

**Macalester College Student Government (MCSG)**  
**Spring 2025**

Resolution to Strengthen Transparency with the Board of Trustees

WHEREAS shared governance is an institutional priority for Macalester College and is defined by the Staff Advisory Council as “the collective responsibility held by staff, faculty, students, and administration in all policy considerations at the college”;<sup>1</sup>

WHEREAS the current procedure for removal of the Student Liaison to the Board of Trustees allows for their removal without the consent of a student representative;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Macalester College Student Government formally requests that the Board of Trustees, in collaboration with MCSG, amend the Macalester College Board of Trustees Liaison Position Description, under *Removal*, from “The Liaison cannot be removed without the written agreement of at least two of the three positions previously listed,” to “The Liaison cannot be removed without the written agreement of all three of the three positions previously listed,” these positions being the Chair of the Board, the President of the College, and the MCSG President;

IN ADDITION,

WHEREAS neither the role of the student liaison, nor the role of *The Mac Weekly* in Board Meetings are written into the Board of Trustees Bylaws;

WHEREAS this lack of inclusion in the Board of Trustees Bylaws endangers the roles of the student liaison and *The Mac Weekly* and allows for their hypothetical removal without student consent;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Macalester College Student Government formally requests that the Board of Trustees, in collaboration with MCSG and *The Mac Weekly*,

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.macalester.edu/sac/charter/>

amend its bylaws to include the roles and responsibilities of the Student Liaison and *The Mac Weekly*;

IN ADDITION,

WHEREAS at least 16 of Macalester's 40 Comparison Colleges publish Board of Trustees meeting summaries or reports;<sup>2</sup>

WHEREAS this practice would strengthen shared governance, transparency, institutional resilience, and trust between the Board, students, faculty, and staff at Macalester;

WHEREAS a 10/24/2024 article in *The Mac Weekly* titled *The Waiting Game: why transparency matters* highlighted the college's lack of transparency with students on issues that directly affect them;

WHEREAS the current practice of emailing meeting summaries to students does not allow a historical record to be kept or faculty and staff to be informed and is not included under key responsibilities listed in the Macalester College Board of Trustees Liaison Position Description;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Macalester College Student Government formally requests that the Board of Trustees, in collaboration with MCSG, amend the Macalester College Board of Trustees Liaison Position Description, under *Key Responsibilities*, to include a bullet point reading "Write and distribute Board meeting summaries or reports promptly after each meeting, recognizing that these will not include classified information but will make a good faith attempt to share the substance of Board discussions with students, faculty, and staff.";

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Macalester College Student Government formally requests that the Board of Trustees, in collaboration with MCSG and the Senior Leadership Team, publish Board meeting summaries or reports to the Macalester website promptly after each Board meeting, recognizing that these could be the same summaries written by the student liaison;

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<sup>2</sup>[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kZxi7KLLfZnIrVMIS0041TT2jwO59kWU\\_J8vCnbmi\\_w/edit?tab=t.0](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kZxi7KLLfZnIrVMIS0041TT2jwO59kWU_J8vCnbmi_w/edit?tab=t.0)

IN ADDITION,

WHEREAS increased communication between the Board and the student liaison, as well as increased understanding of the deliberative processes of the Board, would strengthen the liaison's ability to keep the student body informed and advocate for student concerns,

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Macalester College Student Government formally requests that the Board of Trustees, in collaboration with MCSG, institute one-on-one semesterly meetings between the student liaison and the chair of the Board.