

Harmon Room | Library

April 24th, 2025 | 12:00pm CST



MACALESTER COLLEGE
STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Legislative Body Meeting Minutes

[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 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 function 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: 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

SOC Code ~ *Liv Peterson* ~ 10 minutes

-  **SOC Code Draft**
- Liv: Okay so finally after hearing about this for quite a long time we're bringing the code in front of LB. I don't know what else to say. There's plenty of comments that have been left. We've done a lot of work on this so I hope everyone got a chance to look over this beforehand. Are there any burning questions? If not, we can go through the comments that we got.
 - Ryan: Was there any SOC code iteration before this code or was this the first?
 - Liv: We had a one page long document before writing this but it didn't really outline any of the procedures or anything like that. It was mostly just like these are the things that SOC does not necessarily how they do it or why they do it.
- Ryan: Any questions about this? This is similar to the financial code which we voted on earlier in the semester, same type of document, does anyone have any questions? Okay well the process we'll take on this, we're introducing it right now but we won't vote until next week as stipulated in the bylaws. Next week is the last LB meeting of the semester. We tend to try to reserve for not the most important or official business so this is going to be one of the few things that people will actually be voting on. So, if you have questions or would like to make comments or edits do it now. Please do not go in next Wednesday and make a bunch of edits. Please just do that now, if there's any clarification or anything take a couple minutes and we'll come back at like 12:07. So, take a minute.
- Ryan: To everyone who's just looking at me can you please look at the code?
 - Chloe and AnLian: We wrote it!
 - Joel: I read the hell out of this yesterday.
 - Ryan: We don't want any excuses. Thank you.
- Ryan: Ok we're going to bring it back, does anyone or if anyone just left a comment please raise a hand we can go over it right now. Does anybody have any questions about the code as a whole? Any clarifications?
 - David: I have a tiny comment, this is a very small comment on the transitioning part 6. It's just that we have a lot of people submitting transition docs that have like 6 people working on them.
 - Ryan: So, you think it should just be at least one org leader? Ok, we can make that change. Any other questions?

- Philomena: I wanted to ask about the language. Are we using deactivated or archived and is there a difference between these words?
 - Liv: We were thinking about kind of using both. Deactivated will be oh we've seen an excess amount of inactivity or communication so you'll be deactivated. Archived will be with the language of deactivated orgs will have their charters stored in our archive. Deactivated is going from active to deactivated, and then archived is if they want to get reactivated. It felt weird to pick one. If you guys have a preference? But there isn't a difference.
 - Ryan: I would suggest for the sake of clarity we should pick one so it doesn't look like we're having conflicting words. Any other questions? Ok awesome. We'll be reintroducing this next week and then going back over it. This will probably be the last thing we'll vote on this year.

Student Activity Fee Planning ~ *David Christenfeld* ~ 10 minutes

- David: Okay thank you everybody we're going to once again discuss the student activity fee, this is just some context for the student activity fee. I'm hoping this will be more of a discussion instead of a presentation. This is a huge decision we have to make so I want people to give their input. Our student activity fee is \$230. We split this from \$130 in fall and \$100 in spring. We see a lot of requests in the spring semester where there's a lot of rollover from the fall and people preparing for the beginning of the next semester. You can see where lots of schools similar to us lie with their student activity fee. There are very few within our range and those within our range are almost always tied with the comprehensive fee raises. For example, St. Thomas, when their comprehensive fee increases so does their student activity fee. We're deciding where we want to put the student activity fee. I'm thinking at least \$100. I wanted to see what people were thinking, what numbers you guys have in mind. Or if there are any thoughts about whether you want to increase the student activity fee?
 - Anlian: I am not in favor of increasing the student activity fee because I think this will just give clubs more incentive to over-request money. I remember from your FAC presentation you listed the amount that was requested and the amount that was spent and those were vastly different numbers. I feel like this will just lead to clubs over-requesting.
- David: That's a big concern with student activity fee. One problem right now is that orgs are requesting money and then not spending it which is why if

we did this would roll this out with semesterly budgeting so orgs would only have to plan one semester out. If we did this, it would not do this alone. We were also trying to think if there were any funds we wanted to create if we increase the student activity fee for orgs to make money. One we have right now is for people to pay for conferences, pre-professional orgs, creating a fund around providing support for those.

- Joel: I was speaking with the Minnesota Private College Council of Student Government Presidents yesterday which is always a fun meeting and I brought up the question of student activity fee increases and we spent like 30 minutes talking about how every campus increases the student activity fee. Almost all of them had a dedicated specific college fund that makes it so that things like let's say pre-dental is going to a conference, all of those would be separate. Through financial code we could determine how much of the student activity budget goes to that versus operating instead of balancing on an individual case by case basis which I imagine would make the work of FAC a lot easier.
- Willow: I just wanted to ask super quick if we decided to increase the activity fee would that be for the coming year or the next year?
 - David: It would be after. We talked to Patricia Langer and she said we need to have this decision made by the end of October next year. So, if we wanted to increase it it would be for our last year but we need to know by the end of October next year.
- Corinne: I was just wondering how I guess how the other colleges or universities are similar to ours and how did you determine that and change the student activity fee. Some of those schools are universities whereas we're a college.
 - David: If you remember from Patricia Langer's presentation there's a group of 40 schools that formed a group. We tried to pick colleges from that list which are similar liberal arts schools. Pomona, Colorado College are some of them. I also tried to find schools within the area, one from the east coast, one from the west coast, trying to get diversity across the campus. Also, all the schools have roughly a similar population, some are a little smaller and some are a little bigger but none of them are super large schools. We just wanted to find ones close enough to Macalester.
- Cooper: I just wanted to advocate on behalf of increasing the fee. I understand the concerns of all the money not being spent but this Budget Bonanza we had to cut over \$200,000 dollars, some of these were bad events but some we just had to cut because we didn't have the money. At least in


my time here we have had a decent amount of rollover but that's partly because of 2021 having no activities and the rollover is getting smaller and smaller every year, and I think something that we should consider is if we end up raising the students activity fee maybe pegging it to inflation or some other index because the last time it was raised it's equivalent to about \$305 today, and it's a difficult process to have that raised so I think tying it to inflation or some other metric would be helpful to make sure it stays in line with what we think it should be.

- Chloe: I concur with everything that you said, I wanted to ask what percentage of students would be paying this out of pocket opposed to being covered by the school?
 - Joel: The comprehensive fee which is the students activity fee, every other fee, estimated costs of on or off campus housing, dining, is used to determine financial aid, increasing this does have implications on financial aid but the financial aid formula for how much students are able to pay would not change. This would put more demand on the entire financial aid pot of money but it would be significantly less than the regular year over year tuition raises we've had. Students with high need would not see this out of pocket and students with low need would see an increase to their comprehensive fee.
- Elizabeth: Have we talked to financial aid at all about this and what this would mean from them I would just be curious to get that perspective whether it's them or Patricia?
 - Joel: When I spoke with Patricia, she has an incredibly good grasp on the numbers of the college and what the other colleges are doing, is in support of the decision if we do it carefully. We have not spoken to figures like Brian Lindeman and we should speak with him early next year, but unless we're talking about making our student activity fee twice as high as Middlebury or Colorado College it will be a small margin.
 - David: We wanted to come up with a concrete number before we bring it to these people or at least have an idea of what we'd be raising it by.
- Tor: Question for David or Joel, could you provide a little more context for how other colleges have linked their fees to an index or comprehensive campus fee, want to make sure this is sustainable so we don't end up underfunded and then raise the fee.
 - Joel: I don't know exactly how they do it but I would be happy to reach out to those colleges, essentially I know Gustavus and St. Thomas, anytime the comprehensive fee increases the student activity

fee increases by the same percentage and then I think one of them or maybe both of them then rounds to the nearest whole dollar. I can ask those student government presidents in our group chat.

- Ryan: Are there any other questions? All right so for everyone who's going to be returning this year, it will continue in the fall, David and the incoming administration will be revisiting this at some point in the future.
- David: If you have any questions, numbers you want to throw out there, please bring that to me now if you have anything because we need to get it rolling at the very beginning of fall semester if we need to bring that number to her by October.

Transition Documents ~ *Ryan Connor* ~ 15 minutes

- [Class year breakouts](#)
- Chair & Cabinet work time
 -  Transition Documents (for 2025-2026 year)
- Ryan: We're going to move on to working on some transition documents, so everyone has time to start working on these. We're coming up on the end of the year so those transition documents will need to be done as soon as we can, hopefully by next meeting, because new members will be at the next meeting. To go over how this will look, for class year breakouts, Else has asked that you go in and do your specific stuff, write down the things, and take a look at the next one. So, if you're a first year look at the sophomore class rep and focus on yours, work on finishing yours and also go look at the year you'll be rising onto and write any information you think they will need. At this point if you can split into class years, chairs you can look at your documents, we'll have about 15 minutes for this and then I'll call you back and we can keep rolling.
- Ryan: If you don't have these finished now you have to do it by next week so this is just a reminder if you're lollygagging to get to work. All right guys, are you almost ready? Wrap it up. Y'all ready back table junior class first year class junior class first year class. We're going to get moving onto cabinet updates.

Cabinet Updates ~ *Cabinet Liaisons* ~ 7 minutes

- Infrastructure & Sustainability
- Dining & Residential Life
 - Galjer: Hi everyone! I just wanted to give an update that summer housing forms close May 8th, so if people plan to stay on campus over

the summer. For dining updates the anti-fatigue mats came in for Cafe Mac workers and workers can now take them from the chemical room if they need them. Thank you.

- International Student
- Belonging & Accessibility
 - Willow: Hello yeah so the KYR training got pushed back a week. Sorry about that. It's just a very busy time for that so hopefully we're going to be doing that next week. We'll maybe be collaborating with YDSA on that because they have also been requesting a "Know Your Rights" training, as well.
- Health & Wellness
- Athletics & Recreation
 - Ash: Nothing huge just starting a new project that will continue into next semester with Club Sports and athletic training hours. Just trying to figure out better timing on that so if anyone has heard about that I'd love another perspective. But, just trying to build more hours in for club sports athletes if they're available or if they're not being used making sure the time is being used efficiently.

Committee Updates ~ *Committee Members* ~ 3 minutes

- SOC
 - Liv: You guys kind of know what we've been working on with the code. We'll be debriefing with the org check ins and transition process. Tell people to do the transition process and their charters correctly if they're part of an org.
- AAC
 - Lina: This week went over the logistics for Ramen and Redbull, going to happen on the 7th. We also spent some time talking about transition documents. For CIC we had two guests, Laurie and Louise Bradtmiller, talked about new models for first year experience, not going to reveal everything but talked about stuff like having a common class or common core in some classes for first years. Maybe in their spring semester or sophomore fall semester. We also talked about having staff on FYC courses instead of just preceptor and advisor. We also talked about what kind of FYCs we want to have and requirements to be an FYC. We talked about a lot of stuff and we're going to continue to have this discussion next week.
- CEC

- Mena: We went over the website, have started to make edits and we're hoping to have a completed list of edits by next week and if there are any specific needs that people want met feel free to let me know.
- FAC
 - David: FAC had two requests, one was a new Blood Ball request, and one was Chess Club requesting money for vans to go to a tournament and we approved both of them.
- Cabinet
 - Philomena: We approved \$990 from the Community Chest fund to support a bike safety event which will be in partnership with Mac Bike and potentially Sustainability. It was organized in large part by Sam, our infrastructure and sustainability liaison. It is tentatively planned for May 2nd, next friday. I can send out more information. It's going to be a barbeque and have bike locks and bike lights for students.

Announcements ~ 2 minutes

- Campus Committee Applications open April 22nd-April 27th
- Ryan: Campus committee applications are open. This is a great way to get people involved and also a really good opportunity for any MCSG member elected or not to get involved. As a class rep, it can feel difficult to have a goal or an aim and these are set up so you have a thing to work on. Those will be announced at the end of the semester for those who apply. If you have questions let us know if you have any questions. Also, for transition docs, which class has not finished? Everyone is done? We will go over this looking at the transition materials at the next meeting so, with that this LB meeting is adjourned, thank you.