

Weyerhaeuser Boardroom

March 27th, 2025 | 11:30am 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 Peterson*

- Liv: Now I'd like to call the Legislative Meeting to order. 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. mcs@macalester.edu

FAC Budgets Requests Over \$4,000 ~ David Christenfeld ~ 3 minutes/org

- Presentation

- Forecast on spending and anticipated costs
 - Explanations of requests
 - Questions on Budget Bonanza process
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- David: Hi everyone. I'm gonna try to get through the beginning information a little bit quicker but there's some very important information I need to share with you. This year we have the most money in requests that we've ever gotten. Total requests are \$325,404 and we only have \$92,000 to give away. Expect cuts to all the budgets. We're going to do what we can but that's what we're working with. To increase that pool of money, the only way we can do that is to increase the student activity fee and therefore tuition for all students.
 - Emi: We need all orgs to spend money first.
 - David: And we also need all the orgs to spend all their money first. That's not really something that we want to do for right now so this is what we're working with. For capital specifically, this is a category that we usually get a few requests in. This year, I would say it's going to equal \$17,000 in requests from orgs and we have a pool of \$20,000 to give. This anticipated balance is if we approved everything that orgs requested, we'd have \$2,800 left over. We're going to take a look at the financial code and what's applicable. Operating, however, we expect to get about \$300,000 in. That's with the student activity fee. We're accounting for about 2,000 students, but every year more students are studying abroad. If you go abroad you don't pay the student activity fee so we have a smaller and smaller pool every year. Anticipated expenses are \$508,000. This includes \$200 for every chartered org, that's \$200 in flexi. Off the top requests are at \$177,000 this year which is larger than before. Our operating request is super high. The -\$206,000 would be if we approve everything that's how much we'd have left. We'd be in the hole of about \$200,000. For context, these are the requests over the past five years. You can see that it's been steadily increasing and this was a huge jump but not unexpected. Orgs typically request more and more each year. Since 2021 we've had a 162% increase and our pool of money has pretty much stayed the same if not decreased

because we're having more students studying abroad than ever. This is the amount that's unspent by orgs. A huge pool of money doesn't get spent and then comes back to us. That means that during Budget Bonanza that's the last money that we have to give to orgs that might spend it. Looking through, 40%, 26%, 26%, 48%, and 26%. This is money that we distributed and people asked for and then they didn't spend. 48% of funds as of this year have gone unspent. We're hoping with some of the big events happening in April and May that a lot of that will get spent. We have 26 orgs who submitted budgets over \$4,000. In total they're requesting \$251,000 and that's just the orgs requesting over \$4,000. That's what we're going to be looking at today. We're going to have orgs come up and give a short two minute presentation about their mission statement. Some orgs didn't submit a bio so I'll do my best on that one but I'm hoping we'll have reps. We'll start with the Figure Skating Club.

- Liv: Just to acknowledge, these presentations need to be two minutes since we have a lot to get through.
- David: Figure Skating Club is requesting \$6,600. This is all for private ice time. We've gotten a few requests from them this year. They're a relatively new club and they've come to us for private ice time in the past. It's a thing they do I think every two weeks at the Highland ice rink. It's been very popular and so far most of their additional allocations have been approved. They're requesting 30 private ice times throughout the year so they'll go every two weeks and they usually bring between 20 and 30 people each time.
- FAM Rep: Hello. My name is Andre. We're a cultural org that participates and engages in Filipino identity, heritage, and culture through dance, activities, guests, food and community. Our org's mission is to connect with and spread awareness of Filipino culture. Our request is primarily for our campus wide events, ingredients and catering to provide cultural cuisine to bring the Mac community together as well as tickets to go to off campus events that allow us to engage with Filipino communities around and outside the Twin Cities. We're requesting more money this year due to our growing members and a new annual event. It's a larger scale annual event that is a larger scale event that involves the entire Mac community and outside of Mac. Going forward, our new annual event allows the Macalester community to experience a Filipino celebration and also that we expect like 200 people to come so that's a lot of food, logistics, and decor. For our other events, it mostly included gathering, holidays,

and gatherings about the history of the Philippines. For our capital, we have a lot of banana leaves for our events during Filipino History Month. We also have stoves to give to the graduating class. They won't be taken by the graduating class. It's just for pictures but we will be asking for capital for that.

- FSU Rep: Hi, my name is Matté Lopez. We support first generation and low income students on campus. We're requesting more money for food because our meetings happen mostly over dinner time because a lot of our board members work multiple jobs. We feel that our members shouldn't have to choose between meeting and food. Also, a lot of our members are BIPOC so it's nice to have an extra budget to pay for culturally affirming food choices. We also have a lot of food insecurity and our mission statement is not to provide dinners for underserved students but it's nice to be able to provide support there as well. I want to reiterate that with our org, we fill an institutional gap so everything that we do is something that the school should do. So, I think it's perfectly respectable and responsible to recognize that some orgs are more important than others.
- Mac Bike Reps [Anna and Nick]: We're here to represent MacBike. Our org's mission is to increase biking on campus and bike accessibility for the entire Mac community. We also want to create and foster empowerment through bikes and bike knowledge and skills and repairs. We're requesting more money this year to continue the programming that we've been able to do over the last few years and expand that. That includes at least four hours of programming every week. There's open shop which happens twice a week every week the whole school year. We run events through those open shops as well to bring people into that space which makes people feel welcome in a space in which they might not feel welcome to them. That obviously helps empower people if they feel comfortable coming into a room in a weird basement on campus. Also, it helps increase accessibility to our shops, to our bikes, to our space. It helps people make those connections. That's mostly operating and we have events outside of campus to increase awareness and make sure people know that there is a bike shop on campus. We also requested more capital funds to get more tools and bike parts to help people learn how to fix their bikes at no cost to them. This makes it super open and accessible. It's not a shop, they're not buying things. Something new we're doing next year is we want to have trainings with a professional mechanic from the

community to help bring more practical skills and to help build more skills and foster the relationship with a local bike shop.

- David: Adelante is a community org for Latinx students on campus. They're requesting \$5,171.32. It's for their events like the Quinceñera that's held every year, Afro-Latino event, and a Christmas event. They're also requesting money to host speakers on campus.
- David: Afrika! didn't submit a bio but they're just requesting money for mostly large cultural events. They do their African wedding so I assume their budget will remain the same as the past few years.
- David: Badminton is pretty self explanatory. Most of it is they're requesting a lot for capital for new equipment. This org is a large cost but a lot of it is coming from the capital club instead of the operating club which is nice to see.
- David: Chinese Culture Club is another cultural org fostering community among Chinese students. They're requesting \$25,000. Probably one of the largest budgets we're going to see. They host the Mid-Autumn Festival. Chinese Valentine's Day, and the Spring Festival. These are mostly for large events, food costs, and decorations costs, renting photo clubs, stuff like that.
- Geo Club Rep: Hi, my name is Delilah. Our mission is to share our geology department but geology outside of campus. We're requesting \$4,714 so we can go to other geological associations around the Midwest. We go to Iowa and camp for two days so we're requesting for food, tents, vans, and first aid kits. We're also hosting other bigger events on campus. I know we requested for painting materials. We're focusing on bringing bigger events to campus. We're planning on having a night at the museum so check that out. We want to bring geology outside of our small basement in Olri.
- David: LSU is requesting money for some of their bigger events like for Latinx heritage month their doing a few events so their budget is coming mostly from food costs and costs
 - Alexis: I'm on the board for LSU and one of our biggest events is our showcase where we have performances and we have a poet come in and we also offer food. We're trying to expand to the student body to make it more welcoming so that's why we have an increased budget.
- David: Mac Chess didn't submit a bio. A lot of their request is for travel so a lot of that will be removed immediately which will make it

\$6,000 or lower. The rest is for registration fees. They're trying to do about 6 or 7 tournaments.

- MASECA Rep: Hi my name is Sonia I'm representing MASECA which is the Macalester Association of Subcontinental Ethnic and Cultural Awareness. Long name, I know. All you guys need to know is that we're the only organization that focuses on representing South Asian culture on campus and the academic school year overlaps with dozens of our cultural holidays. In an attempt to be inclusive and be mindful of our capacity as a small org, we do two major cultural events, one per semester. Being mindful of our mission of inclusiveness of various ethnicities and buying from South Asian owned restaurants and grocery stores has been our priority for the past five years which is why we continuously ask for a slightly larger budget. Our biggest expense is food so we're looking at Section 9 which states that food costs for annual allocations should not exceed \$10 per person per event. Our fall event has consistently had over 250 people and it's only grown which we know through our event ticketing system. Our spring event has consistently had about 50 people but this year we're expecting about 75 people. In other words our events have grown every year. We're also buying materials from South Asian grocery stores to have a traditional gathering of drinking tea. We're throwing these grand events, we're curating South Asian culture and we openly encourage our entire campus to be involved.
- Mac Slams Rep: Hi, I'm Adrian. We put on monthly poetry slams and weekly writing shops. A vast majority of our budget goes towards paying the poets that come to our slams. Often, they can use that money for flying out here and staying at a hotel. It's really important to us to showcase diverse poets from all over the country. We know it's a large request but we make it because it reflects the industry rate and oftentimes we have to negotiate with artists whose going rates are more than what we can offer. MacSlams go to these events called the Slam Organization so their money is actually doing something. We've had a lot of published and famous poets out of MacSlames. Some of those famous poets that came out of MacSlams are currently who we're paying to be coaches. We pay them for tickets to go to tournaments where people are travelling nationally and internationally. Our org is unique for finding a regular performance space every month and providing weekly writing workshops. I will say that Mac has won the last 2 years and we're the only college team

competing. Also, we want to mention that we've decreased our budget last year and we decreased it again this year and we've learned how to adapt with budget cuts and are working really hard to figure out how to make it easier on everybody else. We've used every single penny of our budget in the past years.

- Mac First Aid Rep: Hi, I'm Liz. I'm co-president of Mac First Aid. We provide free medical training on campus and to the Mac community. We provide CPR courses and blood drives. We're using this money to keep offering these free courses. These courses are expensive. Also, we go to the National Collegiate Emergency Medical Services Foundation conference. We're requesting money for that conference so we can learn new skills and training. Thank you.
- Mac Human Rights Rep: Every other year we hold a Mac Human Rights conference where we bring in leaders from outside the country. Our goal is to educate people on campus about global human rights issues. We bring in speakers and a large part of the request is to bring in speakers and have the ability to have them in a multiple day event. So, this request would go towards the Mac Human Rights Conference that a lot of people are really passionate about.
- Marina [MJO]: MJO is the Jewish org at Mac. A majority of these costs are for high holidays dinners, for constructing the Sukkah for Sukkot which is the holiday where the Israelites in Biblical times lived in a hut so it's kind of like replicating the hut. The majority of our money goes to student cooked shabbat dinners every other week. The biggest cost is the kosher Passover food because Café Mac doesn't do a great job of gluten free so for the week of Passover we have students take over and cook dinner every single night that week. These are more specialized dietary needs that a lot of that is for. Also, catering for our satyr which is open to the entire Macalester community.
- David: Martial Arts' biggest cost this year is hiring a cost who comes in once a week to do a lesson. They want to provide the best teaching for martial arts. The rest of the budget is for capital items for getting new pads. That's comin from the capital fund.
- David: MSA is another cultural org providing campus community for Muslim students. A lot of the events are focused around Muslim holidays. Fostering more community among students.
- David: West Coast Swing is our dance org on campus. This is a large request. They have a coach who hosts a 1 hour instruction a week. A

lot of it is also for their trip to Chicago with registration fees which are pretty high. They also do other lessons while they're in Chicago.

- David: Outing Club's budget is one of our larger ones. They do a lot of trips throughout the year. These are usually for booking registration for places they're going to visit that they book a few months out. Also providing WFA training on campus and group hikes around the Mac area.
- Pre-Medicine Rep: Hi, I'm Liz. We're a new org so we're a little over \$4,000 because of our suturing workshop which we want to have on campus to provide students a place to build community while also building on medical skills. Also, we requested this amount for community events like catering, transportation, and volunteering.
- Voices in STEM: Hi, I'm Delilah. I'm a co-founder. We're requesting this amount because we want to provide a safe space for traditionally marginalized communities in STEM. One of our main goals that we were able to achieve last year is to attend the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) conference. This conference is open to all people of color in STEM. Last year we were able to take eight students and three of them got an Outstanding Presentation Award. It's a very changing experience for students. The reason we're hosting more is that they host the national diversity in STEM conference which was primarily funded by the NIH so, now we're requesting extra funding for the ticket costs. We're also working to create an actual SACNAS chapter at Mac and we want to bring in more speakers and host more events and we want to make our presence in STEM known at Macalester.
- David: Climbing Club's budget is another big one. It's about the same every year. It's mostly taken up by the tickets they buy from the local bouldering gyms in the area. They buy passes that provide equipment for any students who want to go. That's the biggest part of their cost and they're also registering for Boulder Fest.
- APIDA Rep: Hi, APIDA is one of the largest cultural orgs on campus. We host a lot of events throughout the year. The reason our budget is so high is because we spearhead Mac's Asian Pacific Islander month which is next month. Two large events: the gala which is a kickoff where we partner with students, professors, alumni, and local dance groups to provide a space and dinner for students. Also, the night market where we partner with all the Asian orgs on campus as well as

students who don't have clubs that are of Asian heritage. We partner with around ten groups to provide 16 stalls. It's a campus wide event which we regularly have like 300 to 400 students attend. We've switched to doing a lot more cooking events to cut down on catering events. Here are some flyers we'll pass around about our events that we're putting on in the next month.

- Chloe: I also want to add that we consistently use all of our funds and submit additional allocations.
- David: Thank you everyone for paying attention. That's all the orgs. The next step is Budget Bonanza this weekend. On the 29th we're going to have orgs come in and give a presentation to the FAC specifically. Then FAC will figure out how we want to divide up the budget. Then we'll release our decision and then orgs can appeal and you would come in front of LB. Does anyone have any questions?
 - Emi: If you want to see the 2025 Budget Bonanza spreadsheet on the Involve page there's a link so you can see all of those. There's also a second sheet linked there that shows the annual requests per organization. It'll also show how much money is left in the funds at the end of every year. This is a lot of what FAC will be looking at. It's mostly what can FAC say yes to right now. It doesn't mean that these things aren't important and they don't want to fund them, it's just that there's only so much that they can allocate right now. I've been compiling on spending and allocation trends and this year alone they've allocated \$121,000 in additional allocations. Right now, it's kind of what we can guarantee at this time and until the numbers settle for this year, there's only so much we can plan for. I just wanted to give folks a heads up because we know that when the recommendations are released folks have a lot of feelings on them. FAC takes a ton of time doing this and really does their due diligence. Last year they were here until like 7pm on a Sunday night trying to figure out how they can balance everything. Org leaders, try to give them some grace. Try to get a sense of what everyone's looking for.
- Joel: David, I want to invite you to share the rationale that FAC will bring to making cuts this year.
 - David: One thing we're doing this year is reaching out to all of our orgs about tier funding priorities. We're going to use that pretty heavily about what we can allocate for. We want to emphasize that orgs can always come back next year and request money for events that they didn't get full funding for. We highly encourage orgs to do

that because we won't be able to give orgs everything they requested and with this we'll be giving them a lot less than usual. We're going to try to fund what's really important to people. Also, highlighting our additional allocation process we want to really emphasize. Orgs won't get everything they requested so really emphasizing that appeal process, that additional allocation process and also the priorities.

Thank you.

- Liv: We went through that super fast. Org leaders you are not required to stay. We can move to Cabinet Updates.

Cabinet Updates ~ *Cabinet Liaisons*

- Athletics & Recreation
 - Ash: I have a meeting with leadership from BIPOCa to get help with Scot Ball Planning tomorrow. I was going to meet with Steve Murray this week as well but that had to be moved to sometime next week as well. Sam and I are also scheduling a meeting with Ron in athletics to go over some infrastructure concerns he's heard about that are related to athletics.
- International Student
 - Laurice: Currently there's been a lot of news about what's happening to international students. I had a short conversation with ISP and we'll have another one. We need to figure out a way to protect international students who may be travelling in and out of the U.S. On top of that, we need to look at the feasibility of studying away for international students seeing that it's getting increasingly difficult for people to come back in. That's a work in progress and more to be coming from that.
- Belonging & Accessibility
 - Willow: I'm now getting the ball rolling on some projects. First is I'm planning an ICE training conducted by an ACLU organizer coming to campus next week. In terms of the decompression spaces I've talked about, the LSC is eager to be involved. They don't know yet in what capacity but they're going to have their faculty meeting and then I'll be hearing from them. I haven't heard anything back from WGSS so I'm waiting on that.
- Health & Wellness
 - Emma: Monday was the NASPA Cannabis Use on College Campuses. Myself, some other students, Hamre staff and some people from Public Safety were there and we talked about how we might

implement those sessions at Macalester. I met with Laura Creech, the Title IX Coordinator, and discussed changes to the website to make the Title IX policies clear. I'd be happy to meet with anybody individually if they have questions about anything.

- Dining & Residential Life
 - Galjer: Hi, everybody. For dining, as said before in the last LB meeting, chicken tenders and quesadillas every Monday after 8 pm chicken tenders will be there for a meal swipe and every Wednesday for quesadillas. It's not formally advertised about that just because of their supply shipments but now it'll be formally added so please share. Café Mac will be ordering more anti-fatigue masks. The all day waffle station will be coming very soon. Tentative time is April 3rd. For Residential Life, summer housing information will go up on the website next Monday morning. Also, if you know anybody who is experiencing raw chicken or anything like that I highly encourage you to tell them to report this to Amy Tomes so they can launch an investigation into this.

Committee Updates ~ *Committee Members*

- FAC
 - Cooper: We reviewed one request from APIDA funding some performers and some food for the events they passed out flyers for. Additionally, we approved Mac Bike for stickers and we denied Health Professionals some pizza. We also discussed this upcoming weekend and the excitement around that.
- SOC
 - Chloe: This week we looked at chartering new clubs because the deadline just passed. There's a few pre-professional orgs we looked at as well as other rec orgs. We also discussed check ins. We also started discussing SOC awards and how we'll be deciding those.
- AAC
 - Lina: We didn't meet this week but we'll keep discussing what we were doing before break. I went to the CIC meeting. The meeting was about logistics and how we can present information better this semester. So, we're going to talk about the requirements and the writing. That's going to be shared during the April faculty meeting.
- CEC
 - Mena: We've been working on planning the exec town hall which is next wed from 4:30-6:30 in the JWall lobby. It's going to be Sprinkle

and Share because it'll be an ice cream bar. We've also been working on election communications. If you haven't already signed up please sign up for tabling, there'll be candy and you can keep it, too, if there's leftovers.

Announcements ~ 2 minutes

- [Election tabling](#) ~ *Mena*
- Exec town hall April 2nd 4:30-6:30 ~ *Mena*
- File for Exec Board and Apply for BoT Student Liaison ~ *Joel*
 - Joel: Filing is open for exec board elections and closes next week on Monday. We currently have one contested election for SOC chair. I'd love to have more. Keep that in mind if you're thinking about running for Exec there's a lot of people you can talk to. Also open and also closing Monday at 8 pm is the application for the 2025-2026 Board of Trustees liaison. We've currently received one applicant. I think we can get that up. If you know anyone who's interested or would be good at this come talk to me or Gabe. It's open to all rising seniors and rising juniors. Please think about it and tell your friends.
- Ryan: I'm currently working on a draft with other people about the bylaws. We want to get that voted on next week so if you have any questions or comments just go into the document and take a look.
- Liv: Unless anyone has anything else, meeting is adjourned enjoy your free 40 mins.