Weyerhaeuser Boardroom

April 10th, 2025 | 12:00pm CST



Legislative Body Meeting Agenda

Land Acknowledgement ~ Ryan Connor ~ 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 Wahpékhute 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 ~ Ryan Connor

- Ryan: 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. mcsg@macalester.edu

SOC Chair Announcement ~ *Joel Sadofsky* ~ 2 minutes

- Joel: As everybody has been informed, Alec, our SOC Chair, has stepped down effective Monday. He communicated with Ryan and I and I'm happy to talk more about how this went down. Congratulations to everyone elected to be on Executive Board next year. With that, I have been looking over the presidential appointment process for Executive Board vacancies and I would like to nominate Liv Peterson for SOC Chair for the remainder of the year. We just held an election for SOC chair and Liv won. If we were to run another election, the person would serve for one regular meeting. Holding another election would be a ridiculous waste of resources and also holding another election would go against the election code which says that no elections should be held within fewer than 8 weeks in the semester. Based on the election code process, we're supposed to vote to confirm Liv as interim SOC chair. Before hearing a motion, are there any questions about this process? Ok, I'm going to look for a motion to officially confirm Liv Peterson as interim SOC chair for the remainder of the year.

SOC Chair Appointment ~ *Joel Sadofsky* ~ 5 minutes

- Elizabeth: I make a motion to appoint Liv Peterson as the SOC chair for the remainder of the year.
- Joel: As stated in the bylaws, Ryan as of this minute is serving as interim speaker.
- Ryan: We're going to need a two thirds majority for this.

IN FAVOR: 21OPPOSED: 0ABSTAIN: 1

- Ryan: Liv is now the SOC chair for the remainder of the year.

Interim Speaker Announcement ~ *Ryan Connor* ~ 2 minutes

- Ryan: Liv is not the speaker anymore. There is a process that's outlined in the bylaws for what happens when the speaker resigns or leaves for any reason. It says: "The Vice-President shall serve as the interim Speaker of the LB if the Speaker has not yet been elected by the LB, if the Speaker resigns or is absent for any reason, or if a Speaker cannot be elected in time to preside over at least three remaining LB meetings during an academic year."

The process for electing a speaker goes like this: I would take names for those interested in being speaker, next week we'd have elections and then after next week the speaker actually presides over their first meeting. If we were to do that the speaker's first day would be the last meeting, they'd have one meeting to preside over and it's a joint session so it's more of a transition meeting anyways. We can talk a little about if there's anybody interested in being Speaker but I'm going to say as of right now I'm going to serve as interim Speaker. I know part of the speaker's responsibilities is to be report back from EB so we'll be concentrating on that a little bit more on bringing it back to LB. If anyone has any questions about that let me know. I still want to make an effort to make sure everyone knows what's going on in EB.

FAC Appeals ~ *David Christenfeld* ~ 15 minutes

- Presentation from FAC
- Appeal from FSU
 - David: Hi, everybody, thank you. One quick adjustment is we're going to be moving FSU to the beginning. First a brief overview. We currently have \$2,992.94 available for appeal. We'll go over later the voting which will happen next week. We'll look over what would happen if you guys approve one in full the other in full. We'll start with the FSU appeal. FAC will give their reasoning and then FSU will have a chance to speak last and respond to what we said and then there will be time for questions. The original budget they requested was \$5,625.00. We approved \$1,200 and now they're appealing for \$2,212,50. Originally, they were appealing for \$4,425 and that's changed so now it's half that. Our reasoning for giving the budget in the first place was looking at their budget, many of their events were called the "action meetings". There's six of them. We felt FAC couldn't provide funds for these, no matter what the situation was because these fall into the Flexi category for meetings. Looking at the past results we've had we just had a result come through from Caribbeans at Mac which was basically the same thing which we had to decide should be funded from Flexi, not operating. Looking at the other events, there were about 15 other events. Looking at the other ones, we didn't have any specific reasons for not approving them but rather with the budget restraints we couldn't. We decided to try to get them four which is more than almost any org got because we felt that given the nature of the org they deserved a little bit of leniency. For the \$300, the Financial Code for appeals and any new allocations we

- can only have \$10 per person and it was predicted they'd have about 30 people at each so we didn't approve anything else. Now FSU will come up and give their response.
- FSU Rep, Richard: Hi guys my name is Richard and I'm a senior. Our reasoning is that the budget we were given was \$1,200. I think FSU plays a really important org on campus we're the only org on campus that's dedicated to providing resources to first generation and low income students and advocating to them. At other schools, there's entire departments that do this but, right now it's four board members that do the work of entire departments at other schools. Given that there's no other orgs or department that does this type of work, we think it's really important that we have a budget that's sufficient to do this work that we're trying to offer. We don't think that four events throughout the entire year is sufficient to meet all the needs of FSU students. We have events that go over applying to specific internships and scholarships that first generation and low income students need to stay at Macalester. A lot of our work, we've been told from members, have made it possible for FGLI students to stay at Macalester. We have a drop out rate for FGLI students, that's a huge thing that Mac is dealing with right now and we're the only org that's trying to combat that right now through advocacy and resource distribution. We're asking for at least 50% of our budget to be fulfilled. We don't think we can operate with \$1,200 a year and our budget should reflect the importance of FSU on campus.
 - Elizabeth: I have a question for David about the Flexi Funds. Is this something that FSU could request at the beginning of the next academic year?
 - David: That was our thinking exactly. We gave them enough for four events and we're hoping that will be enough in the beginning of the year and then of course, they're open to come back for additional allocations next year. There's limits with the annual process and then they can come back for additional allocations. There's also \$200 of Flexi that every org gets.
 - Richard: Our reasoning for that is that we're a new org. My sophomore year we were founded in the middle of the year so for the rest of the year we had to operate off of additional allocations. We found that for the immediate needs of FGLI students, that doesn't work out. If there's a scholarship or

specific things that people need. A lot of the org is based off of members or people in the community coming up to us and saying they're having trouble finding resources so we can't always plan about when we're going to have these events. There's some planned deadlines that we come up against. Sometimes that two week waiting period doesn't always work. We always try to make our events as successful as possible. FGLI students are some of the busiest students on campus so we try to have food at all of our events so people aren't choosing between a meal and our events. To make them more accessible and to have that timeline that we need, we don't find it sufficient to operate off of additional allocations.

- Willow: If we voted to approve this increase in additional allocations where would that money come from?
 - David: That would come out of the operating fund for next year. Any money that's not distributed this year just goes into the pool next year for additional allocations. If we did approve it, it would just be taking from that pool.
 - Willow: If we approve it then next year it becomes money that's guaranteed after we see how much is left over?
 - David: If we approve this we'll talk about this on the last slide too but there'll be about \$700 left over for the next year assuming there's no roll over which we're not expecting. So, any money that's not approved here is added to the operating fund for next year.
- Chloe: Thank you for coming today. I was wondering about the history of your events, what they've looked like, what the turnout has looked like and I know in my capacity interacting with you guys.
 - Richard: Our events are open to everyone. We don't typically get a lot of students outside of the FGLI. We typically try and have an event that's for resources. We try to do every other event kind of be a little bit more fun and not necessarily talking about how difficult it is to be a FGLI student at Macalester because that can tend to be a little more depressing. Every other event is trying to be a resource event which is guided by the needs of the students as they come up. Turnout has obviously changed. My sophomore year we were more building up but now we're starting to get a more consistent turn out so usually

- about 25 to 50 is what we're seeing at the end of the year this year.
- Aisha: Thank you so much for speaking with us, I definitely think this org is incredibly vital for a lot of students on campus. I'd like to know, with your org, I know you're requesting money for your budget next year but what's stopping you from requesting an additional allocation for next year when you have an idea for your events. Why do you need that money now?
 - Richard: Last year, one of our events that we had called our resource meeting. It was the second semester last year. We were having a lot of conversations with people who usually come to our meetings who needed help applying to scholarships and the deadlines were coming up very quickly. So, we decided to have the event next week so we did and it was really helpful. A lot of people ended up applying to Gilman and I'm pretty sure everyone who came to our event got accepted into Gilman. We can't always see in the future when these things will come up. Now, we can see better but these types of things come up throughout the year.
- Marina: I'm a little confused about what you mean by the resources that you offer. If you have an event for people who need help applying to the Gilman. What type of support are you providing? When I think about when I need help applying to something I know there's the Max Center which is there for those needs. What are you able to put on in a week? I don't know anything about how that works. Do you ring a speaker in? How is it something that's able to have a week-long turnaround?
 - Richard: We lead with experience our two co-founders. We've done a lot of things at Mac. We've applied to a lot of things, we've done a lot of things. So, we have the experiential knowledge that people in the Max Center don't necessarily have. I think we are discounting a little bit how unique the FGLI identity is. You can't always just go to a Max Center tutor and have them immediately understand: here's what I want to talk about in my personal statement, here's why it matters to me, and here's why I think it can help me win this thing. That can only come from an FGLI student who's done this before. Those resources that we offer a lot of times are just information around here's something you can do, here's something you

should do and we'll sit here and give you feedback. We offer a lot of resources on campus that can't be found elsewhere through that experience we have. Our leaders that will be leading after this have gained a lot of experience through us and they can provide a lot that the Max Center cannot.

- Chloe: A lot of this has been carried by the four of you. In what capacity have you partnered with places on campus and used their resources to alleviate that and reduce the costs, as well?
 - Richard: We have a couple examples of that. We've done a little bit of partnering with the Hamre Center this year having a mindfulness event and reflection on that year. We also did a partnership with the LSC in the past. Touching back on that flexibility point, it does take time to build those connections. It took over a month to secure funding and stuff like that. I think that flexibility is very important.
- Joel: To what extent is having a \$1200 flexible block budget for your first two weeks before the additional allocations state is going to hinder the early semester activity of your org? I know FSU has had great success with additional allocations in the past and it's not sustainable to be offering this money beyond the money that FAC has already allocated.
 - Richard: I think if I'm not mistaken additional allocations aren't necessarily something you request at the beginning of the year to fulfil the rest of your budget. It's still based on a throughout the semester basis so, it's not like you can request the \$2,000 at the beginning of the year to be supplemented.
 - David: You can request additional allocations pretty far out for events but yeah, you can't request right before.
 - Richard: Yeah, so, that requires us to have those meetings planned out and need that funding when we won't necessarily be weeks out what that event will be.
- Appeal from Mac Swing
 - David: Now we're going to move onto the Mac Swing appeal. MacSwing is appealing for \$2,437.50. They originally requested \$12,437.50 and we awarded \$2,166.25. They're appealing a specific line item which is their instructor fees. When we originally went through we quarted all instructor fees for all orgs to provide the first few months of instruction before the additional allocation process begins and they can come back and request more later.

- Mac Swing Rep: Hey all. I don't know if any of you have done a Macalester contract for a repeating event but they don't really work quickly. You submit one at the beginning of the year. At least for us, I checked the timeline for this last year where we did additional allocations for the beginning of the year for an event. We requested an additional allocation on September 10th, so really as soon as we possibly could, and it was approved on October 8th. Which is fine. But, in terms of actually getting a contract to the instructor by the beginning of the year so our org can start its function, we need the money by the beginning of the year. We're trying to start a community. A lot of our members have come up to me and other alums and said this is the thing that has allowed me to make friends in the new city I moved to and make connections with the greater Twin Cities community. We can't do that unless we have an instructor who knows what they're doing. We've had the same instructor for the same seven years and we've always paid him the same way. It's a full contract for the whole year at the beginning of the year for \$3,250. We were approved for \$800-something which just will not work.
 - Cooper: Would it be possible for you guys to pay for the first semester?
 - Rep: It has to be the full year. We've been working with him for seven years now and he operates where that you have to have a full contract at the beginning of the year.
 - Chloe: I notice that you were approved for \$800 but I see that there's \$2,000 up there. What's the rest of the money for?
 - Rep: Those are our other events. We do some ballroom lessons. Most of that is the Swingasota passes who meet on Wednesday nights and that's not technically a Mac event but we get Mac passes so Mac people can meet people in the West Coast Swing community.
- Ryan: We'll be voting on these next week.
- David: Again, we have \$2,992.94. That's our limit for what we can approve. If we approve FSU in full, we have \$777.44 left over and if we approve Mac Swing, we'll have \$555.44 left over. We can't approve both of these in full. Some cut is going to have to be made. Any left over will go into the operating fund for next year. We're expecting a ton of additional allocation requests for next year so keep that in mind. Thank you.

• Charter for Mac Esports

- Liv: Hi guys. The first org charter is Mac ESports. They want to create a community for students to play video games, form new teams, provide new opportunities to network, and focus on both competitive and casual play. The SOC decided there is room for this because we don't have a specific video gaming club. Questions?
 - David: This definitely seems like something that should fall into Athletics. Has there been communication with them? I feel like if we approved a student org and then tried to get Athletics to pay for them which we definitely should. Speaking from the FAC, approving this org isn't guaranteeing funding for them. With the funding that we have for next year we won't be able to approve in total the funding for an org like this.
 - Liv: As we decided to charter them we knew that while they're starting off as a student org they'll transform into a club sport. The student activity fee won't be able to be the sole funder especially since we know there's expensive upfront costs.
 - Ash: If they do want to become a club sport in order to do this they'd need a league they want to be a part of. Since so far there's more of a focus on casualness and being not as competitive, it wouldn't be possible for them to be a club sport. Yet.
 - Marina: If when they were speaking to you about chartering their org did they speak to you about any league or was it kind of just "oh, we could do this maybe."
 - Liv: I don't think they gave us any specific leagues they'd thought of. I think that's more future conversation.
 - Laurice: I worry that if we're accepting or rejecting based on future perceived allocations, that might not necessarily be fair.
 - Willow: I was wondering, I know Mac ESports was also part of the Athletics Department. I knew someone who was a manager and was a paid student worker to manage Esports. It was a hidden position and I might be exposing the department. I could also be wrong but, is there anything in the charter that says or tells about that?
 - Liv: I don't think so. No? I don't really have a better answer. I'm sorry.

- David: Just with that, I know I think probably the exact same person pretty well. I don't know where this position came from but, they did hold this position paid for by Macalester.
- Willow: I'm glad I wasn't wrong on that.
- Joel: I was going to suggest that we motion to table this charter until we can figure out what the history of the Esports integration with Athletics is. I can help with that and one of the names listed on the website is my roommate. Which is news to me. So motion to table the charter for Esports? [seconds]

IN FAVOR: 20OPPOSED: 1ABSTAIN: 1

■ Charter for Mac Creative Writing

- Alma: Hi, my name is Alma and I'm one of the founders for Creative Writing at Macalester. The purpose of our organization is to create a space for people to meet up with other writers on campus to write. We've done a series of writing prompts. Typically, our meetings are around two hours long on Mondays from 6 to 8pm in the library. The purpose is to go talk to other writers and we'll do a free write and afterwards people will share what they've written. What I think is really cool about the org is we have a wide array of people who should up. We have people who want to write novels, we have people who want to submit short stories to literary reviews around the country, and we have people who just want to write and show up and leave. So, it has the opportunity to be as involved as you want to be in this org.
 - Marina: I know you guys have had meetings for this past year and have had successful meetings, why get chartered? Do you want to use the student activity fee funds and if so, what would you use them for?
 - Alma: That's a great question. We'd like to get chartered because right now it's just a bunch of Mac students that like writing and with a chartered organization we'd have the opportunity to meet with people who are in the writing industry like an author and ask questions about the industry and ask advice about that. We were also potentially thinking about having a fund allocation for people interested in submitting to literary competitions. The entry fees aren't very high on their own but it can be pretty discouraging when you decide to pay \$10 for something and then your piece doesn't get in and you feel like you've wasted your time. We want to have a broader

support network in our club who want to do more than just be in a community of writers.

- Laurice: We have an English department and creative writing classes as well. Have you started collaborating with them or do you see any opportunity in working closer with them?
 - Alma: We haven't started collaborating with them yet but we'd like to in the future. It would be very cool to have an English professor come to a meeting and talk with us. The way I feel this club can complement the English department is that we have people who are STEM majors and have no intention of taking a creative writing class at Macalester.
- Cem: Motion to approve the charter. [seconds]

- IN FAVOR: 22 - OPPOSE: 0 - ABSTAIN: 0

- Ryan: The charter passes.

Class Breakout Time ~ *Ryan Connor* ~ 10 minutes

- 2025 Class Year Transition Docs
 - Ryan: We're going to be taking the time now for everyone to meet individually as class years. We're looking for y'all to create documents for people who are going to be coming into your position to give advice on what they should know. We're going to take about ten minutes and we'll call you guys back at 12:52.

Cabinet Updates ~ *Cabinet Liaisons* ~ 7 minutes

- Athletics & Recreation
 - Ash: I had a meeting with Donny Brooks this week regarding intramurals. There were quite a few concerns about communication this semester that have led to a general decrease in intramural participation. After talking with Donny we can expect an improvement to the organization of tournaments and better communication around sign-ups for intramurals, that was the biggest concern. Also, a general announcement: Scot Ball aka Mac Madness is happening this Friday. Mac Madness is the event put on by BIPOCA, SAAC, MCSG, and PB for any and everyone including non-varsity athletes of course. There'll be bouncy houses, tons of food, spikeball, dodgeball, cotton candy machine, and they'll be

watching the timberwolves game as well. It'll be in the Leonard Center Field House.

• Dining & Residential Life

- Galjer: For Residential Life, there's been two major projects that we've been working on in collaboration with the Infrastructure and Sustainability Liaison, Sam and first year rep Chloe and Kyle from Res Life and Nathan Leaf from Facilities. We've been looking over the bathrooms and showers in the dorms and also the hygiene product dispensers across campus. For dining, an exciting update is that anti-fatigue mats have been ordered. This is something that we've been pushing for since the fall so I'm very excited about this.

• International Student

- Laurice: It's been an incredible uncertain time for international students. I heard that Student Affairs sort of confirmed that we can do something about housing for international students who can't make it, which is great. I'm currently talking to ISP to do a session on what to do, especially if detained. What to do before you travel, when you travel. That should be happening in a few weeks because people have been told what not to do but they haven't been told what to do. Finally, the last thing is Tristan came up to me last week and let me know about people whose visas were being revoked and not being told they were benign revoked. ISP has a system where they can check everyone's visas. I've talked to them and they reassured me that they've been checking that system at the beginning and end of the day. Currently we don't have any students whose visas have been revoked.

• Belonging & Accessibility

- Willow: Next Tuesday, April 15th from 4:30 to 6 pm MCSG is partnering with the LCS on Building a Support Network: Reflections on the Global Political Climate. These will be spaces where we can facilitate conversations about what people are feeling right now and we decompress in terms of our current world events. There'll be a Hamre Center therapist there that will be providing the support that students need, helping us identify what resources we can have, and making sure we're making connections with each other so we can further identify people we can look to and reach out to for support. I really encourage people to come if they're available. There'll be catering so we have everything there set up.

• SOC

- Liv: This week we went through a lot of prospective orgs. We passed Creative Writing, Italian Culture Club, Pre-Law, Pre-Vet, and maybe ESports, we'll see. We denied one club. You'll see all of them next week

• AAC

- Lina: We discussed the upcoming AAC awards and we also spent time planning the Redbull and Ramen event. We've done the order and publicity. We also talked about next year's AAC and discussions about the study away showcase. Concerning CIC, I attended the meeting this week. We talked about the feedback we received after the faculty meeting this week.

• CEC

- Mena: We debriefed the Exec Town Hall and talked about ways we can improve it for next year. We talked about election communications and we're brainstorming ways to do end of year communications on how we can summarize all that we've done in the past year. Lastly, we resumed our website discussions from earlier in the year and what we can do.

• FAC

- David: We have two requests for FAM, a request from Questbridge. They were all under \$400 and we approved all of them.

Announcements ~ 2 minutes

- Fundraising Promotional Materials ~ *Joel Sadofsky*
 - Joel: The Fundraising Working Group is finalizing some promotional materials that all student org leaders and MCSG members can bring to their events to promote the Match Fundraiser for Humanitarian Relief in Global Conflict Zones. I was going to have them done today and then I got food poisoning so they're not done yet. They'll be done shortly and I ask you to bring them to MCSG and other org events when appropriate to help promote this fundraiser. I'm also connecting with alumni. The Alumni Board president said they would distribute it to connect to alumni who have more money than we do.

• Tabling for Class Rep and Liaison Elections

- Mena: Please sign up for tabling! We'll be outside Friday and Monday. If you're running you're not able to table but seniors and recently elected Exec members should sign up.

- Ryan: This LB meeting is adjourned.