

Weyerhaeuser Boardroom

March 6th, 2025 | 12:00pm 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 Waḥpékhute 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 Peterson*

- Liv: All members and guests should be aware that this meeting is open to the Macalester community and may be reported on by the Mac Weekly. Minutes are taken and added to the website. LB members can request additional agenda items for future LB meetings by emailing the Macalester College Student Government email.

Update from Student Liaison to Board of Trustees ~ *Gabe Karsh* ~ 10 minutes


- Gabe: Hi. For those of you who may not have known, there was a Board of Trustees meeting last week. The college is planning to renovate all residence halls except for GDD. They're looking for student feedback on which to do first, things to change other than bathrooms and air conditioning which are

already on the list. There was an update on the campaign which seems to be doing well. For those of you who were at the Kagin town hall with Rivera, all of that was reiterated to the Board. I can say with confidence that these risks to the college as a result of the Trump administration and how to protect the things we do at Macalester if federal or state funding were to be cut are being taken very seriously by the Board and the Senior Leadership Team. There weren't a lot of important motions passed. They approved the budget. They sent some money to help with the Kagin and library renovations this summer. They made some changes to the bylaws. They didn't discuss the resolution that y'all passed about my role but I'll be meeting with the chair of the Board on Monday to talk about that and I'm hopeful about that. Relatedly I spoke with Katheryn Coquemont yesterday about selecting the student liaison for next year. I'm hopeful that we can have MCSG approve whoever is selected by myself, Joel, Katheryn and the incoming student body president. Because the incoming student body president is part of that process these interviews won't happen until after MCSG election season is over. If you are also planning on running for Exec Board I encourage you to also think about applying to be student liaison. If you win then you can take that position but until that happens, they're not mutually exclusive and that form should be coming out today or tomorrow. Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions about what that would look like. Are there any questions?

- Joel: Seeing as there are no immediate questions, I wanted to add some context about changing the selection process. One thing we're looking into is further disentangling Katheryn Coquemont's role as the VP of Student Affairs from the selection process. I personally have been a part of this process and trust her and the way she acts in this capacity but also in the event of a future VPSA who might not act the same way we're thinking it's a good idea that we set some written documents in how we select this role.
- Chloe: I was wondering if you had any insight on whether or not budget cuts or changes would impact students in Macalester?
 - Gabe: A significant amount of our federal funding is for financial aid. The college does not have a concrete plan for if that funding was cut. It is possible that ultimately there would be cuts to financial aid as a result of that. I do know that they're pursuing background funding options if that were to happen. That's also not on the table right now. The Dear Colleague letter sent out by the DOE does not have a force of law but, if those

changes were to be made there are other options on the table but nothing set in stone yet. Alright, thanks everybody.

Questions for Bon Appetit ~ Ryan Connor ~ 7 minutes


-  Questions for Bon Appetit
 - Ryan: We were recently offered by Amy Tomes to come to an LB meeting to take questions from everybody. Exec decided that that might not be possible with the time we have in the rest of the semester and there are other ways for us to talk to her, for example MDAC sits next week. So we're going to take down questions right now and bring them to Amy next week. Are there any topics? It doesn't need to be a fully fleshed question, just any concerns that you've seen.
 - AnLian: Are there any data on which meals are more popular than others?
 - Ryan: Ok.
 - Alec: I'd like to say something that because of the new system there's not really consistent meals per say. There's still meal swipes for meals but sometimes they'll have an actual entree or food and sometimes they'll just have a sandwich. I don't want to press them on that and I don't know how to phrase it so that I'll get a response. But, here's what we have at the grille. They take away the quesadillas. That's fine but I just want to make sure they have an entree to replace that quesadilla compared to a sandwich.
 - Ryan: Gotcha. Thank you.
 - Elizabeth: I was wondering if they had, I know it's early days, but if they had any updates on the potential impacts on the meal plans from the tariffs imposed on our neighboring countries?
 - Joel: I'm curious, is there any data showing cross-contamination efficacy?
 - AnLian: Why is the chicken undercooked?
 - Ryan: Good question. Anything else?
 - Corinne: Is there a regular rotation schedule for the meals or do they come up with new menus weekly?
 - Ryan: They recently adopted a system where you have to send in a recipe to Bon App corporate and all the chefs have to follow that exact recipe. Last year, a chef could make a new recipe and it was more lax but Bon App as a whole changed that policy where you have to submit how

much of each ingredient goes into a meal so there's more consistency every time. For the new rotation I think it's a weekly change. I think they're trying to do a decent job of keeping that rotation solid.

- Laurice: What's the status with employee training?
 - Galjer: There was a follow up training at the beginning of the spring semester. Unfortunately there were no employees that showed up to that training so I've been talking to Amy about if there's going to be a follow up training later on in the semester.
- Harmony: I've noticed some issues that if someone wants a cup of water at the Grille they charge them and I don't think you should have to be charged to get a cup of water.
- Marina: Just reiterating the importance of healthier food options and lower sugar like plain greek yogurt instead of just three flavored options and a more healthy cereal option.
- Chloe: This might be a bit less pertinent but do we know if the pizza follows the same process as the other food?
 - Ryan: I don't know. What do you mean by that?
 - Chloe: There's been a trend that's being observed but a lot of people have noticed that the pizza toppings are very similar to the food from previous days.
- Lina: Do you think there'll be a possibility that they could increase the dietary restriction options?
- Marina: I'd like to see them have a demonstrated plan that they can show me for Ramadan. It's really important to me that every student has an adequate plan for Ramadan. In the past I've seen them put food out that students can take for the next morning. I would want them to reinstate that since I haven't seen it and want it to be better than in previous years where they've just put a ziploc bag of pretzels out and called that a meal.
- Willow: For me, I'd like to see allergen transparency. So maybe that to be implemented or more transparency on that.
- Alec: Are they still on an open kitchen policy? In an open kitchen policy you can use more flexibility on a meal but with a corporate change if they're saying that meals have to be more itemized there should be more transparency in allergens. I'm just curious.

- Ryan: Theoretically, that corporate change is supposed to increase allergen transparency. I'm not totally sure what you mean by open-kitchen?
- Alec: Last year or two years ago they were saying "oh we have an open kitchen so the chefs can put in whatever they want."
- Ryan: Yeah, that's been changed with the new policy.
- Marina: In addition to what Willow was saying I'd like to see labeled gelatin. I know a lot of the deserts use gelatin so they're not kosher or halal. I'd like to see accurate labeling. They'll say something's vegan but they won't include the marshmallows. I'd like to see that labeled for things that have marshmallows in them.
- Ryan: Awesome. We'll bring these up in MDAC and then report back with answers to hopefully all of these questions.

Budget for 2025-2026 ~ Joel Sadofsky ~ 8 minutes

-  Draft MCSG Budget Bonanza Request
- [Presentation](#)
 - Joel: I'm going to go to the slide show we have here. Who knows what we did to the budget this year as MCSG? We made it an off the top allocation. In my opinion, this is years overdue. This is how most student governments function and I think it makes a lot more sense. But I want to briefly overview the change in a public transparent way in case people read the Mac Weekly article and decide they want to go after us. I shouldn't have said that. Senioritis is getting to me. The old process is that we'd request a budget through budget bonanza like most orgs and cuts would hit MCSG decided by FAC members. I think this led to a strange proportion of FAC control. Now, much like Mac Weekly, WMCN, and PB, our budget is off the top which means we'll work with FAC to decide what that is. We in this room voted on a \$15,000 off the top budget. This is less than WMCN and Mac Weekly just to explain how we stack up. Other student governments do this and takes the burden of heightened oversight off of FAC. Instead it puts final oversight into LB's hands. I think MCSG is the most important student org in that it allows other student orgs to function and run. It should be running efficiently and do outreach and strategic planning in our retreat. This isn't that much more than our last budget allocation was and if you factor in additional allocations it

might be less but I don't know about that. Here is a brief summary of our working budget which is quasi-due at noon tomorrow. I'm trying to follow the same timeline as other orgs that don't have off the top budgets. It's smart of us to set a budget so we don't give the next MCSG \$15,000 and say spend some things. A brief summary is \$700 for AAC for their events, \$200 for SOC for org challenges what exactly this may be, to be determined. Roughly \$1,315 for FAC. \$150 for Cabinet town hall, \$5,171.92 for LAB meetings, \$1,000 for class nights. I'm going to try to put a little more in there based on what's left. Lastly \$4,090 for retreat and mostly for fall retreat and based on our retreat form was valuable and should be continued in the future. This gets us to about \$13,876.98. We have an off the top budget of \$15,000 so this gives us some flexibility and I think this should potentially go towards CEC programming and for class nights. I wanted to provide an avenue for feedback, questions, comments.

- AnLian: In SOC on Monday we talked about funding team building lunches at the start of the year to meet everyone. Is that something that was decided that was not a good use of money? What was the rationale?
 - David: We're not allowed to according to the Financial Code that we all passed. We're holding MCSG to the same standard as every org on campus.
- AnLian: I remember when I first became a rep last November there was a lunch meeting. Has the code been changed since then?
 - Joel: Yeah, you voted on it.
 - Liv: I would argue that team building lunches weren't necessarily a worthy expense for the student activity fee.
 - Ryan: We also do a new member lunch at the start of the year
 - AnLian: But why is that allowed under the FAC code?
 - David: For the new member lunches. I'm not sure what the new member lunches are but they probably shouldn't be. For what you're talking about it's incorporated into the retreat. That's what the retreat is for. I don't see why SOC needs something specifically for them. We already pay \$4,000 for the retreat so paying more money for an SOC thing that has the same value is not fiscally responsible.

- Garrett: I briefly wanted to say that a way to make this a bit more justifiable, the same we tell other orgs is if SOC wanted to host something that's a way to connect with student orgs and create open hours that would be a great way to have an event with food and also is open to the entire student body.
- Chloe: I think that we shouldn't make us different from any other student orgs. We shouldn't fund lunches because then we have to fund everyone else's lunches.
- Joel: I agree. If you'll note I wrote in the draft budget that there will be no new member lunch. There's a retreat budget.
- Tristan: Thinking about the \$1,123.02 that's left over - I agree that CEC and class nights make most sense. I'm just wondering how the division of that would work out? AAC is working on an event right now that might need more money in the fall and we could do an additional allocation but...
- Joe: The short answer is I'm working on it and I want feedback and you should tell me more after we conclude.
- Ryan: I think one of the easiest things we could do as an org is have CEC partner with other committees when they want to have an event that way we can pool it.
- Joel: Just to add to what Ryan said, this is an off the top budget it's still a block budget so we have flexibility. The specifics on how this is determined is pretty flexible next year. I'm not going to be here next year and if next year's MCSG wants to do something completely different that's fine by me. A challenge of MCSG's budgeting is it's incredibly flexible and this MCSG makes it and the next MCSG will have different priorities and ideas. In theory, this money going to CEC doesn't mean that CEC has control over this money. It means we're planning for it to be for CEC and next year's MCSG can come together and make those decisions on how to specifically spend the operating budget. Alos, like Tristan said, this does not prevent any additional allocations. While this is an off the top budget, we are allowed to request travel, it can reduce our later numbers of the travel fund. The retreat figure

includes the travel figure that Laurie and I did some projecting yesterday to figure out how big it will likely be.

Fundraising Update ~ *Joel Sadofsky* ~ 8 minutes

- Joel: Ok, so. I'm sure many of us are wondering the status of our fundraising. The matched fundraising working group met for the first time on Sunday. We had six members in attendance plus more people who couldn't make it to the specific meeting but who are interested. The six included Sylvia and I, two Mac for Palestine leadership students, and two students who don't have any affiliation with either org. We discussed our processes and how we want to move forward to best honor the opportunity of this matched fundraising and honoring the activism that led us here and expanding our cause beyond just humanitarian aid in the occupied Palestinian territories. We came up with a rough split with roughly 50% of our raised funds going towards orgs doing on the ground aid and the rest going to refugee orgs in Palestine and other places in the world. Currently, this group is going through specific orgs. Optimistically we're hoping that at this next meeting on Sunday we can make a decision on the final fundraising split that we can send to SLT, get the approval on and then move forward on the actual fundraising. Laurie and CSLE team have worked with us and digital services to help us get this set up. I've made some plans to reach out to all the different stakeholders of the college. Stay tuned and if you want to talk to me I have office hours today from 3 to 4:30. Any questions?
 - Marina: What's involved in the vetting process?
 - Joel: There's all these sites and depositories that evaluate orgs based on how they spend their money, their contributions, tactics and transparency. Also, due to constraints from the Board of Trustees and the college's financial regulations we're limited to U.S. 501c3s.

Cabinet Updates ~ *Cabinet Liaisons* ~ 7 minutes

- Health & Wellness
 - Emma: I met with Paige, our DOJ grant coordinator this week to talk about the work she's doing with the grant. It's being used to bring advocates on campus, translating more documents into more languages, and stocking the emergency rooms with supplies. Paige is coming to LB next week. A doc will be sent out for you guys to add questions for her. I know there were some questions about the emergency rooms. I'm trying to set up a meeting with Title IX to

update their website to make their policies a bit clearer and to provide students more information about what their options are in regards to Title IX.

- Athletics & Recreation

- Ash: I met with Steve last week mostly after the briefing with Rivera. Mostly about transgender athletes. We talked a lot about language and what to tell people who have questions. We also talked about club sports for next year and possible end of year events for seniors and how that would affect our budget and setting a standard for that.

- Infrastructure & Sustainability

- Sam: I've been working on the letter of recommendation Meghan Butler wants me to write for the Green Core. There was an SAAC meeting this week that I couldn't attend so me and Meghan are going to have a meeting to discuss that.

- Dining & Residential Life

- Galjer: I want to thank everyone who added questions to MDAC. There's a lot of conversations happening and work happening. I'll be able to share more next week with some proper updates so thank you all.

- International Student

- Laurice: Last week we made the difficult decision as the WorldFest planning committee to postpone this event to next spring so around this time next year. Five weeks for us to pull off something spectacular was quite tight especially with spring break in between. After talking with so many people we decided to push it to next year. We're still working on it and meeting every two weeks. We already have some signs up. I want to thank everyone who has put their support and effort towards this. It's not that it's not going to happen, it's just going to happen next year instead.

- Belonging & Accessibility

- Willow: I went to the student conversation around the Dear Colleague letter with Katheryn Kay Coquemont and other SLT members. I can't share specific details which is why I encourage people to go to the future ones because it's a space where you can speak a bit more candidly. What I can say is that Macalester is not preemptively doing anything to comply with the letter because it has no legal standing but realistically we can't say yet what will and what won't stand up. They're not going to preemptively do anything and it's not who we are and if things are codified Macalester will figure out how to stay

true to our values. There's so much in the air right now so they'll just be watching the news and figuring out if things get codified how Maclester can continue being Macalester.

Committee Updates ~ *Committee Members* ~ 3 minutes

- SOC
 - Alec: We discussed at length the role of pre professional orgs and we talked about Pre-law organization.
- AAC
 - Ainsley: For an update on the EPAG committee. The End Study Away in Israel is still in continuation. In the March faculty meeting there'll be a motion proposed to facilitate that discussion. At this time, the Serie Center has said they don't have the capacity to take on a student rep or continue collaborations with the AAC. We hosted Coffee and Donuts yesterday which went pretty well and all of our donuts were gone within the first 15 minutes so we had to get more.
- CEC
 - Sylvia: CEC is continuing to work on various social media campaigns. We reviewed our budget for next year and approved it as a committee. We're also in the process of planning an Exec Board town hall.
- FAC
 - David: We only had 3 requests this week. We approved one for Neurobiology to go to Boston for a conference. We rejected one for Model UN because they were asking for ride share which we can't approve. We tabled one from the Outing Club that we'll get more clarification on next week. Budgets close tomorrow at noon and it's a hard deadline.
- Liv: The meeting is adjourned.