

Weyerhaeuser Boardroom

November 7th, 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.

Speaker Announcement:

- Liv:

SOC Charter ~ *Sean Maxfield* ~ 15 minutes

- SOC Rationale: ☐ SOC LB 11/7/24
 - Sean: If you look at the agenda, 4 mins for my presentation, 3 minutes for Matthew to go over last meeting's concerns, things he may have addressed in communication with LB members or answers he may want to give now. SOC has 3 things to tell LB. First, that denial may occur in LB. SOC created an appeal process yesterday. The context is that the previous appeal process was under-described and no situation similar to this has come up before. Should the LB reject the charter,

the org may appeal the decision to the Judicial Council. The appeal should include the rationale explaining the request, the Judicial Council will use this argument, the minutes taken at the LB meeting, the org's proposed charter, and the MCSG governing documents to make a determination. The appeal should be sent to the MCSG email account, which will then start the appeal process with the Judicial Council. This appeal process will include a meeting between the judicial council and representatives of the prospective student organization. The following is SOC's rationale on Heterodox Academy.

- Sean: The first is "Does the organization present an opportunity for students that does not already exist in another student org, and does the org not do the exact same thing as a department on campus?" SOC felt that the opportunity to engage in viewpoint diverse discussions and constructive disagreement does not exist for students, especially within student groups. There is Democracy Matters, which does have open discussion forums, however those discussions are political and HxA's goal is talk about much more than that.
- Sean: The second is "Does the organization have interest from at least 10 members of the student body?" The organization has sufficient interest from students on campus.
- Sean: Three is "Does the organization provide value to students on campus?" SOC felt the purpose of the organization does provide value and represents the diverse values of Macalester. SOC believes that the fostering of diverse perspectives enriches discussion on campus and encourages critical thinking.
- Sean: Four is "Does the organization have a reason to be chartered by MCG like what value does being a chartered org provide?" SOC felt that the org's desires to reserve rooms, promote events and the club through the club fair, and to gain FAC funding for food at on-campus events aligns with other orgs' need to be chartered.
- Sean: Five is "Does the org have a charter that matches the requirements of SOC?" And the answer is yes.
- Sean: The following is SOC's rationale for partisan groups and national organizations. For partisan groups - partisan groups have the same right to be chartered organizations of MCSG regardless of differences between the political perspectives of MCSG as well as its

members and the organization. For national organizations - SOC, FAC, and MCSG has no mechanism to judge the effect of donors influence on national organizations. Numerous active student organizations on campus maintain membership to a national organization with donors that may lean specific political direction that may be visible through searching the internet and other sources. SOC views the intent and purpose of National Organizations separately but contemporaneously to that of prospective student organizations and can only judge such organizations by the values and purposes they present on their public documentation, websites or brochures for example. Now we'll hear from Heterodox Academy.

- Update from HxA
 - Matthew: Hey everyone, I wanted to thank you all for what have been a number of thoughtful discussion forums over the past week as well as contributions on the document called HxA LB. Most of our concerns that were raised in the last meeting and asynchronously we feel have been met in that document, I encourage you to take a look. I would say with respect to stuff like separation of funds and disruptive behavior, these have been pretty clearly outlined in the charter, too. I don't have much else so this is a 3 minute block that will end up taking 45 seconds.
- Q&A
 - Liv: Then we'll move to questions. We'll be doing a speakers list to keep precedence.
 - Joel: I want to urge LB to make sure we're looking at that document and making sure we're not re-asking things that have been addressed in that document and show our respect to the time of our LB members and our Heterodox representatives.
 - Liv: Any questions? Ok. Do I see a motion?
 - David: I motion to approve the Heterodox Academy charter.
 - FOR: 20
 - AGAINST: 0
 - ABSTAIN: 2
 - Liv: So, Heterodox Academy passes.

Proposed Voting Amendment ~ AnLian Krishnamurthy ~ 10 minutes

- Discussion
 - AnLian: Ok, so on Monday I met with a couple people who were interested in smoothing out the edges of this bill and we ended up

coming to this. Now we have 3 sections that outline pretty clearly my proposed way we should vote in LB. Any questions?

- Philomena: I'm wondering for Section 8? Do you mean "via email" like you want students to email MCSG to see the votes?
 - AnLian: Yes, that's my intention. Having students request the voting record from MCSG.
- Lina: I'm confused about number 9 because it says that "if there is a seconded motion for any vote to be anonymous." I thought the purpose was to have voting be anonymous. So, if we do this new voting amendment, you want to have votes being anonymous only for some? Or are you going to be able to see who votes what?
 - AnLian: The default is that it'll be published on the MCSG website if Macalester students request to see it. But, if someone seconds a motion to have the results anonymous, then it won't be published. But that isn't the norm, the norm is that the results are going to be published.
- Tristan: I motion to amend the proposed amendment to how MCSG conducts voting by changing Section 8 to "voting records shall be published to Macalester students." With a period there and excluding "via an email to MCSG."
 - Liv: It's going to be a discussion first.
 - AnLian: If I'm understanding it right, Macalester students don't need to request it?
 - Tristan: The rationale is that going to a separate step of students having to request it is another barrier to transparency. The spreadsheet should be available to MCSG students directly through their MCSG email and not have to go through the additional process of emailing someone else.
 - AnLian: The problem with that is that we don't want outside people having access. A student having to send an email isn't that much of a hurdle; it takes like 3 minutes max.
 - Aisha: For Section 9 it says, "If there's a seconded motion for any vote to be anonymous." From what I understood from last meeting I thought this would just be in place if the meeting was contentious? So, is it just if anybody decides that they want to

motion for a vote to be anonymous then that would be in place. Can you clarify that?

- AnLian: Yeah, that's what I have in mind. It's tough to decide if a vote is going to be contentious. I think the best course of action is to have someone motion and seconded if they want a vote to be anonymous. But, it still has to pass through a majority.
 - Aisha: My second question, so how do you decide if a motion is going to be contentious?
 - Anlian: That's up to everyone in this room.
- Marina: I'm confused about the anonymity aspect. The way that I see this working out is you could have a Google doc that is available with the link to any Macalester students with their Mac email account. I think the email idea isn't terrible but I think amending 8 so it says "solely to Macalester students" so that way you're not worried about the email thing or the exclusion of public things. I want to echo my concerns about outside orgs intentionally doxxing students and I think that needs to be in the front of our minds when we're discussing this.
- Ryan: Just a technical thing, since there's an amendment on the table we do have to only talk about this amendment and then we'll go back to the entire proposal. We're talking about the amendment to the amendment right now and then we'll get to the other thing once we decide on this amendment. Just so everyone is aware.
- David: I think my opinion for number 8 is that we often have an issue communicating MCSG policies to students. Something where they have to reach out by email and then request a vote, while in theory it's a good idea whether there are any students that that's the policy and whether we would even tell them that that's what they have to do is another question. I think that already we're going to have very few students wanting to look at voting records and making an extra step I don't think helps us in any way.
 - Anlian: I agree but if we didn't add that step, people would still need to actively seek out the voting records. If you are actively seeking out the voting records you'd just

have to send an email. If you want to see the voting records, you're going to be able to find it.

- Cem: I was going to also reiterate that I do think it would be more effective if this voting record was just automatically accessible to everyone with a Mac email and I'm assuming that's not too difficult to do. However, I want to state my opinion that in the case this amendment doesn't pass and it's still via email, I still believe this should not prevent the amendment as a whole from being passed.
- Marina: I have a question for AnLian. Have you reached out to any peer student government or done any internet stalking to see how they handled this issue. To see if their version of the Mac Weekly publishes voting records or how they handle their reporting on their student government. If you've looked at St. Olaf or Carleton and how they handle those things just as a guide for if we're going to be making these changes how those changes are existing in other schools.
 - AnLian: I have not, I just created this.
- Joel: I've done that and what I learned is that most peer, let's step back. I've spoke to members of the Minnesota Council of Private College Student Government Presidents. They basically all do what we currently do on the rationale of security and safety for their members and some degree of transparency within the group. Speaking specifically to this, I wouldn't feel ready to vote on it unless... I have lots of reservations but I think we definitely need some sort of expiration for these records because if we have records of everyone's votes in perpetuity that's going to be an online footprint that people aren't want to do for an unpaid student government position. I think the doxx situation still remains even with restricted access to Macalester students. I see that being a path towards student assisted doxxing.
- Ryan: My biggest concern with this proposal is student assisted doxxing. I don't think this is putting a giant barrier if you're looking for voting records. I think this is just going to be another way of keeping records, this is just going to be another way that we keep records and we're aware of what's going on that way if something does get released then we'll have some knowledge on that process. But, I'm aware that if we open it up

to the entire student body without any barrier then we'll have no idea or way to keep track of anything if something gets leaked and if there are issues with somebody in the student body releasing information outside of Macalester campus.

- Anlian: What would be your alternate idea for a barrier other than a password protected thing?
 - Ryan: I personally think the email thing is fine. If someone asks for it, we'll know who asked for it and we can give it to them.
- Laurice: What Ryan just said is what I was going to say so I think it's fine.
- Tristan: Can I just reiterate that it's an unnecessary barrier and yes it would allow us to know who's requesting these but I don't think that's necessary. Even with the concern of doxxing, would there be any repercussions for doing that? I can't think of any in the student handbook or any MCSG guidelines that would lead to any repercussions of a student releasing this information more broadly. So, it wouldn't even matter if it was via email or not. While yes, there should be concern about doxxing and I want to recognize that that's a very real concern I don't want that to be an impediment to a form of transparency. Yes, an email seems like a simple thing but it is going to stop people. Some people are just curious and want to know but if they have to email, that is going to prevent some people.
 - Anlian: I feel like, if you stop because of an email, then you don't really care that much. This is the minimum amount of barrier that I could put.
- Elizabeth: I wanted to echo Joel and Ryan's concerns and say that if anything, with the events from yesterday I'm even more concerned about student doxxing than I was last week. The incoming administration has expressed a strong desire to target students over their views expressed on campus even if years past the national government has played less of a role in that. I really want us to think about how students could potentially be targeted and also keep in mind that that might prevent students from wanting to serve on MCSG.
- Laurice: An additional email versus the potential threat of someone being doxxed, I think that latter is way more serious.

And having the email would help us have the information just in case something like that happens.

- Catherine: The email is better than what we have now, progress over perfection, we can always change this. I say we should vote and move onto the whole amendment.
- Liv: Do we see a motion?
 - Chloe: Motion to pass the amendment to point 8 on the MCSG voting amendment that voting records should be available in a spreadsheet to macalester students.
 - FOR: 1
 - AGAINST: 18
 - ABSTAIN: 0
 - Liv: The amendment does not pass
- Sean: Just in response to Aisha's comment about clause 9, echoing what AnLian said in that deciding if a vote was contentious before the vote is conducted is incredibly difficult and at times people may feel that the vote is not contentious but others may feel differently and the anonymity would be less obvious in that case. If there was a pretty sure fire way of deciding a vote was contentious before that would be great, but.
- Laurice: Mine was a motion so, Elizabeth if you want to go first.
- Elizabeth: Thank you. I have one technical question in terms of a student requesting results by email. Will the results be shared to that individual's Google account or upon student request it'll go on the website?
 - Anlian: If one student requests it, we'll just share it to them, not put it up on the website.
- Marina: I would like to reaffirm the sentiments that I shared when this was first introduced about the idea behind being anonymous at all. I think that, especially when we don't have people in the room besides each other, you shouldn't be scared of sharing your viewpoint. All of this "it's contentious, it's not contentious" discussion and debate, "would this be anonymous, would this not be anonymous" just seems to fuel more people being scared of speaking publicly about their opinions. You are not representing yourself, you're representing your constituents because you are a representative. Let that shed some light on your perspective on should something be anonymous or not

because at the end of the day, anonymity shouldn't be a factor when you chose this position, that is an elected position where the whole point of use meeting is to vote on issues that may or may not be contentious.

- Philomena; I have another question about the voting records available to students. Would that be the voting record for all LB meetings of that year or just the specific day that the student requests?
 - Anlian: It'll be all the specific dates that the student wants.
- Cem: I was going to address that yes, there would be some anonymity here among ourselves but I feel like the real time where we put our perspectives is in the speech and discussion section. That's where we make our positions clear. That one instance of voting is more to prevent any instantaneous factors that may be influencing our decision. This is something that has been studied overall and that has shown there is an impact when deciding without being anonymous within groups. I feel like the concerns about the anonymity are already addressed with the spreadsheet and the email where people can see unless people decide it's a very contentious issue which I feel will be a very specific and uncommon thing that's going to be happening. We're not necessarily hiding behind the veil of anonymity and we're still giving our views to the people. When it comes to giving our views to ourselves, we choose to do that right here right now in this discussion section the same way I'm expressing my view that this amendment as a whole should pass.
- Sean: Just to build off what Cem said and echo some of those points, I think the virtuosity of open voting of all times is incredibly valuable. There are a couple of issues that exist and one has been addressed by AnLian in this amendment. Another is that there are a lot of people on this campus that MCSG is self ratifying and a cliquy single friend group. We do our best through Legislation Week and so many other things that people in MCSG care and want to do something about these issues in a constructive manner. But the more we strive for something which creates all these issues, the less we are actually addressing the problems. I think that the possible protection of

anonymity would only benefit what is a small group of people in making their individual opinions more heard and reflected in the actions of MCSG.

- Aisha: Can I make a motion? I motion to table this until next meeting. Wait, wait, wait hold on. I motion to table this until next meeting so that we can all think about if being anonymous is really necessary. Because, like Marina said, we are representing people and even if issues are contentious, we need to be able to stand our ground and vote for whatever is beneficial to our class. Me, right now, I'm truly indecisive, I see the benefits of being anonymous versus being not anonymous. I think having more time to truly think on this would be very necessary but I also understand that it's very frustrating to table this again because we've been talking about this for several weeks.

- For: 3
- Against: 13
- Abstain: 0

- Laurice: I move to amend the proposed amendment in its entirety.

- For: 6
- Against: 16
- Abstain: 0

- Liv: The amendment does not pass.

- [MCSG Voting Amendment](#)

Cabinet Updates ~ Cabinet Liaisons ~ 5 minutes

- Dining & Residential Life
 - Galjer: Hi, everybody. For some dining updates, I've been in a lot of conversations with students and with Aisha. I want to applaud Aisha for really working hard on food safety and security. A huge conversation I had with Amy yesterday was addressing concerns that Aisha brought up to her on how to make the food order ahead accommodations for those with allergies and food sensibilities more streamline, more accessible, and better. We also talked a lot about labeling and more options for kosher foods and the gluten free station. We talked a lot about the agenda for our next meeting on the 12th. Looking into the app for Cafe Mac workers which the goal is to have that next semester or sooner. For residential life, I talked to RAs about

potential changes in correlation to compensation and areas of improvement. I've also had some insightful conversations with returning RAs residents that I want to bring up to Kyle when I meet with him on the 21st. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any concerns or questions about any of these or want to hear in more detail.

- Health & Wellness

- Catherine: If you're struggling with the results of the election, there are resources on campus. An exciting update from the CRSL is there's a new part time chaplain on campus which has been coming for a long time. I had a good conversation this week with Bob Harri, the head of Public Safety. Some exciting updates are that the EMT program has increased from 8 EMTs to 15 EMTs who are on duty from 9pm to 2am Thursday through Saturday. He also informed me that all of their public safety officers carry naran which to his knowledge has not been deployed by any of his officers since march. His officers are increasingly responding to people taking more THC via edibles that are on packaging. That's a lot of what they're responding to right now. Bob Harri will be coming to LB the first week of December so we'll give more updates on that later.

- International Student Liaison

- Laurice: This week was very interesting because the UCSIS, the organization that's in charge of issuing visas for international students came out with an amendment that if an international student stays out of the country for more than 5 months, they'll have to reapply for their visa. This has really struck a nerve with the international students who are planning to study abroad. Currently, ISP is assuring people that they can still study abroad and we'll be there to support them in the reapplication of the visa. We want to know what Macalester can do with the fees that come with that, so that's a developing issue. Tomorrow, I have the meeting with the higher ups in regard to international student entrepreneurs as well as the focus program. Otherwise, that's all that's been happening.

- Athletics & Recreation

- Jordan: Our student athletic advisory committee had a Kofi Cup competition to see how many people they could get to vote which is exciting. We're making sure we're getting engagement from athletics. Our Pride Athlete Collective sent out a notice along the same lines as Catherine said for queer students specifically to seek out resources if

they're feeling affected by the election. I'll reach out to all the people in the athletic community as well.

- Belonging & Accessibility

Committee Updates ~ *Committee Chairs* ~ 3 minutes

- SOC
 - Liv: We rechartered Entrepreneurship Club, they were a chartered org but they didn't successfully complete transition so they're now rechartered. We also are looking at Racquetball and Film Club and we're now working on the SOC code.
- AAC
 - Aditya: We sent a email to Jen Jacobsen regarding our initiative for the EMT course subsidies and we're looking forward to meeting with her soon. We also reviewed the international student handbook, specifically the academic section. Also, the GSAT grant, people should be hearing about that soon.
- CEC
 - Sylvia: CEC did not meet this week but we're working on a feedback form to send to LB to improve Legislation Week moving forward to expect to see a feedback form soon. We're also looking at the student survey results, especially the ones that apply to specific committees and liaisons so you'll be getting some information on that soon.
- FAC
 - David: We have 4 additional allocation requests totalling around \$17,000. We tabled the biggest one of Macalester Model UN which was \$10,000. Adelante! requested money for a DJ which we denied, the price per hour was about \$800 which seemed too high. We also had a Pre-Dental request which was denied. We're hoping that they'll go through their plan with that a little bit more. We approved a Macalester Investment Group request for \$100. We voted to amend the quorum to make it 50% instead of $\frac{2}{3}$ which passed.

Announcements ~ 2 minutes

- [Form](#) so we can set up check-in meetings ~ Else
 - Else: We sent out a form that we can use to set up check up meetings. We'd love to meet with as many of you guys before the end of the meeting as we can.
- NameCoach ~ Else

- Else: Please record your name for the name coach and the spreadsheet is something we can reference so we can all learn how to pronounce each other's names.
- [Instructions](#)
- [Record name here](#)
- Paste link into [this spreadsheet](#)
- Check-ins about the past week ~ Ryan
 - Ryan: This past week has been really tough. The energy in this room is pretty low, I know we're all feeling it, this week has been really tough. If you need anything, just talk to people, be aware of what's going on. In this checkin, if you need something, just talk to people, talk to us. I know this org can be a lot of work so just keep us in the loop with how you guys are feeling. Thanks for everyone for sticking with us, we've gotten a lot of things done, especially things we've been working on for a while so I'm glad we got those things finished. But just let us know if there's anything you need, it's been a rough week for everyone.
- Splitting into working groups/discussion time ~ Joel
 - Joel: We finished our agenda quicker than we usually do which was expected we're going to give us some time to check in with each other about some of the various things that are going on. We have some people that have identified themselves as point people on specific initiatives or things we've done. Our hope is for us to use this as a sort of brainstorm check out time. I see we have David for Mural Interest Group, Tristan for the Divestment Resolution, Ryan for the Dining Group, Joel for the Posting Policy, and Catherine for Health and Wellness. Our hope is that we can hang out here for the rest of this hour. We're going to officially adjourn.
 - Liv: We are officially adjourned.
 - Joel: We are officially adjourned, but find the people you want to talk to, thank y'all.
 - Point people:
 - Mural Interest Group - David
 - Divestment Resolution - Tristan
 - Dining Group - Ryan
 - Posting Policy - Joel
 - Cabinet Liaisons
 - Health and Wellness - Catherine