

Weyerhaeuser Boardroom

April 3rd, 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 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. mcsbg@macalester.edu

Special Activity ~ *Else Gerber* ~ 2 minutes

- Else: I would like to say thank you to everyone for being on theme this week. I have a short activity and then we'll get into the rest of the meeting. Happy Pickle Week! If everyone could look under their seats there should be a post it note. **[Lina is the winner! Of pickles!]**
- Lina: I wanted to thank everyone. I know there was really hard competition and I know you're all very sad you didn't get baby gherkin pickles. But I'll share with everyone.
- Else: Thanks for wearing green. Happy Pickle Week! Let's get on with it.

Bylaws ~ *Ryan Connor* ~ 10 minutes

- [Bylaws](#)
- [Election code](#) (Section IV, 5)
- Ryan: As we've been going through this over the last couple weeks we've done a lot of work on it. I think there's like 250 comments on it. We're making changes to the bylaws and the election code with a single change. Does anyone have any questions before we move on? Alright.
- Liv: Do I see a motion for the bylaws?
- David: I would motion to approve the Bylaws. [second]
 - IN FAVOR: 23
 - OPPOSED: 0
 - ABSTAIN: 1
- Liv: The bylaw changes are approved.
- Ryan: Does anyone need help with this one change to the Election Code that we'll be voting on.
- Liv: Is there a motion for the election code changes?
- Cooper: Motion to approve the election code changes. [second]
 - IN FAVOR: 23
 - OPPOSED: 0
 - ABSTAIN: 0
- Liv: The election code changes are approved.

Financial Code Amendment ~ *David Christenfeld* ~ 2 minutes

- [Financial Code 2025](#) Section X (2) (b) and Section III (5) (4)

- David: I'm sure everybody has already looked through the Financial Code and knows what the amendments are. The first one is we want to move the 5% roll over from the Community Chest to the Operating Fund. Community Chest will still get \$10,000 every year but the roll over will go to the Operating Fund. We decided to do this after Budget Bonanza. We also want to stop the presentation that we did last week. We felt that it was a waste of time. The FAC will still come up with a pre-Budget Bonanza summary but we're not going to look at every single org over \$4,000. Does anyone have any questions? Also for the roll over talk to Philomena she'll know, too.
- Liv: If there's no questions, is there a motion?
- Tor: Motion to approve financial code amendments. [seconds]
 - IN FAVOR: 23
 - OPPOSED: 0
 - ABSTAIN: 0

Budget Shift: Money from Travel to Operating ~ *David Christenfeld* ~ 2 minutes

- \$15,000 from travel to operating
- David: We're looking to shift \$15,000 from the travel fund which currently has \$20,000 in it to Operating which we're currently negative in. We have reserve funds if this doesn't pass. We're not really sure if this requires a vote but we're going to start the precedent now for transfers of this size. Are there any questions?
 - Ryan: How often do you guys move money around between the different budgets?
 - David: Not super often. Especially of this size. We definitely always tell LB about it but we don't always vote on it.
 - Emi: Last year was the first time FAC moved any money from one fund to another. They moved funds from Capital to Travel because there were a lot of Travel requests. Prior to that that hadn't really happened. It also has to do with the percentage FAC is allocating as a whole.
 - Laurice: Isn't this a decision that can be made within the FAC?
 - David: Yeah. Just given the amount of money we figured we'd bring it to LB. In the Financial Code we have to inform the LB about it and it's kind of unclear whether LB has to vote and we decided to set the precedent that LB has to vote.
 - Laurice: When you say a transaction of this size is it \$15,000 just this time or is there an amount where we can vote on it?

- David: We were thinking over \$4,000 is where we draw that line.
- Ryan: Just to clarify, what will you guys be using this money for specifically?
 - David: Right now we've approved the APIDA Gala and the FAM event. April is a huge month for org spending and we're trying to get ahead of it. Travel is a lot less popular in April, it's mostly already happened.
- Ryan: Are you going to make this change also roll over into next year?
 - David: Just this year. If we get to this point next year maybe. Usually we see more travel requests but this year was a little bit lighter on travel.
- Chloe: Will this money also help fund things for next year or will people still have to put in additional requests?
 - David: They will still have to put in additional allocations. This is just looking at these next few weeks.
- Lina: You said there's going to be \$5,000 in the Travel Fund. Is that still for the last few weeks?
 - David: Yes. This move only affects this year.
- Laurice: Motion to approve the \$15,000 shift from travel to operating.
[second]
 - IN FAVOR: 24
 - OPPOSED: 0
 - ABSTAIN: 1

Post-Budget Bonanza Update ~ *David Christenfeld* ~ 5 minutes

- David: We had Budget Bonanza this weekend. We spent 8.5 hours on Saturday meeting with orgs. Then the next day we spent 11 hours deliberating on what the budget cuts will be. \$72,000 was available for operating for us to give away. We had \$330,000 requested. We were able to make it so that there was no across the board cut. We tried to differ what we could to additional allocations. Limiting orgs to how many orgs they could do. Unfortunately, there were a few events we just couldn't fund. In the end we allocated \$600,000 to operating funds and we have \$2,592 left for appeals which you'll see next week. We currently only have two appeals. One of them alone is over that amount so that's a discussion we'll have. The other one is \$2,700. For capital we still have \$4,000 for appeals but no one's

appealed any capital so that's finalized. That's it for Budget Bonanza. Thank you.

Student Activity Fee ~ *Joel Sadofsky* ~ 7 minutes

- [Presentation](#)

- Joel: A lot of people are mad at MCSG because we didn't give their org as much money as they requested. FAC had to make pretty significant cuts. I think FAC did incredible work with the constraints they were under and I'm incredibly proud and grateful. But also, I do think that the anger and dissatisfaction at MCSG with the results of Budget Bonanza should push us to be solution minded about this whole thing. I want to push off discussions about raising the student activity fee. This slideshow is linked in the agenda and linked in this slideshow is a spreadsheet that we put together that has years and years of various stats and figures related to annual allocation, additional allocations, spending, and rollover. It's comprehensive and overwhelming but it's also eally really useful work. The main takeaway is that student activity fee utilization is increasing. This is the balance of what would be left in the operating fund if all Budget Bonanza requests were approved. This is negative. A lower and longer bar means more of a shortfall. 2021-2022 sort of ratched everything back because in the 2020-2021 school year the student activity fee was essentially refunded. If you ignore that and don't look at the year after that where there was a giant rollover from that you can see the trend. We don't have the money to give orgs what they want. This is the graph I like to call evidence of FAC being good at what they do. This is the percent of funds available to give to orgs. This is the percent of that allocated to student orgs has gone up roughly 91%. FAC is operating a very high efficiency. This is the number of students whose fees were not used which is essentially a way in which rollover is expressed. That doesn't mean that it's wasted money as you can see it does get spent and the amount is not trending upwards. There is a time where we know this money is very likely to exist but because FAC can't speak with certainty if this money exists or how much exists we can't in good conscience allocate it to orgs. Since last year, it's gone up. This year is not over so I don't know what chunk of this org will go up. We have a lot of student activities coming up and I would not be surprised if this number went up to about 600 out of roughly 2,000 student activity fees unused. This is the last time the

student activity fee was raised. That was during the 2012-2013 academic year where it was raised to \$230. If the student activity fee were to have kept pace with inflation it would be about \$322.36 roughly. It's a rough metric. That means that the student activity had it kept pace with inflation should be roughly \$100 more if it were to have the same buying power in 2012 which was 13 years ago. So, the upshot is that student activity fee utilization is increasing. I imagine given FAC's work to adjust the Budget Bonanza process and not incentivize over requesting it's likely that it will start to go down in the future. It's time to be a little forward thinking and invest. This year we basically had it not fund Forensics because it was not feasible to fund them through the operating fund so we had to hope that administration will fund them. People have suggested more club sports support. Outdoor education could be nice. It's not going to be easy. It's not going to happen now. A lot of people in this room are graduating. I wanted to start this conversation now so that the people in this room who aren't graduating can get the ball rolling. There's going to be work to do with the Board of Trustees and Patricia Langer's office. It's going to be unpopular to raise tuition. We'll have to gather student support. In the past there was a student referendum. Another thing will be to develop a complete and specific proposal of how the financial code will be amended to distribute increased fees. This could be as simple as more money for operating, or far more encompassing. I don't have a specific opinion on how this should be done but I think it was good to get the conversation started. We have a lot of time to talk about this so we can use a speakers list.

- Ryan: We're going to hear more about this in the PB presentation coming up but I want to look at the student activity fee as a really big success of how we run this organization. More people are studying away and more and more student orgs are having big events. This shows that what we're doing is meaningful and the work that we're doing is actually impacting campus. I want us to look at this \$230 from 2012 and how we've been using it as a big success.
- Emma: I'm wondering about the number on Emi's spreadsheet is he percent of allocated funds not being spent each year. I'm curious how that fits into the plan of raising the student activity fee? We have a month left of the school year and I'm not sure when this data was pulled but there's 48% left, 26% from last

year, and 26% from the year before so, how does that fit into the plan of raising the student activity fee.

- Emi: The data was pulled on March 21st. I pulled the P-Cards from march from our system and factored that in. We're forecasting based on past year percentages that about \$77,000 will remain unspent on what's been allocated to orgs.
- Cooper: Is that percent remaining, is that only FAC's budget or does that include Program Board, Community Chest, speakers fund and all that.
 - Emi: Which cell are you looking at?
 - Cooper: The percent of allocated funds not spent by orgs.
 - Emi: That's just money that's been allocated to student orgs for spending. That doesn't include Program Board or any of the other funds.
- Willow: Is the student activity fee covered by financial aid?
 - Joel: Yes.
 - Willow: So if we raise the student activity fee it'll still be covered by financial aid.
- Joel: I wanted to provide a more nuanced answer to the questions. The student activity fee is part of the comprehensive cost of covering Macalester college that is factored into how financial aid is distributed and awarded. I don't want to say that everyone's student activity fee will be 100% covered by financial aid but it'll be part of Macalester's policy on how they interpret meeting 100% of demonstrated need.
- Ainsley: Do we have a specific range or ballpark on how much we want to raise the fee by?
 - Joel: No, we don't have any specifics. Everything's up in the air. There are a number of different paths we could take. MCSG could do it based on the budgetary shortfall. They could take that into account with rollover. There's also an opportunity to be proactive and identify other campus needs that the student activity fee could fund. Nothing concrete has been decided yet I haven't done nearly enough work.
- Chloe: Do we know how likely the school is to support the agenda? I know they are facing very strange financial restrictions. I don't know how much they'd be willing to cover

anything else because they're already cutting funding for so many things.

- Joel: I don't know and having those conversations will be a difficult part of exploring this. I'm on the President's Advisory Committee and I feel like I've been getting the executive summaries of how the college is doing even with all the checks to federal funding. I think that Mac's Strategic Plan generally outlines increasing investments and improving the student experience and I feel like this would be in line with that.
- David: We don't have a solid number but when we talk about raising the fee it's a range of about \$50 to \$100. \$50 to \$100 is a substantial amount when we're looking at individual people. Having those conversations with people. If we raise the student activity fee it wouldn't just be putting money into the funds we already have. It would be creating new funds. Rollover is something that we're trying to combat right now. We want orgs to be spending all their money and that's why we'll be doing the semesterly budgeting soon. We want to raise the fee so we can fund new things and new pools of money that everybody can access. I think there's a lot of benefit that everybody could have.
- Marina: Does the Community Chest fund pull from the student activity fee?
 - David: Yes, \$10,000.
 - Ryan: The Community Chest fund is an off the top expense of \$10,000 annually.

Cabinet Updates ~ *Cabinet Liaisons* ~ 7 minutes

- **Athletics & Recreation**
 - Ash: I had multiple meetings with the Scot Ball meeting this week. It's been pushed back to next week due to several different complications. Details will be coming out tomorrow morning or Monday. I have a meeting tomorrow about intramural complications that were brought to me specifically about communication and scheduling.
- **Infrastructure & Sustainability**

- Sam: Not a ton's going on. At the end of the month there's going to be a big SAC meeting about what's going to happen with the carbon neutrality and zero waste initiatives.
- International Student
 - Laurice: Last week was a very busy week. I had the pleasure of going through Macalester's social media, the Mac Weekly, and the Mac Daily. All of the texts that have the names of international students on it particularly with the issue in Palestine. International students who are involved in protesting and pushing the narrative against everything that's happening in that region are currently under attack and we've had instances where ICE has deported international students who are involved with going to that protest. Going to those protests are not safe for international students. I met with the leaders of Mac for Palestine and the Mac Weekly and a lot of people who are involved with communications around the college. I had to figure out a way to communicate with international students about this in a not so official way. ISP has sent us many emails about this but a lot of people don't read their emails. Cabinet and I have had a lot of conversations about that. We're constantly monitoring the situation at hand. I had another meeting with the study away department about what they're thinking about it. The last thing is Macalester College is making great strides in regards to protecting international students. I want to thank Macalester College. They had an immigration lawyer come in this week and we had an 1.5 hour conversation with the lawyer and the information there was valuable. I sincerely hope we can have more of these types of communications. I also had a conversation with Alina Wong about it and they were saying that Mac has some sort of protective measures that they have for international students when they have trouble at the border. The biggest task I have is how to communicate this with international students in a not so official way but still maintain that it's serious.
- Belonging & Accessibility
 - Willow: I met with Shauna who's the head of the Center for Disability Services. We talked about the housing accommodation process. The system is that you can submit if you need housing accommodations and what kind of housing you need. They work closely with Res Life to make that happen. We also talked about some upcoming events. Today from 6pm - 8pm in Theater 202 is a movie event. It's a screening of Monsters University where people will be discussing

stereotypes. On Tuesday, April 15th from 12pm - 1pm in Theater 202 there'll be a panel discussion called Curing the Student Body: How K-12 Schools Perpetuate Cure Ideology. This will be a conversation about the institutionalization of bodies and attaching health to disability needs and combating specific narratives of bodies. The last thing we discussed was a reorganization of liaison roles. This is something we've been talking about for a really long time. I'm really happy that we eventually got there. We're reorganizing especially in the Bylaws. Belonging and Accessibility is now the Institutional Equity Liaison. Health and Wellness has turned into the Accessibility and Wellbeing Liaison. This is to match the organizing and department structure. Disability Resources which is under Belonging and Accessibility is actually the Student Affairs department. The Hamre Center also falls under Student Affairs. This is going to allow for more flow and easier access to various departments. All of the organizations that fall under the Institutional Equity department like Title IX, CRSLE and the LSC are now all under one liaison. That was some issues that we were running into that we're now addressing.

- Health & Wellness
 - Emma: Next week is the Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory meeting so if you have questions, comments, concerns about any of that please let me know before Thursday. I have meetings this past week to inform the departments I work with about the liaison changes to make sure all of the language is okay with everybody.
- Dining & Residential Life
 - Dining: Two **new toasters** in Cafe Mac :)
 - **All day waffle station** is up and running!
 - Residential Life:
 - Emergency spaces used this year: used all 12-13 beds this year.
 - Residential Life, Business services, and Disability services did a walk through with the washer/dryer vendor, in order to ensure that all laundry units on campus are ADA compliant. **Plan is to go through and update all the washer/dryer machines this summer!! Yay new machines 🥳**
 - **Two project updates coming next week :)**

Committee Updates ~ *Committee Members* ~ 2 minutes

- FAC

- David: With Budget Bonanza we had less additional allocations we assumed we would. FAM was requesting funds for a performer we had to deny because the cost was too high. We had one for APIDA, one for Green at Mac and one for HSP.
- SOC
 - Chloe: We met with Mac Creative Writing, Italian Culture Club, MAX, and decided upon student leadership awards and continued discussing check-ins.
- AAC
 - Ainsley: We selected this year's student educators and educator of the year. From Lina, CIC is working on synthesizing a process report into an updated and more easily accessible document. At CIC, they discussed how they're going to discuss the results at the upcoming faculty meeting
- CEC
 - Mena: We mainly worked on executing the Exec Town Hall last night. We've also been working on election communications. There's tabling tomorrow from 11am to 1pm and there'll be candy and stickers. Please sign up.

Program Board Budget Presentation ~ *Sofia Vaz, Program Board Chair* ~ 10 minutes

- [Presentation](#)
- Questions
 - Sofia: Hey y'all. How are you? Sorry I didn't come in the fall but I'll make up for it by talking about the fall and the spring now. PB is the programmatic board of MCSG. We're the core of campus engagement. We're composed of 1 chair, 3 traditions coordinators, 6 event coordinators, 2 publicity coordinators, 1 office manager, and 1 staff advisor. As stated in the financial code the student activity fee which is \$230 is distributed across the year. \$130 in the fall and \$100 in the spring. \$32 of that goes to PB each semester. We put on social, cultural, and education events. Fall 2024 we started with about \$94,000. \$65,000 of that was from the semester allocation from MCSG and then there was roll over from the 2023-2024 year. There is a large amount allocated to Winter Ball and general events because those are our main priorities. Chair Fund is \$1,000 and that's specifically for the chair to plan events. Here's a list of all of our fall events. Those highlighted in yellow are all of our collaborated events. My main goal this year was to collaborate more on campus and help student orgs to really increase our

campus presence. 44% of our events were collaborations. If you have any questions about any specific events please let me know. Our spring budget allocations were \$55,000 allocated to Spring Fest but due to some mishaps with fall ball an extra \$8,000 went into that budget. The fall tends to be a more event filled semester than the spring. Here's a list of all of our spring events and all of those highlighted in yellow are the events we did in collaboration with orgs.

- Cooper: Could you explain what the Chair Fund is?
 - Sofia: It's \$1,000 of PB's budget that's allocated for the chair to plan events. Event coordinators are required to plan one event per month, as chair I'm not required to do that so I usually dip my toes into all of the events that are going on. But the chair fund is if I want to plan an event. I am currently planning an event for the senior class.
- Joel: If you had more money what would you do with it?
 - Sofia: All of the collaborations listed here are what we've been able to do but there's a ton that we've had to turn down because we don't have the means to help fund those. We've been able to help orgs in other ways by volunteer work and helping connect orgs with campus resources. If we were to get more money PB would invest that into more cultural and educational events. Almost all of our events are social so that would probably be the main priority.
- Tor: Thank you for your presentation. Could you talk more about what PB student development means?
 - Sofia: That's our retreat. We only had one retreat this year at the Mall of America. That's what that's for. PB does have the opportunity to go to conferences. We didn't take that up this year but in the past we've gone. It's a showcase of all these different acts you can have come to your college. Hypnotists, acts, will be there and you go to see if there's anybody you would like to come to your college.
- Marina: Do you have any sort of interaction with the PB equivalent at other schools. Is there any sort of leading or any sort of semesterly event where you catch each other up on what you're doing and get some ideas from other schools?
 - Sofia: That sounds like a great idea. We haven't done that but that's definitely something to think about for next semester.
- Chloe: Is there anything more that MCSG can do to support PB?

- Sofia: Yeah! I don't want PB to feel like the estranged cousin of MCSG. we could have a joint meeting or something. I know our meetings are at the exact same time as yours.
- David: What does the approval process look like for getting a PB allocations?
 - Sofia: PB focuses on collaboration over funding. We want to set the precedent that we're just an open wallet for orgs to come to. One coordinator from PB will collaborate with an org to create a budget proposal for the event and will come present it to our board. Sometimes orgs will try to allocate funding for something that you could get for free on campus so we'll direct them to that resource. That's usually our process. Most of the time when people do come to us to collaborate we do collaborate in some form. Unfortunately, at the end of the year since our budget has been really thin we can't really commit to all the collabs.
- Marina: This is a really pertinent question to what we talked about today. But if we were to raise the student activity fee would you be in favor or raising the amount that PB gets?

Sofia: I would be in favor of that. Thanks guys!

Announcements ~ 2 minutes

- Candidates Forum tonight in the Loch 7-9pm
- Exec Board elections open Friday - Monday
 - [Tabling](#) sign-up
- Plan on starting at 11:30am next week ~ *Else*
- Ryan: The Exec Board Candidates Forum in the Loch from 7pm-9pm. All the candidates should be there. I encourage you all to come out. If there's questions you want to know this is the time for that.
- Else: Next week we're going to start the meeting at 11:30 because it's the appeals meeting which tends to be a long one. Have that on your radar let me know if you can't make it.
- Liv: That's it. Meeting is adjourned.