

## Weyerhaeuser Boardroom

November 21st, 2024 | 12:00 PM CST



MACALESTER COLLEGE  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT

### Legislative Body Meeting Agenda

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#### 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: 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 weekly. LB members can request additional agenda items for future LB meetings by emailing the Macalester College Student Government email. If you have a guest here to speak or if you are a guest and you would like to speak, please raise your hand before speaking and state your name, pronouns, and class year for the record.

## Visit from President Rivera ~ Joel Sadofsky ~ 30 minutes

-  Questions and Topics for President Rivera in LB 11/21/2024
- Joel: President Rivera has agreed to join us. This is part of our series of inviting the senior leaders of the college to come to facilitate dialogue between members of LB and members of the student body who are not part of LB and the administration of the college. I know members of LB had worked to prepare questions. In response, as we process the divestment decision that came out to the student announce a couple of hours ago, we have changed some of those questions regarding divestment specifically to further understand the rationale and the future of the college's financial assets. With that, I'm going to hand it over to President Rivera and ask if there's anything you want to start to address LB with?
- President Rivera: Good afternoon, thanks for having me as a guest today. I didn't know, we didn't know that this was going to be the day that the board's decision was going to be made when I accepted your invitation to appear today. I can appreciate the questions that you had originally drafted are maybe not the things that are top of mind. I'm happy to be flexible to talk about whatever you'd like to ask about. Rather than me presuming, why don't we go straight into Q and A and use this time in the way that you think is most appropriate.
  - Sylvia: Hello, my name is Sylvia, I'm a senior class representative. Our first question is, how does the decision to reject divestment align with Macalester's stated commitment to global citizenship, social justice, and supporting human rights?
    - President Rivera: Let me preface what I'm about to say with that only the chair of the board can speak to the rationale of the board. I know that the Mac Weekly has already reached out to ask for an interview with the chair of the board. I'm going to answer from my perspective as president of the college who's also a trustee, but I'm not speaking for the board. That is to say, the decision to invest in peacemaking activities is felt to be more closely aligned with the values of the college and the mission of the institution which is an educational institution and one prepares students to leave Macalester and make the world better. It was our feeling, it was a unanimous decision of the trustees, that investing resources in trying to make change would make a greater impact and be more aligned with the

institutional mission than the divestment proposal that was put in front of the board.

- Tristan: Macalester has previously taken ethical stances on divestment, for example regarding fossil fuels and apartheid. How is this case different, and why does a genocide actively occurring not warrant similar action? Especially when this has been a specific ask by Palestians for decades?
  - President Rivera: I wasn't here during the period of South African apartheid but I was here when the board voted to divest of certain interests in fossil fuel companies. One of the major differences between this situation and that situation was that the college held direct interests in companies whose only interests were fossil fuels. We were able to relinquish those interests directly. Our investments now in the companies in the BDS proposal. First of all, there were 11 companies included in the BDS proposal. We do not hold any direct interests in any of those 11. Only in 7 of those 11 do we have indirect investments meaning that we have investments in large mutual fund instruments for which some small portion may be invested in those companies but there's no way for us to divest directly from those companies without unwinding investments in much more complicated financial interests like mutual funds. For the fossil free proposal we were able to relinquish direct interest in companies that only develop fossil fuels. In this particular case it is not possible to do something similar. We do not have direct interest in the 7 companies out of the 11. We only have indirect interest by virtue of being invested in mutual funds.
- Philomena: Thank you for coming to talk to us today. My question is about student and faculty support for divestment. I know there was a lot of student and faculty support which the Board noted in their decision. How does the Board, and then you in your position, reconcile this decision with the principle of shared governance and listening to community input?
  - President Rivera: Again, I'm speaking as the President, I'm not speaking on behalf of the Board when I give this answer. The ad hoc committee that was charged by the Board to study the student divestment proposal created multiple avenues for members of our community to provide feedback about the proposal. There were listening sessions, there was an open

portal into which people could submit written comments. People sent emails and voicemail messages. Hundreds of inputs were provided either virtually or in written form. They were not all in support of the proposal. The ad hoc committee carefully reviewed every word of every feedback provided and considered them really carefully before coming to their decision. This is consistent with the principle of shared governance which is that you listen and you take in input and you consider it carefully and I think the Board did that.

- Ryan: A large part of the decision not to divest hinges on the “negligible”, indirect 0.2% exposure to the companies in question. How do you or the Board quantify the potential financial risk of divesting such a small percentage compared to the reputational or moral implications of retaining these investments?
  - President Rivera: Because you cannot divest from just the 0.2. You can't tell the people who manage the mutual funds to only get rid of those small number of stocks. You have to unwind your investment from the entire mutual fund. We don't have a way to directly divest from that small amount. We would have to take all of our money out of that mutual fund to avoid exposure to those small number of stocks. Also, the entities that manage the mutual funds are buying and selling all the time. It's not a static thing where we own 4 widgets of something. It's like today we own 2, tomorrow we own 3, the next day we own 7, then it's down to 1. There are money managers who manage these funds so the amount that we are actually invested in any one entity is fluctuating at any given time. That amount that's listed in there, in that report, is an estimate as of that day when they were looking at it but it's much more complicated. I think if you add up all of the investments that the Board is committing right now, the equivalent amount is greater than the estimate of the indirect investments in those mutual funds.
- Lina: Given the strong student and faculty support for divestment, how does the Board plan to rebuild trust with those who feel their voices were dismissed in favor of financial considerations?
  - President Rivera: Well, I would question the premise of your question. I don't think anybody would use the word dismiss. I think people were listened to, their perspectives were considered. It's possible to listen to someone deeply and

disagree with them at the same time. It may be that there are people who feel that their trust was broken but I don't accept that people's perspectives were rejected. I think that what happened is that the Board deeply considered a variety of points of view and came to a conclusion about how to use resources in a way that they felt would have a greater impact in peacebuilding than the divestment proposal that was given to them.

- Liv: Before we continue with questions, I want to let everyone know who hasn't been to LB before. If you want to be on the speakers list please raise your hand at any time, otherwise you're not going to be on the list.
- Cem: At the start of this meeting, you mentioned that of the 11 companies, only 7 of them were in these groups that would be harder to divest from. What information is there regarding the other 4 companies and why was there a decision to not divest at least from those 4 companies? Further from that, in the initial question we had asked, how does the divestment proposal align with Macalester's goals? We can understand how a peacekeeping proposal aligns with the goals but what is it about the divestment proposal that does not align with Macalester's views?
  - Rivera: The first part of your question was about the 4 companies that are not represented in those mutual fund investments? The ad hoc committee that studied this problem found that we had zero exposure to those 4 so, there was nothing to divest from. Out of the 11 that are in the BDS proposal we could only find indirect interests in 7 and none in the remainder. Does that make sense? Second part of the question, you see how the investments are aligned with the mission of the college but you want to know, sorry, how divesting is not aligned?
    - Cem: Yes, because in the announcement this morning there were two parts. One was the decision for investment in peacekeeping missions. The second part was the rejection of divestment. You have told us how peacekeeping investments would help and I don't know how much disagreement there is in the room about that. Specifically, when it comes to divestment, where does it misalign with Macalester's interests specifically?

- Rivera: The board has two major responsibilities at the college. One of them is governance and the other one is stewardship. Stewardship has to do with the financial sustainability of the institution. Which includes making sure we meet our budgetary obligations. Which include employing all the people in the college and giving all of the financial aid that students need to attend. Macalester is one of only 66 institutions in the country that meet the full financial need of any admitted student. Financial aid is a big priority in our budget. Our endowment provides more than 30% of the annual budget of the college. Which is to say that while your tuition dollars do not go to the endowment, the endowment does provide more than 1/3 of our annual budget. So to the extent we reduce our exposure, reduce our investments in the endowment or redirect them in ways that could diminish the contribution to the budget, it has a direct impact on our ability to employ faculty and staff, operate the college, and meet our financial aid obligations. It was the Board's determination that it would be more impactful for us to make investments in peacebuilding activities than to try to unwind indirect investments through mutual funds whose earnings allow us to operate the college in accordance with our priorities which emphasize expanding access to students who need financial aid in order to attend.
  - Cem: Thank you.
- Joel: Liv, are you able to scroll to the next page of questions that we have? Thank you. We have a few other questions that we have come up with or other issues have been raised. This does not mean that we're cutting off discussion about divestment, we just want to get through these and then we're going to open it up to other questions. So first, in light of the U.S. Supreme Court's reversal of affirmative action, Macalester appears to have done better than many other institutions in maintaining a diverse first-year class. Could you speak to how Macalester has been able to achieve this and how this will be continued into the future?
  - Rivera: Shortly after the SCOTUS ruling of the use of information about race in the admissions of students,

Macalester went on record publicly saying that we were not going to abandon our equity and inclusion goals or stop trying to create the most diverse class we can. Indeed, we did not take many of the steps that other institutions took to dramatically change our admissions approach. Macalester uses what's called a holistic approach to doing admissions assessments which means we look at the whole student. We went test optional in 2020, we got rid of the admissions fee in order to reduce artificial barriers to access. I already talked about our historical commitments to be really generous with financial aid in order to try and make it affordable for students who were admitted. So, when we looked at the letter of the SCOTUS ruling we realized that the only thing that we were actually required by law to change was to not use information from a box that someone might check above their racial ethnic background as the basis of our decision to enroll. But that has never been the way that we've made our decisions. We look at people's GPAs, we look at people's volunteer activities, we look at their leadership on athletic teams or musical productions, we look at their volunteerism. We look at the whole person including what high school they came from, what neighborhood they grew up in. By getting to know applicants in that deep way, we are able to assemble a diverse class without relying just on box checking for racial and ethnic groups in order to inform our decisions. Because we remain deeply committed to equity and inclusion, it continues to be a priority to recruit the widest possible variety of applicants from whom we can choose in order to assemble a class that represents all walks of life. I don't anticipate that changing.

- Tristan: Turning back to divestment for a second, how can you rationalize investing in genocide even indirectly in companies that are complicit in genocide and apartheid?
  - President Rivera: I'm not here to rationalize genocide. The Board was very clear in their report that they stand against the violence and suffering that is occurring. I don't think I'm going to be able to give you an answer that's going to satisfy you in the way that that question was asked. The college doesn't set out to invest in harm. The Board made a decision about a proposal that was put in front of it that it thinks is aligned with

our values and I think the statement speaks for itself. I just want to say for one second - if people are recording me right now in order to put this on social media, I do not consent.

- Samantha: Thank you for being here today, President Rivera. Moving a little off topic from divestment - in recent days, the incoming US administration has made legal threats toward institutions that continue to prioritize equity and inclusion. It has also pledged to target individual campus activists. Have there been discussions about how Macalester plans to address these issues while retaining its institutional values?
  - President Rivera: We have a small working group that has begun considering all the ways in which the new executive branch leadership may attempt to implement policies by executive orders or by legislation or otherwise that could infringe in some way on the rights of members of this community or make more difficult the work we do at the college to continue to emphasize the importance of access and equity and inclusion. It's probably premature for us to know exactly what's going to happen after inauguration day but we are already beginning to do work including seeking legal council about the extent to which any new policies might affect the college. It's our intention to do everything that we can to continue to promote the college to the extent it's possible. I think because we are a private, independent, non-profit college and not a public institution, we will continue to have more latitude than a lot of state schools are experiencing right where state legislatures are infringing on curriculums and admissions decisions and other things. It's not clear what will happen when the new executive leadership takes responsibility for the White House and for Trump's administration. I can't forecast exactly what's going to happen but I can just respond to say we're already assembling teams of people who are examining what might be coming down the pipe to try to enslave us against any external influencer pressure.
- Liv: We're now going to open the speakers list up to everybody for questions, not just LB members.
- Oriane: Hi, my name's Oriane. I use she/they pronouns and I'm in leadership for Mac for Palestine. We'd like to thank MCSG for giving us this space and we have great appreciation for all of the voices here



who've asked such incredible questions. We have a statement to read and we understand that the chair can only speak on behalf of the Board but, we read this statement to you President Rivera who personally voted no on divestment and continue to be an avenue for the Board of Trustees after this frustrating and deeply concerning no vote. Today, the Board of Trustees made a cowardly and indefensible choice. Despite clear and overwhelming support for divestment from every corner of the Macalester campus community, students, staff, and faculty. The Board voted to continue profiting from Israeli apartheid, occupation, and genocide. They ignored the student government's endorsement. They disregarded the faculty's vote. They dismissed the Social Responsibility Committee's recommendation. This decision flies in the face of everything we are taught to believe about our college. That Macalester is a place where our voices are heard, where our values are more than just words on paper. They have tried to convince us that close to \$2 million of potential exposures is a negligible amount. We fundamentally reject the assertion that any amount of investment in genocide is morally defensible. This is not just a denial of divestment, this is a rejection of us, the Macalester community. It is devastating to realize that the very people who're trusted with stewardship in this institution have chosen profits over people. They have voted to continue funding companies that aid and abet violence against Palestinians, making a mockery of the social responsibility this college claims to uphold. This is a moment of deep sadness, but it's also a moment of clarity. We see now that the Board of Trustees is not accountable to us. They have chosen their side and it's not with the students, the faculty, or the staff. It's with the corporations that profit from war and occupation. In an attempt to justify their complicity, the Board has framed their decision as an investment in peace. Let's be clear, funneling money into scholarships and dialogue while continuing to profit from systems of violence and dispossession is not peace making, it's performative, hypocritical, and grotesque. The Board's decision is not neutral, it's the calculated choice to stand on the side of colonial violence, occupation, and apartheid. The allocation of funds to scholarships and peace initiatives is insulting. It's a cynical distraction from the moral cowardice of this vote. What use is scholarship to Palestinian students when the college profits from companies that bulldoze their homes? What value does pathway to peace left as a whole when the Board's investments help

fund apartheid that harms peace daily? We are done with a Board that treats the Macalester community with contempt. We are done with a Board that prioritizes financial gain over ethical responsibility. This decision is illegitimate and so is the Board's claim to represent this college. But this is not an end, it's a beginning of a new chapter. Today, Mac for Palestine is launching a petition for a vote of no confidence in the Board of Trustees. We are calling for a truly democratic vote on divestment where every student, staff member, faculty member, and trustee has an equal say. The time for backdoor deals and unaccountable decision making is over. The Board has shown us they cannot be trusted to uphold the values of this college. It is time for the people who make up Macalester, those who learn here, work here, and teach here to take back control. The Board may have chosen complicity, chosen to look away from the suffering of Palestinians but we choose action. We will not back down until Macalester divests from companies profiting from apartheid and genocide. We will not stop until this institution lives up to its mission and its community. The fight for justice is just beginning and we invite every member of this college in reclaiming the soul of this institution. There will be no business as usual until divestment. Thank you.

- Philomena: I want to ask about the section of the Board's report that talks about transparency in the college endowment. Can you give us concrete reasons as to why the Board, as of right now, is not able to be transparent with their investments? And also provide a concrete timeline as to when the investment committee is going to give more transparency in the endowment?
  - President Rivera: The endowment is a collection of funds that are managed by an external entity that uses its own proprietary algorithm and approaches to manage those funds on our behalf. We are in conversation with them about what aspects of that management can be made public information and what aspects of it are not able to be made public. What the Board is saying in this report, in this decision, is that it wants the investment committee to take responsibility for engaging with students, staff, faculty, and alumni in conversations that share the fullest amount of information possible that we're allowed to share. I will say, after the Fossil Free Mac vote, there was also a request for more information and transparency about the management of the endowment and several in-person presentations were made to provide information about the endowment. They were not very well

attended and what I can see in retrospect is probably we're going to have to work with the Board to provide information in a variety of media. Maybe an in-person session would be good but maybe record that and have it available as a webinar, also. Maybe have some materials that just live online all the time that people can review whenever makes sense for them rather than having to attend an in-person event. I don't have it in front of me but I think the Board said something like that they wanted the investment committee to come up with those mechanisms with all due haste or in a reasonable short period of time in order to be responsive. You might have it in front of you, I don't. I think the next step is for the investment committee to meet to come up with ideas informed by students. I've already offered to meet with the student liaison to the Board, Gabe Karsh, later today to get input about what would be the methods that students would appreciate most for how to get information about the endowment. That is to say, would in-person dialogue be best because people can ask questions in real time? Would a webinar be better because people can dial in? Is it better for us to have resources available all the time online? I don't want to presume what would be the most meaningful to students and I'd like to bring back to the Board suggestions. If you have some for me to bring back about how would be best to deliver that information to people, I'm happy to be a convolute of information in that regard.

- Sam: Hi, thank you. On that note of a lack of transparency, we do have to trust your decision on how much money is being put into these companies. So, do you truly think these new investments are an equatable expense to not being able to divest from these companies? Do you think these new investments are really equatable?
  - President Rivera: Can you say a little bit more about what you mean?
  - Sam: Yeah, sure. I just mean that, do you think these new investments are a fair trade off for not divesting from these companies?
  - President Rivera: Again, I'm speaking for myself, and not the Board here. If Macalester were to unwind all of its investments in mutual funds that have as a very small portion of them stocks in 7 companies, I'm not sure we could draw a direct line from that decision to people materially being helped on the ground. I do feel confident that the commitments made by the Board will generate actual, material, tangible results that we can measure. I'm not sure about the word equivalent or equate but I am saying the Board's decision to make

\$1.5 million of investments in peace building provides tangible elements of commitment in a way that our indirect investments in companies, only because we have investments in mutual funds, because it's indirect it's less easy to draw a line to some tangible result where somebody would be helped by that.

- Tristan: First I want to make note that you're talking a genocide or investing in genocide as it appears the college is incapable of using that language. My question is: at other campuses, college administrators have used oppressive measures and police violence to stifle student protest against genocide. What commitments can you make to Macalester students about their rights to protest?
  - Rivera: The same ones that I've been making for 4 plus years. That freedom of expression is a value we prioritize here. That civil disobedience, peaceful demonstrations are a time honored tradition in this country that students are encouraged to express themselves, to express dissent. That so as long as the students are doing so in ways that are peaceful, the college is not going to do anything to suppress that. I think we've demonstrated that already that students have made their voices heard, they've been invited into conversation. We have not called law enforcement to try to prevent or curtail any demonstration activity and that remains our position. preventative That doesn't mean if activity becomes violent or becomes destructive that we're not going to have a different conversation but, I trust Macalester students to express themselves in ways that get the message across without harming anyone.

Liv: We have 5 more mins allocated for questions. Ok, thank you President Rivera for all of your time.

- Tristan: FREE FREE PALESTINE.
  - Mac for Palestine: FREE FREE PALESTINE.
  - Tristan: FREE FREE PALESTINE.
  - Mac for Palestine: FREE FREE PALESTINE.

### **Divestment Discussion** ~ *Joel Sadofsky* ~ 20 minutes

- Joel: Obviously this was challenging news to receive and the timing of this decision being announced in regards to many of MCSG members own work in crafting a resolution endorsing the divestment from these 11 companies and calling the Board to legitimize the Social Responsibility Committee's work puts us in a position where we were planning on voting on a resolution today. To me, that resolution no longer feels exactly appropriate or relevant to address what's happening today. My hope is that we can use this time to

discuss how to move forward and also process and reflect and think about how to do what needs to be done. I can speak to a couple of things. I know that after my classes at 4:30 today I'll be meeting with some amount of the Mac for Palestine team to discuss moving forward. Ryan and I are working on crafting a student announce email addressing the student body and speaking to them offering extra office hours as an opportunity to connect and share their feedback with MCSG. Essentially, I wanted to open up this space to process and be a typical place to address issues within LB. I'm going to stop talking and we can move to the speakers list.

- Tristan: I think thinking about next steps there's a necessity and a moral imperative that we work on a resolution to denounce this decision. I look forward to continuing that conversation outside of this meeting about how that might look and hopefully to pass something before the end of the semester which will obviously take a lot of work but I do think there's a necessity for that to happen.
- Oriane: I wanted to say that I know we announced that we're launching this petition for a vote of no confidence in the Board of Trustees and demanding a democratic vote on divestment. We're happy to stay and talk with people if they have questions about that and what we're envisioning that process will look like. Obviously we didn't have advanced notice, we prepared for this but we didn't know this was going to come out today. We will have an instagram post with the statement I just read going up within the hour. In addition to that, we'll be publicly launching this petition so everyone in this room and hopefully their friends will be able to sign that. One thing that you can do to support us in that is reposting that, sharing it to your Instagram stories, talking to your friends about it. If anybody has any questions about the divestment...
- Laurice: Thank you so much. My question is how exactly does that look like or work? Would you have every individual vote at Macalester vote to say we don't trust this government? Or do you have a threshold of the number of students you need for them to listen to that? What does success look like for that sort of project?
  - Quinn Roberts: Specifically, when we're talking about a vote of no confidence, our demands written out in full detail will be available when this petition is launched. That demand specifically demands for a vote of the Macalester community on a vote of no confidence in the Board of Trustees. That would be a vote from the faculty and we would look to have a decision soon so this petition would be this petition would be in support of that faculty vote of no confidence.

With the democratic vote, yes exactly, we'd want every student to have a vote equal to every staff member on this campus, equal to every faculty member on this campus, equal to every Board member on this campus. This petition and our demands in full outlines what we believe that process would look like with transparency measures and safeguards. That no confidence vote would be coming from faculty and that democratic vote would be coming from the entire Macalester community.

- Liv: Can we do names and pronouns before we're speaking?
  - Quinn: Ok. My name's Quinn Roberts, I use he/him pronouns.
- Oriane: Oriane, she/they. I wanted to add on to what Quinn said. There are a lot of issues with how this divestment vote took place with the Board of Trustees. Lots of issues with transparency and accountability to the Macalester community. We have really struggled to get answers from the Board of Trustees in the last months that we've been in meetings. There's been no clarity on what their review process has looked like. They've refused continuously to answer basic questions, to give us advanced notice of this vote. We want to correct that with this democratic vote on divestment where every student, staff, and faculty member has a say and their voices matter. One thing that Mac for Palestine is committing to is we commit to affirming whatever the results of that vote may be. We feel confident that if a truly democratic vote took place that divestment would overwhelmingly be supported on this campus. If that's not the case, we respect the democratic process and we're just asking leadership to do the same.
- Charlie: Charlie, they/them. When I spoke with the ad hoc committee directly, they said they weren't going to take into account the complexities of divesting from mutual funds. They had said that they were going to vote on divestment itself. I would just like to relay this information to everyone. I'd also like everyone to consider and talk about with people in your life, if our education where we're taught to learn about ethics and equity relies on genocide, is this institution worth existing?
- Joel: I wanted to respond to the call for a campus vote and say that there is past precedent with the Fossil Free at Mac for MCSG to use its institutional avenues to host an institutional referendum. I can't unilaterally decide to do this. It would be up to the LB and more specifically the Election Procedures Committee but, I wanted to share that that's been an option in the past that

LB has taken up and helped contribute to the partial victory of Fossil Free at Mac.


- Ryan: I want to speak to the LB members in here. I know that this is a really difficult decision and it's a lot of work that's falling on us. This has been a really eventful meeting. I want to make sure that everyone in here is feeling supported and knows that Joel and I are here. We're going to hold office hours open to everyone on campus but really, if you need anything please come to us. IT's going to be a lot of work, there are a lot of motions involved and I know this is a big shock to people especially as it's the end of the semester and there are exams coming up. Please, if y'all specifically need something let one of us know and we can work with you and try and support you guys. This is going to be a big effort. It's a lot of work and there are so many outside voices that I want to make sure that everybody within this legislation feels prioritized. Even if you disagree with certain parts, we are all part of the same organization, we are still working towards the same goals.
- Liv: Any questions or comments? We're going to move onto cabinet updates.

### **Cabinet Updates** ~ *Cabinet Liaisons* ~ 5 minutes

- Belonging & Accessibility
- Dining & Residential Life
  - Galjer: Some updates for dining, we're in the progress of looking towards student worker incentives. We're also focusing on food safety. Some updates for residential life, Kyle wanted me to share with everybody that there is housing available for rising juniors and seniors so keep that in mind.
- International Student:
  - Laurice: Not really a lot from my desk but the one thing I'm starting to work on is creating a channel of communication directly from the international liaison and international students. Right now if I want to talk to all of the international students I have to go through ISP which has not been great. I'll be talking to the cabinet about that.
- Athletics & Recreation
  - Green Athletics Club held its first meeting and installed a terracycling bin by Scotties to reuse non compostables and non recyclables like chip bags.
  - I am working with SAAC (during the LB time slot) to update the LC website to better serve the student body.

- SAAC is starting a toy drive for the holidays.

### **Committee Updates** ~ *Committee Members* ~ 3 minutes

- Communications & Engagement Committee
  - [Reposting Policy](#)
  - Cem: The CEC has been updating our reposting policies on social media. Aside from that we've been progressing well with promotional videos about members of LB and office hours. We're currently in the process of brainstorming a mentorship program with the LB, as well. Pretty soon we'll be sending the feedback form on Legislation Week.
- Financial Affairs Committee
  - Aisha: We reviewed one At-Large application and approved two allocation requisitions. One was a \$150 request from Chess Club celebrating the first African Grand Master. Also, \$350 for the Mac Human Rights Organization so that members can visit the George Floyd Square. We also made edits to the Financial Code and discussed a semesterly budget switch. We also discussed potentially a new FAC meeting time for next semester. Another thing is that the deadline to submit new allocations is Monday.
- Student Organizations Committee
  - Anlain: We're in the process of writing a code for SOC. We're also in the process of talking to Pre-Vet club, Racquetball Club, and Go Club.
- Academic Affairs Committee
  -  AAC Questions for Serie Center
  - Elizabeth: AAC met on Monday. The main things we discussed are continuing to talk about changes to the international student handbook to better clarify things for those students. We're also going to be talking to Laurice about it. We're hosting Ebony Aya from the Serie Center next week. I still have that question doc, so if you have questions you want to learn about the Serie Center, please put those in there. We really want to learn more about their work. Emi discussed with us the AAC rewards and the descriptions and rubrics for the Educator of the Year award and the Student Educator of the Year award. We're going to continue discussing whether the existing criteria is what we should go with this year or if there are any changes we want to make.

### **Announcements** ~ 2 minutes

- Infrastructure & Sustainability Interim ~ Philomena Shuffelton-Sobe



- Philomena: For the rest of the semester, I'm going to be standing in as interim Infrastructure & Sustainability Liaison. If you have any things that might relate to infrastructure and sustainability, please come talk to me and we'll see what we can do. We're holding elections for this position next semester.
- Ongoing BoT Student Liaison Position Work ~ Tor Olsson
  - Tor: Talking about transparency, I've drafted a bill surrounding transparency specifically between the students and the Student Liaison to the Board of Trustees and then also with the Board of Trustees as a whole. It's very much in draft form. It's calling for a couple things. One of them is, and I'm working together with Gabe, potentially making the student liaison electable by the student body rather than being somewhat hand picked by the administrator. I know there is also an MCSG president and the outgoing student liaison do have input as well but concern surrounding making that position electable. Another point is asking the Board to officially commit to publishing online and what they do after each Board meeting. There's a couple other asks in there. It's still very much in draft form I'll add the link to the G-chat and I'd really love it if anybody's who's interested could give it a quick look over and provide any sort of comments or feedback on that. Thank you so much.
- Ryan: Just looking forward, Joel's going to meet with members from Mac for Palestine later today and keep up communication with them. Within LB if you're having questions about the divestment including the future resolution or anything we'll work on, come to me with that. If there's any external organizational things, that's for Joel.
- Liv: With that, our meeting is adjourned. Thank you guys.