

## Harmon Room - Library

October 25, 2022. 12:00 PM CST



MACALESTER COLLEGE  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT

### Legislative Body Meeting Minutes

---

[Land Acknowledgment](#) (We are on Indigenous land) ~ *Austin* ~ 2 minutes

**Issue Based Groups** ~ *Bobbie* ~ 25 minutes

- Winter housing
- MCSG events

Bobbie

- A quick introduction, I'm back and healthy
- Sorry for any mishaps or non-smooth operations recently, it's been difficult to do things remotely
- We had planned to start with communications and marketing but our guests are coming at 12:30 so we're starting with issue-based groups
- If you remember at retreat, I talked about issue-based groups with small groups
- Today we are going to try that out because we thought it would be good for people to work on issues that they care about
- Austin will take over after this
- We will be discussing winter housing and MCSG events
- Winter housing has been a problem for a long time - generally for international students or people who can't or don't want to go home
- The college closes around December 18th and reopens January 3rd
- The problem is the gap between break and J-term
- The school has accommodated COVID and things by blocking out the whole wing of a hotel
- They're not planning on doing that because it's back to a normal year

- I had a discussion with President Rivera about this where I heard they are not planning on accommodating them unless we make long-term changes to the plan
- What are we going to do this year considering it's 5-7 weeks away and then the long-term
- If you have no opinions on that, the other group is going to be discussing MCSG events
- Not exactly engagement because that is what Jean is working on and she will be late because of the shelter in place
- There are people on campus that still don't know what MCSG stands for
- Working on ways to increase engagement online to make a more structured way of going forward
- Working on how do we get people engaged in events
- What sorts of things do you guys want to see?
- I've heard everything from socials to fundraising with a dunk tank
- Whatever it is, I want people to discuss that
- This side of the room, will discuss Winter Housing, led by Ghaicha
- And this side will discuss MCSG events
- Don't feel pressured to go to one side, these are both incredibly important topics

**Communication & Marketing Discussion** ~ *Bobbie & Julie Hurbanis* ~ 10 minutes

Julie

- Rebecca is a member of the Macalester class of 2006
  - Most recently editor of Macalester alumni magazine but now director of Strategic Communication
- Genesis of this conversation is that we heard from a number of students that were frustrated with the way marketing was gathering photos
- We really dug in to look at how should we change the ways we gather photos in a way that's authentic and not tokenizing and that aligns with student experiences
- I'm going to share with you a number of changes and ask if from your perspective if there are other changes
- We also have a new photo policy that we are working and before we put it in place we want to say to you: what do you think?
- I'll start with the changes
- #1 ensuring that we're asking for consent
  - We've always done this but working on training for that

- In the past we've sent a photographer onto campus if it's a beautiful fall day and that's something we're doing fewer of
- Using signage at events and giving people at that event the opportunity to opt
- You'll see I'm wearing a red button which works because it puts the pressure on us not the attendees
- If they're are photographers on campus, we don't currently have a staff photographer so they're freelancers so they will have badges
- We're asking groups and leaders: are there stories that you know of that we should tell?
  - Checking in with students before attending events
- Working closely with event organizers to see if they want a photographer
- We've hosted focus groups with students and lined up all of our stories to see all the stories we're telling to see if they are authentic and find the gaps
- Those are the things we've done over the course of the past year

Tor

- For scheduled photography, how are student groups chosen and identified?

Julie

- Sometimes they are faculty, staff, or student groups themselves that will raise their hands to say they want to be photographed
- Sometimes we look at the event calendar and reach out to organizers to see if they would be interested in having photographers

Heaji

- I'm a senior so I feel like I have some input on how it was done before
- I really like seeing the signage before entering events so I don't get awkward when seeing a camera
- I think I prefer the button not the sticker because it's a little more discrete

Julie

- We started with stickers and they weren't sticking to people's clothes
- It's great to have that perspective to think about what it looked like four years ago and then now
- Anything else that feels like a gap or something we should experiment with?

Bobbie

- I shared with Julie, I was wondering if there's a semesterly or bi-semesterly event or feedback sessions where student orgs and leaders from campus could discuss what events are highlights of the year for the student experience
- What do we want students or perspectives students to know that is signature to experiences here at Macalester?
- Taking that event once or twice a year would be powerful

Ghaicha

- I've had instances with friends where when we were outside on campus they would ask for consent
- There are some student organizations that might not want to be represented but reaching out might be helpful

Julie

- We know students want to be able to see themselves as part of a community
- Whatever that identity group is, we want them to be represented

Alec

- Where do I find these stories or photos?

Julie

- On our socials
- On the website
- On the macalester website, if you search for news a lot of those stories will come up categorized as campus life, academics, student activities

Mariah

- I don't know if it needs to be a full event but if you just sent an email at the beginning of the year to org leaders asking what events they want photographers at

Julie

- We're thinking a lot about how do we make sure what you're seeing on college's social channels is representative of students
- Not just using photos because they're pretty if they don't represent the student experience
- If you ever want to share feedback on that, feel free to reach out to me or the [communications@macalester.edu](mailto:communications@macalester.edu) email

Mariah

- I think it would be really cool to see student photographers as opposed to freelancers
- It would be really cool to hire student photographers

Julie

- We have six student workers in our department including photographers, videographers, writers
- All to ensure that stories and media we're sharing... but that's only six

Joel

- You told us how to reach you if we have input but maybe the department should post in the MacDaily if students want to advocate for their events being showcased

Julie

- That's great thank you
- I just want to ask my colleagues if there's anything I missed before I move to the specific photo policy
- Here's what we used to do in the past and here's what we think would be a better way going forward
- In the past there was an online course that people took and we're assuming people were like "Yeah, yeah, yeah" not paying attention
- It was something that was very hard to track
- Taking that out of orientation because we don't want to assume that as long as you've opted you don't want to be photographed
- We want it to be in the moment, at an event, that you can decide if you want to be photographed
- Putting the responsibility on communications
- I'm wondering if you have any reactions or how does that feel to you?

Heaji

- With this new policy it seems like at the event in the moment
- There's a difference between written and verbal consent, is there a difference for communications?

Julie

- Puts responsibility on communications in the moment instead of having to track who has opted out at the beginning of the year
- This way is much more accurate and tied to that person having control in the moment
- So this would be written and on the website but pressure would be on us to get consent each time

Bobbie

- I just want to thank Julie and her team for being thoughtful and thank you on behalf of us and the entire community
- This is awesome to see

Julie

- We're happy to meet you and have this conversation
- If there's anything else I'm happy to come back anytime or meet one on one

Bobbie

- Let's spend five more minutes in our groups
- At 12:55 we'll come back for some ending things
- I hope these conversations although short were productive
- We will try to add to next weeks meeting a share out
  - Please write down ideas if you had any concrete ones

**Committee Updates** ~ *Committee Chairs* ~ 2 minutes

Heaji

- Last Wednesday, FAC approved 800ish dollars for Outing Club's travel request and 200ish for a travel request for Outing Club for November

Joel

- AAC did not meet last week
- Planning on textbook reserve program coming out soon so textbooks can be there before the semester starts

Emma

- SSRC is working on long term counseling
- New tabling date set
- Working on getting products in restrooms
- Identity specific gym times
- Meal swipe transfers
- Also narcan and fetanayl testing strips

Grace

- We have event on the great lawn
- 12-2 full size candy bars on monday October 31th

Mariah

- October 28th is the last day to submit a charter

Martin

- We heard a charter and finished formal checkins

### **Cabinet Updates** ~ *Cabinet Members* ~ 2 minutes

Ghaicha

- Working with DML on institutional equity
- Also working on an event for thanksgiving break

### **Announcements** ~ 5 minutes

- Media & Outreach Coordinator ~ Bobbie
  - Closes tonight
  - If you know anyone that would be good tell them to apply
- VP Elections
  - Please tell people to file
- Open Access Week ~ Joel
  - Has to do with a bunch of stuff AAC wants to do
  - In yesterday's mac daily