going to see if both subscriptions are needed or if they can be put together. Other small ones are Mac Bike and Latin American Heritage.
- Sylvia: CEC talked about the SLT event which thank you to those who came. It went well, and if you have any suggestions for the future please let us know. We've started planning for Legislation Week. We're making a one pager that can be used at legislative events and future events. You'll be receiving info if you're a chair about what's in the one pager. We're also making a review card for the SLT.
- Liv: For the sake of time, if cabinet members could put their updates on the doc.

Cabinet Updates ~ *Cabinet Liaisons* ~ 3 minutes

- Dining Liaison (Galjer):
 - Had meeting with Amy Tomes, went well and was very productive 10/2/24
 - The waffle maker and the sandwich press will be making a comeback, Bon appetite after the renovation still needs to find a counter with outlet space in order to bring back our beloved waffle maker :) (10/2/24)
 - Bon appetite has a QR code for student feedback, sent out in the Mac Daily
 - I will have weekly check in meetings with Amy Tomes
 - Any MCSG members who would be interested in attending MDAC meetings, please reach out to me :)

Announcements ~ 2 minutes

- Focus group availability October 15th - [Sign-up sheet](#)
- Else: There's going to be a focus group for MCSG on the 15th. Going to be about what's working and what's not working. If you could sign up for that, there's a link in the agenda,
- Liv: Ok, thanks everyone. We're adjourned.