

Hall of Fame Room - Leonard Center

October 10th, 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.

Paul Overvoorde, Associate Provost ~ *Joel Sadofsky* ~ 15 minutes

- Joel: Paul Overvoorde has graciously joined us to give upstate on the Strategic Plan. Paul is our Associate Provost, professor of Biology, and the co-chair of the Strategic Plan Implementation Committee. He's going to give a presentation on updates on the implementation of the strategic plan.
- Paul: Thanks everyone. My name is Paul, I use he/him pronouns. I am a father of two wonderful daughters so I have a lot of empathy for the transitions, the shifts, the workloads, the points in the semester that everyone gets to. When I was a student many years ago, I was also very involved in student government and I had the same role as Joel. That is to say that I have a lot of appreciation for the time and energy you guys are all spending on this and am empathetic to all of you sitting here and the pace of which things happen and how it can impact the way things are doing. A strategic plan is something that has a 8-10 year horizon. It gets created and the changes that end up

happening are things that are meant to change things long term for the institution. This is important for what will be the case in 3-5 years. How this all unfolds can sometimes feel disconnected from conversations that are happening in rooms like this. I want by the end of this for you guys to have the sense that there are a lot of things happening and the student voice is really important to what the college will look like in 5 years. Joel sent some questions this morning and I'm gonna use that for about 10 min of commentary and then open the floor for questions.

- Paul: One of the questions was recapping what student engagement helped shape the original strategic plan and how student input has continued to be important in this process. For those of you who may not have been around when the plan was being put together, this was a project that was started in 2020 with the Senior Leadership Team. They started to have conversations with the new president in January of that year and the process of starting to create an inclusive process was kicked off. Part of that process was using a lot of data points from communities. Student participation in large listening sessions were guided by a consulting firm called Credo which allowed for a lot of input. Students were targeted for sub conversations. This process led to over 2,500 lines of input. One challenge from that was how do we make sense out of it? The whole idea is to try to identify things that were important as a community and what bubbled up. One of the roles that occurred during this writing process was a number of champions. There were 4 students, a number of alumni, faculty, staff, and then the SLT. Altogether the group was about 20 people. We worked through that data and moved it forward into a plan. The draft of that plan was shared with the entire community and additional input was put together before it was moved forward to the Board of Trustees for final approval in October of 2022. It was about a year of working to figure out what the future of Macalester was going to look like. The plan is on the website and there is some really good introductory language that talks about the future of Macalester and our liberal arts curriculum. In order to get there the 3 areas identified were curriculum, culture, and campus. Within each of those bins there were priorities identified. Even with these bins going to priorities, there's a bit of a snowball effect. The language of these plans are starting to serve as filters for what people are choosing to do and the kinds of conversations that are being held. In terms of the roles of student involvement in Summer 2023 there were 6 working groups which were trying to make the plan much more concrete. I see Tristan over there, but students were involved in these working groups and other students participated in the working groups. Students are part of comprehensive campus plan committees. Inside of that campus plan there are things that are moving forward, conversations about the welcome center in the new residence hall, planning regarding the C-House. There's also been a lot of input in listening sessions like this to share updates. There's also student input on pilots being done. For example, we changed when orientation happened based on feedback of when students can come back for RA training and when first years are able to arrive. There's also a set of experimental investigations on the liberal arts first year courses right now that involve many different models of teaching. Those are other examples of ways we are trying to get input back from students about what is

working and what's not working. Lastly, over the summer a number of students who participated in a focus group hosted by the Curriculum Implementation Committee. One of the big goals is that bucket of curriculum change. We wanted student and alumni input on what's working with graduation requirements, what are some of the gaps, how do people experience the number of things that have to get done in order to graduate from Macalester. So those are some highlights of what the plan was, how it came into being, broad strokes of what the plan involves, and how students are involved in every step along the way. I want to walk away from here having made sure you guys understand that if you have a question, suggestion, ideas I would be really happy to try to move some of that forward if it's appropriate.

- Paul: So the second question is asking me to explain the Strategic Planning and Analysis (SPA). SPA consists of faculty, staff, and students. In January of 2024 they provided a report about optimizing the schedule of the academic week. They were asking questions like “what are changes we could make about how the weeks are organized, the time blocks?”. They asked and answered 16 questions which are all available online. Shortly after the report came out, the SLT read it and had a conversation and came to agreement on 4 things that we wanted advice from the education and policy committee on how to implement these ideas. One of the things you are well aware of is the notion of shared governance. There are some formal structures in place between faculty and administration for how changes on some education policy related issues ended up unfolding. There are some changes on how some policy related issues are moving forward. We wanted EPAG's advice on how to implement these and if they should be implemented. In the Spring of this last year, EPAG had a conversation with them. One of these 4 things is being put into a pilot this year and that is increasing the long block format. So, Monday and Wednesday classes going over a 2 hour time period. This is a question of both pedagogy and trying to address the hope for classes to engage more with the Twin Cities. So, that's where this stands.
- Paul: The third question is along the lines of “Does the plan help better facilitate a classroom environment where support, rest, compassion, and student mental health are prioritized?” One of the things that makes answering this question a bit challenging is the push-pull of what an individual faculty member has control over in terms of the course and the way they think that particular course should be taught and the standardization of this approach that everyone should do a particular thing. That conversation, because the faculty have primary responsibility over the curriculum, that's a place where if there were to be such a common thing that was put into place, that's where that would happen. I want to highlight in the strategic plan is the priority of student and employee well-being and foster a sense of belonging for all. This is a topic that continues to be in conversations. This is what I was suggesting earlier when I was talking about how plans take a long time. Ways that this is starting to continue to be in the conversations is there are advising changes that have been proposed like changes for how and where advising are taking place. An additional person has been appointed as the Associate Dean for Advising and that role is involved with all

things related to advising like what are students feeling, how are faculty and staff creating this environment. Lastly, I want to highlight that there continues to be faculty regularly participating in workshops of every kind trying to make changes to the way they teach and how they create their classroom. This is not a requirement for them. Things change and we need to change as well and there are a lot of faculty that are aware of that. Faculty turnover continues to happen. In the last 10 years about 60% of the faculty are new. Every year we bring in a new cohort and they arrive with their own experiences, pedagogies. This transformative pedagogy institute is another concrete example of part of what is being funded by this strategic plan as a pilot. This workshop is run over the summer and faculty opt into this. They spend three six hour sessions about their own experiences and how it's showing up in their classrooms. Over the fall, individual student fellows are paired up with faculty and read the same literature and share their experiences. In the spring semester, those students have the opportunity to go into the classroom to observe what is happening and can talk with faculty. This is meant to go into the whole college and try to pull in and make the changes because it's the right thing to do and it takes time and energy to do these things. We've had 2 summer cohorts. This summer there were 14 faculty members and 14 students participated in them. Half of them are participating in the spring of this upcoming year.

- The fourth question is about the strategic plan and more on campus housing, living on campus for third or fourth years. I have not been part of conversations where this is a requirement, more just allowing the new residence hall to provide space for other halls to be renovated and updated. I don't know if there's other comments others want to add to that.
 - Kathryn Kay Coquemont: The new building adds 250 beds which is not enough for the requirement of a whole other class to live on campus. We just want to satisfy the desire of upper class students especially as rents continue to go up we want to make sure y'all have affordable and safe housing.
 - Marina: Is that housing going to be prioritized for those that have financial aid that gives them grants for housing?
 - Kathryn: That's a good question. I'm going to be honest, we're actually not at that level of development yet but I know I'll be returning to LB and would love to answer that when I have more information.
 - Liv: I'm going to cut off questions because we are running on a tight schedule.
- Paul: Ok, going to end with this question. Ok, we're good. Thank you!



Gabe Karsh, Student Liaison to the Board of Trustees ~ Joel Sadofsky ~ 5 minutes

- Gabe Karsh: Hi, everyone. I'm going to say a little bit about the Board of Trustees meeting a couple weeks ago. The big action items were confirming status to people who

either passed away during their time on the board or retired. Also there were two High Winds Funds votes. The two votes were one to buy property in the district, I don't know specifically where but the property management company is called KOPPR. Apparently Mac has been looking at these properties for a long time and just recently became available and so they spent a few million dollars to buy them. The other was one investing in a hotel sort of by the soccer stadium because there's currently not really a hotel close to campus. Obviously, divestment was a big topic of conversation with the Board. I would say both Joel came to Campus Life meeting and the business meeting the second we started talking about divestment you could hear pin drop in the room. I think the Board is taking this very seriously and considering deeply what to do about this. They haven't set a date and I don't know if there are plans to set a date. The form closes on Friday so I'm hoping to see something in the Mac Daily about that. Are there any questions?

- Catherine: Who can we direct questions to about the High Winds Funds votes?
 - Gabe: Patricia Langer would be my best guest.
- Tristan: In conversations about the High Winds Fund, were there conversations about how that contributes to gentrification?
 - Gabe: No, but there were conversations about what business would go in there and whether or not they were the right businesses. It didn't seem like it was a concern.
- Jordan: Just to clarify, when you say soccer stadium we're talking about the United stadium on University, right?
 - Gabe: Yes.
- Gabe: Ok, thanks for having me guys. If you have anything else to ask or say please feel free to send me an email about it and I'd love to discuss it with any of you.

Community Chest Request ~ *Philomena Shuffelton-Sobe* ~ 10 minutes

-  Community Chest Fund Request
-  Community Chest Fund
- Liv: Ok, we can continue on - everyone has it on the agenda. Please pull up the slides and the request that was sent until we get this to work.
- Philomena: Ok, hi everyone. As you know, Cabinet is in charge of the Community Chest Fund. Any requests over \$1,000 must be brought to LB. This request today is for \$1,500. For a little context about what the Community Chest Fund is, it's kind of a broad fund. In the bylaws it says it should consider requests that contribute to community building and can positively impact the whole Macalester community and it should not consider requests made by student organizations, alumni, or athletic groups. As you see, it's a very expansive list of possibilities that could be applied to the Community Chest Fund. Just to let you know we have a roll over of \$6,700. So we have about \$16,000 to spend this year. Now I'll invite Yamalí to speak about their requests.
- Yamalí: Hello, can y'all hear me? This is Vi. I'm just going to introduce the people I'm working with. We're all student leaders that have been involved in the work we're going to be talking about and I just wanted to give a quick introduction of everybody here. I'll start. I'm Yamalí, I use they/them pronouns, I'm a soc major and ed studies double major

and possibly considering an American studies major. And then what's a fun thing about yourself? I really like graphic design and photography.


- Yemir: I'm Yemir, I use he/him pronouns. I'm also a soc major and I really like working out.
- Vi: I'm Vi, I'm also working on this project. I'm a soc major, as well and I like writing.
- Jane: I'm Jane, she/they, ed studies, soc, I like drawing.
- Shanaia: I'm Shanaia, she/her, I'm a psychology and ed studies double major and I like crocheting.
- Vi: We're primarily requesting this money to help compensate the artist we're working with, Leon Wang. He's been an adjunct professor at the U of M. He has helped with social justice campaigns and done a lot of large art works, as well. We want to compensate him for 50 hours of work which would come out to \$110 per hour which we feel is appropriate for his experience with art.
- Yamali: Just to add onto that, I wanted to talk about the goals and the impact and the sustainability aspect to this project. Essentially, there's this piece of creating art. I am a part of the Kagin Committee and we're talking about trying to make it have a sense of belonging for students, especially students with marginalized identities. I've been in conversations with people in the Kagin committee and this art will be integrated into the new Kagin renovations. I don't know the details because it's still in the process. One aspect of this project is we'll be creating a lot of art. We've had discussions about making merch like stickers or buttons to sell. Probably not more than \$10. This would be for everyone to have access to this. We're all artists so we're all inputting what kind of designs we want and Leon is facilitating those workshops for us. Anyone is open to these workshops, it's just that the artist is requiring a limited amount of people. With this money that we fundraise we're going to give it back 100% to the BIPOC Coalition. This coalition is under the LSC. If you've heard about CC After Dark. you get to plan an event and get funding to put it on. Essentially, we want to do something similar but in the C-House. It would be taking place at the C-House and representing our values. The idea came from talking to people in the BIPOC Coalition and one of the things we talk about is that we spend like 90% on our funds on food. You know? On event planning, like for our community. This would be a pilot event to see how it goes. We already planned one event at the beginning of the year called Collective Power and it had really good turnout and it was a great way to test the waters. We're doing another event in November following a similar structure to this. This can be a way to preserve a lot of the programming in the C-House. It used to have a lot of similar programming but, unfortunately, budget cuts made it so we didn't have the capacity for this. Now we have the opportunity to bring this back up. Tying this back to my role as Infrastructure and Sustainability Liaison, I've been talking to cabinet to create this permanent structure so we don't have to rely on fundraising. I can give you guys the numbers, for the event that we threw at the beginning of the year, that was a bit more costly but I got it from CEC. They gave us about \$700 but with Shanaia and I, our budget is \$300. We're hoping for next semester we can throw at least 3 events for BIPOC individuals. I would say either \$250-300 for each event. Especially with fundraising merch and we have what like 2,000 students? Yeah, I'm just doing a lot of math for you guys, but you know what I mean?

But if you have any questions or concerns, please let me know. It's a very comprehensive project but I have the capacity in this role and connections with the Leonard Suzuki Center and the BIPOC Coalition. We've been working on this project since our first year, since our FYC since we all lived in the C-House. So yeah, thank you for listening.

- Philomena: I just want to make sure we all know this request is for \$5,500 to hire the artist Leon Wang and the art would be permanently stored in Kagin and would be in partnership with other campus groups. I want to quickly talk about why Cabinet approved this group. First of all, it meets the criteria of the fund guidelines. We believe it's in line with the intention for this fund and think it's the perfect opportunity to fund this sort of event that is supporting minority students. We would have over \$10,000 left in the fund, so this wouldn't be a huge dent in the fund and would allow MCSG to support community building. If you have any questions? Marina?
 - Marina: I'm curious about the physical medium of the project. I know that art encompasses a lot of different mediums. What are your introductory ideas about the mediums and the artist's work? What do you envision the art looking like? Is it more of a gallery space or is it more hands on?
 - Yamalí: If you search up One Day in May, Augsburg University. That's one of his major campaigns. Our introductory ideas are if you have seen the magnets or posters by Jane for the C-House documentary. Jane is our lead artist. Essentially, we're thinking about doing a lot of visual art and lettering. Using this funding we're providing him, the artist is going to be doing a lot of connections with us. He's local to the Twin Cities and he's a creative so he has connections with other BIPOC artists who he'll hire to work with us through this budget. Some of the artists he's thinking of is this Black artist who's a muralist and has connections to the Black House when it used to exist. That's kind of an introductory idea that we're exploring. We want to make a collaborative piece. It will definitely take place using mural art, collaborative art, and definitely lettering.
 - Vi: Yeah, I think if you just Google One Day in May, Augsburg that's what his art looks like. And like Yamalí was saying like lettering posters, we'd also have something that people can add onto. Think like a large mural on the wall.
 - Chloe: Hi, thank you for bringing this proposal for us. I have a question about the \$110 per hour. Is this a set price or did you come up with this?
 - Yamalí: This is the number we came up with. The artist gave us their quote and he gave us 50 hours of work and this is what he can do. So we just did the math and seeing how we justified paying him this amount.
 - Marina: It does include supplies, so it's not just wages.
- Ryan: This is based off of a quote or is this inclusion of supplies? Can you give us more information about this?

- Yamali: Yeah, it's basically he gave us this document which is what I put in the request. The stuff that I put there is what he literally told me. It includes his hours, supplies, and anything he needs for the workshops and the actual printing of the art.
 - Emi: Hi, advisor tapping in here. I was actually an art major in college and so I want to give a little bit of context. Archival gray materials are more expensive than the typical art supplies. So this would be a contract to the artist so this breaks down to \$110 per hour but it's also including the cost of these materials which would drop that number down significantly along with the hours for the workshops. So it's not a true \$110 per hour.
 - Sean: Do you have any idea of how that 50 hours will be split by work by himself, with students, or in workshops?
 - Yamali: I gave a timeline, we already have three scheduled meetings with him leading up to November 15 which is the day of the art exhibition. November 15 is when we'll be creating most of the art besides for the big installation piece. We'll be meeting with him three times for about two hours each time. After that, it would be a lot of the cost of things and getting the materials. In between the big meetings which we call our working meetings, me, Leon, and advisors will have one on ones to talk about plannings of the working meetings. I also know he also is talking to the advisors one on one, so he has a lot of meetings. I'm not sure how else to answer that besides for that I think it's a really fair compensation for what he's doing for us.
- Liv: Ok, we're going to vote. Do I see a motion? Tristan?
 - Tristan: I make a motion to approve \$5,550 from the Community Chest to go to the Cultural House Legacy Art Project
 - For: 21
 - Against: 0
 - Abstain: 4
 - Liv: The motion passes with 21 for, 0 against, and 4 abstaining.


Pre-Medicine Charter ~ Sean Maxfield ~ 5 minutes

-  Charter of Macalester Pre-Medicine Association.pdf
- Sean: So the reps from Pre-Med Club will come up to talk about their club, answer questions, and then we'll vote.
- Pre-Med Reps: Hi, I'm Islam, I'm a junior. Hi, I'm Liz, I'm also a junior. We want to start this org because we're both pre-med and want to go to medical school. We don't feel like we've received a ton of support for pre-med students. One thing I emphasize a lot, when I walk around the org fair I don't see a pre-med org catered specifically to pre-med students. We want to serve as support to the wider pre-med community at Mac to help them figure out what they can do for medical school. We want to bring in physicians, surgeons, and medical school admission officers to speak on their experiences from different backgrounds whether that be low-income or BIPOC. We also want to have a full blown information document about MCAT resources, interview resources, things of that sort. We want to go visit nearby medical schools. We also maybe bring in doctors to do

some set training sessions. We want to reach out to the wider pre-med community to bring us together so people actually know each other because we really only know each other through classes. We want to serve as a resource to help them with their journey to medical school and that's why we want to start this club and we hope this lasts down the line.

- Repls: There's plenty of resources online but it's really inaccessible especially if you're first gen so we really want to be a resource that is accessible and open to the general public of the population at Macalester.
- Liv: We maybe have time for one or two questions and then if not is there a motion?
 - Catherine: Motion to charter Pre-Medicine at Macalester.
 - [Second]
 - For: 26
 - Against: 0
 - Abstain: 1

Election Code Edits ~ Joel Sadofsky ~ 5 minutes

-  TO EDIT MCSG Election Code 2024-2025
- [TO VOTE MCSG Election Code 2024-2025](#)
- Joel: I want to give context, so according to the election code we're supposed to amend the election code on the 5th meeting of the year or vote to table. I motion to table the amendment to next week on the grounds that we have zero time to talk about it in this meeting.
 - [Seconds]
 - Liv: Ok, all those in favor of tabling it.
 - For: 26
 - Against: 0
 - Abstain: 0

Committee Additions ~ Ryan Connor ~ 2 minutes

- Marina and David to Macalester Dining Advisory Committee
- Ryan: So based on the bylaws for campus committee applications, we typically open them up at two times to the entire student body for general applications for all students. But since there are a lot of requests for open positions in places like MDAC, then we proceed applications or interest from students, we added some language that the president, vice president, and chief of staff can coordinate in adding students to committees but we do have to bring it in front of LB before any applications are solidified and the applicants are notified that they've been admitted to the committee. At this time we have Marina and David whose applications we have and have been improved but need to bring to LB to let you know that they have been approved for the Macalester Dining and Advisory Committee. If there are any questions or concerns let us know but that's all we have for that.

Cabinet Updates ~ Cabinet Liaisons ~ 5 minutes

- Galjer: I have some updates as the Residential Life and Dining Liaison. I had a meeting with MDAC and we talked a lot about the Mac Daily and a lot about Cafe Mac dining issues. Some nice issues are that the waffle maker and sandwich press are coming back. There are also more Cafe Mac dinner options after 8pm that are coming and so right now I'm trying to get our beloved chicken tenders back so hopefully that will come very soon. Lastly, Tiger updated me and we're having more sex safety supplies in the dorms.
- Philomena: The last cabinet meeting approved a Community Chest Fund request for \$500 for library student managers to host an event.
- Yamali: To be transparent, I've been out sick for the last 2 weeks so I couldn't go to committee meetings and there's been an issue of scheduling but I will schedule a follow up meeting and will keep you guys updated. I'm looking for anybody who's involved in sustainability efforts and making connections and seeing what would be most effective for my time here. I'm going to be working with the Residential and Dining Liaison because that's also connected to infrastructure.
- Jordan: I'm working on getting affinity-based lifting clubs back but through athletics so they're more permanent and outlast me. Also, there's a green athletics club in the works that is talking with Sean and going to become an actual club. I'm going to meet with all the athletics administrators on Monday to talk about all of that.
- Liv: Ok, committees, let's put our updates in the agenda. Put it in the doc please. Thanks for your cooperation. Ok, meeting is adjourned.

Committee Updates ~ *Committee Chairs* ~ 3 minutes

SOC:

- We voted on two clubs: Entrepreneurship Club and High Power Rocketry Club. The results of these are yet to be announced.
- Scots in the Cities Volunteering Club was discussed and they aim to be an extension of the CEC, finding opportunities for students which require a less consistent time commitment. They have talked to the CEC and they are in support of the group.
- HxA (or Heterodox Academy) continues to be discussed as we try to learn more about this new (to us) national organisation who wish to set a group up at Macalester.
- We continue to work on Go Club's charter with them
- Liv is doing a great job as FAC liaison and it seems to be a resourceful role thus far

Announcements ~ 2 minutes

- Pied by Professors ~ *Tristan Niedzielski*
 - Tristan: AAC will have Pied by Professors on Monday of Legislation Week from 12-1. There is a sign up sheet in the agenda. Please fill out with your name and professors who you think will be comfortable with this. I will reach out about confirming times with different faculty members.
- Class Leads ~ *Ryan Connor*
 - Ryan: I will send out an email about class leads to the entire LB but with that we can adjourn. Thank you.
- No meeting next week (Fall Break)

