

Weyerhaeuser Boardroom

December 5th, 2024 | 12:00 PM CST



MACALESTER COLLEGE
STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Legislative Body Meeting Agenda

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 Waǰpékhute 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 Director of Public Safety Bob Harri ~ Catherine Kane ~ 15 minutes

-  Bob Harri Q&A
- Catherine: Hello everyone, my name is Catherine. I am the Health and Wellness liaison. Today we are being joined by Mr. Bob Harri who is the Director of Public Safety at Macalester as well as Mr. Connor Christenson who is a Public Safety manager. Mr. Harri started his role in March and we're very glad he's joining us today. He's expressed to me that he is eager to create a strong relationship with students and be seen as a positive body on campus and so we're very grateful that he's here. We have some previously submitted questions that we'll address first and then if there's time we can have more questions. I'd like to welcome up Mr. Harri and Mr. Christenson.
- Bob Harri: Give me a sec, I'm going to put on my glasses. Good afternoon, thank you for inviting me to speak today. I'm looking forward to this. My name is Bob Harri, I've been here at Macalester since March so I feel like I'm still very new in my position. I brought Connor Christenson with me today because he has much more historical knowledge of what's been done here in the past and that I feel might be helpful. We here at Macalester have in house public safety. We provide 24 hour, 7 days a week, 365 days a year coverage. There's never a time that we don't have at least one security person on duty even when you guys are hopefully asleep and on holidays we are still here. I have been involved in either campus safety or public law enforcement and peacekeeping for way longer than you've been alive. I've been at this for over 40 years so I have a lot of experience in this area and I hope to share some of that insight with you today. One of the questions we have to answer is what are the most medical and mental health concerns officers respond to? We really respond to a variety of both medical and mental health issues on campus. We have responded to things as simple as cut fingers, dizziness, severe pains, sports injuries, and other physical symptoms. As regards to mental health issues we also respond to a variety of concerns. Often a relative or friend of a student will call on us to check on a student because they have not heard from them in a while or perhaps the student has expressed suicidal ideations or other indications that they are in distress and need some assistance. Sometimes students just get overwhelmed or distressed and might call them on their own but more frequently it's another person calling on their behalf. We have also responded to a number

of medicals related to the overconsumption of alcohol. Recently, we've seen an increase in bad reactions not only to alcohol but other drugs particularly things like edible marijuana. It's fairly new and people are still getting used to it and it's fairly easy to overindulge in the edibles. It's helpful that the vast majority of our officers are trained as EMTs and have additional training with mental help. Next question is are our officers trained on how to respond to mental health crises specifically? Yes, our public safety officers do receive training in helping people in mental health crises. The training varies somewhat with each officer depending on their background. All of our full time officers have received mental health first aid with the exception of our newest hire who has yet to go through that training. He will get that training soon. In addition to the formal training, there is also a significant amount of on the job training involved as well. Mental health crisis response is covered in on field training and is part of the behind closed door training that we do in conjunction with Residential Life staff each year in the fall. We also have hands-on experience, many of our personnel have additional training. I for example have had mental health first aid, crisis negotiation, and years of hands on experience. Connor has been through a crisis intervention training which is a 40 hour course which is very intense and very thorough. Our role is not to diagnose a student but to keep them safe until the appropriate assistance can be referenced. The next question is in what ways do you see the Macalester student government playing a role in advancing student safety? I think it would be helpful if members of this body helped communicate that Macalester public safety is much more about safety, prevention, and protection than enforcement. Encourage students to reach out to us for assistance if they are another person in need. We are here to help. The campus community has to work together to make sure we have a safe community environment that is conducive to learning. That's really our primary focus. It might say Public Safety outside our offices but public safety on a college campus is really the responsibility of everybody in the community. The next question is what is Public safety's role in student demonstrations on campus? Our role is to provide for the safety of people and protection of property. If we're present at a rally, we're there to see that the peaceful demonstration is not disrupted by a counter protest or individuals intent on causing harm to others. Macalester supports peaceful student protest. In the past when students have included a march, we worked to make sure students were safe crossing the streets and in one previous experience we worked with local authorities to help control traffic when marching down the street to make sure no one was hit by vehicles. The next

question is are there any rules surrounding how officers announce themselves when entering a dorm or house on campus? Yes, there are rules on place that we expect our officers to follow. They are expected to identify themselves when responding to a residence on campus. Typically we will knock and wait for a response. If there is no response, we'll knock again and announce that we're Public Safety in case there's any question. Before we enter a room, we definitely announce ourselves as Public Safety before we key ourselves in. Oftentimes when we respond to those rooms we are with someone from residential life either an RA or a RHD. We work with those entities a lot. Times when we would key into a room is when there is a safety issue such as an alarm going off. When we have reason to believe that someone may need assistance such as a welfare check or a medical emergency, they don't respond when we get there and we have to get in to make sure they're ok. If there's a policy violation in progress we also may key into their room which is consistent with the student handbook. Are there any questions for me?

- Marina: Could you speak more to your role in responding to emergency medical stuff and how you interact with the student EMT team? You said your officers are trained in emergency medical response but I'm assuming your officers aren't EMTs. So could you talk a little bit more about their level of what they do versus when the student EMTs do when they come versus when you call for outside help from ambulances or medical help like that?
 - Bob: It's a good question. First of all, our officers are all emergency medical responders which is a 40 hour first aid course. They're all trained in CPR, AEE, and basic first aid. It differs from our EMS student workers because they are certified EMTs which is a 110 hour course. They work from 9pm to 1am on Thursday through Saturday nights. They work this time because this is often when we frequently get calls for that type of service. When our officers respond they will do an assessment on what the student needs in terms of medical assistance and then we'll make the decision whether or not we need to call an ambulance. We have some rules where if a student is experiencing chest pain, diminished capacity, or severe bleeding we will call an ambulance because they are better equipped for those situations. If we call an ambulance that does not mean that the student has to go with the ambulance. They always have the option to sign off.

- Marina: To clarify, for every call you receive do you then talk to the EMTs and you say we think we need you? When do you determine when you'll need the EMTs? Do you work in conjunction? What's the relationship there?
 - Bob: We do.
 - Connor: Our EMTs carry the same radios that we do so when they're on duty they hear all the same calls that our officers do. Our EMTs are equipped with radios and key cards that allow them into any building.
- Tristan: Knowing that some of the Public Safety officers have a background as police officers, how do you prevent the harmful mindsets exemplified by the U.S. policing system from affecting how public safety officers interact with students, especially those of groups who have been historically harmed?
 - Bob: We are very much aware of what some of the concerns are about policing in the United States. I was fortunate to work in college safety before going into law enforcement so I have a very clear understanding of the differences between the two entities. We work very hard to treat everyone with respect and listen to people. Our focus is very different. In campus safety, we are much more concerned with prevention and providing service than enforcement. Sometimes we are stuck in an enforcement role but for the most part we are not. Most of our calls are related to safety, prevention, and service.
- Cooper: My question is about the public safety van that was required last year or the year before specifically around the use of it? At least in my perspective, it seems like it has the same purpose as the golf course except it has less access around campus. So I'm just wondering why that was a needed purchase but at least in my opinion that seems like a lot of wasted funding.
 - Bob: That's another good question. That purchase was made before I got here but I can try to address what we use it for. We provide student safety escorts off campus and we can't use our golf carts for that because there's not enough room and it's not legal to drive that on the street. It's also used for general patrol. We can also use that for medical transport to medical care if a student needs to go to the hospital before an ambulance can be called. It's also very visible so when we're patrolling campus on the streets it's very obvious that we're out there.

- Liv: Thank you so much Bob for coming. [Applause]

Student Survey Results ~ Mena Feleke ~ 8 minutes

- [Presentation](#)
- Mena: Hi everyone. I'm Mena, I'm the CEC chair. As you all should know we released the student survey earlier this semester and I'll be going through all of our results and at the end I'll be asking questions. Like I said, the survey was opened earlier this semester during Legislation Week so we were tabling every day that week obviously for Legislation Week events but also the student survey. We have an underwhelming amount of respondents with only 192 responses. Class of 2028 had the most respondents which I think is pretty typical. In past years, the first year class has typically had the most responses and then the class of 2025, then the junior and sophomore classes. The first question that we asked was asking students what their top priorities are in terms of what they wanted MCSG to address. I categorized them into issues that the liaisons cover. There's clearly a need for each liaison. Every issue area has students concerned over. Disability resources had the most priority. Campus awareness was another question asking students their knowledge of familiarity with student government's functions. The textbook reserve had the most which makes sense because it's advertised the most by professors and FYCs. Even as you go down the list there's still familiarity with most of our functions. Even as we move down the list there's some familiarity with most of our functions but of course there's some stuff that's expected like the Community Chest which shows an area of weakness but I think people still recognize all of these. There were two different questions about audience engagement and preferences. The first one asked about which areas that students felt bridged the gap between the student body and MCSG. Newsletters were picked out as being the most likely to bridge the gap. The second question asked was what do you prefer as your method of communication? The Mac Daily had the most responses which is awesome because that's how we advertise our MCSG events. This is interesting because we also were advertising newsletter signups during Legislation Week and there was a lot less enthusiasm for sign ups. So it's interesting because people were saying that that was their preference but also didn't recognize that as a preference. The final two questions, this was only asked to everyone but first years. It wasn't how people felt that the two resolutions that were passed last year reflected their perspective. The first one was resolution 13 which was about the study abroad program in Israel and the second one was resolution 15 was about supporting the student union. I will

note that for whatever reason resolution 15 didn't show up for all of the students so that's why the numbers are a little off for that one. For the most part, students felt that both resolutions did reflect their needs which is a good sign. It's interesting that for the most part students felt that the resolutions reflected their perspectives but then also weren't familiar with all of MCSG so there seems to be some discrepancy there. Of course, there were more questions present in the student survey but they were more focused on AAC and had a couple questions related to that committee which were shared with Tristan. There were also options for students to put their own options for survey questions but there weren't any that stood out apart from concerns about Cafe Mac which of course was already being covered with MDAC. I'm happy to take any questions or thoughts.

- Elizabeth: I would assume not, but is there any way to figure out how many respondents were MCSG members? Because I know we were encouraged to fill that out so I'm wondering if that skewed our results.
 - Mena: The survey was anonymous so, no. The only breakdown you can see is class years.
- Sean: How were the parts of MCSG that people recognized scored?
 - Mena: One was the least familiar so I ranked that as one and then five was the most familiar so I ranked that as 5. Then we multiplied the amount of people that answered that way.
- Jordan: So following up on the ranking system, if there were 185 respondents and the minimum value was one. Community Chest for example, there were only 89 people who had even remotely heard of it and then maybe 20 of those people who as Elizabeth mentioned might have been MCSG? Ok, we can work on that. So the minimal possible value is 189 or whatever.
 - Mena: I'm forgetting the exact value but I can show you the breakdown.
 - Jordan: But you couldn't assign a value less than one?
 - Mena: No, no, no.

Appointment of Interim FAC Chair ~ Joel Sadofsky ~ 5 minutes

- Joel: I'm going to let Luke start this one off and then I'll jump in.
- Luke: As some of you are aware, I'm going to be resigning my position as FAC at the start of next semester because I have accepted an internship opportunity in Washington D.C. that starts in February and goes until April so I will not be here. It's been a privilege to work with all of you in MCSG and I'm looking forward to maybe being involved in the future. I apologize

for the difficulty that it'll cause with an election and familiarize yourselves with the new chair. I'm only a time zone away and I've expressed to Joel and other people in exec my willingness to still help to create a smooth transition. I'll also still be around in January so I'd be happy to help with the beginning of the year things and training the new person. I've made a recommendation to Joel of someone who I think will serve well as the interim chair before the election and he'll describe that. In terms of the longer term things that I'm working on like financial code edits and semesterly switch, those are issues that I will still be working on over winter break and working with Laurie and Garrett.

- Joel: It's sad to lose Luke but we also need to keep FAC together. This language is coming straight out of the Election code under Section 7 Vacancies and Special Elections. "In the event of an Executive Board vacancy, the MCSG President shall appoint an Interim Chair with a majority approval of the LB." With Luke's recommendation as MCSG President, following the election code in front of me, I'm going to nominate David Christenfeld. This does not mean that David will be FAC in perpetuity but he will be FAC chair from January 23 until the election procedures commission completes an election at the start of next semester. So it won't necessarily be long. I'm planning to move to approve David as the interim FAC chair.
- Joel: I, motion to appoint David Christenfeld as interim FAC chair starting January 23, 2025 until EPC has concluded and certified a special election.
[Seconds]
 - FOR: 24
 - AGAINST: 0
 - ABSTAIN: 1
- Liv: Congrats, David.
- Joel: Thank you for making that easy.

Cabinet Updates ~ Cabinet Liaisons ~ 5 minutes

- International Student Liaison
 - Laurice: Thank you so much and congratulations David. It's been a great semester. Reflecting on these last 4 months, apart from the successes I would say that something I need to work on is my communication with the actual ISP themselves. I feel like we could have more regulated meetings. The way that I was communicating with them as of now is just calling them or popping into the office. I want to work on creating a clear communication line between international student liaison and international students as a whole.

This is really important because it makes it easier for us to represent them. Right now, the way I'm doing it is having conversations with people that are just pieced together but if it was one group chat that every international student was in and could voice their concerns and then I could bring them straight to you. I also think my office hours could also be improved. I had a total of 1 person come to my office hours. I feel like we could find a better way to put the word out that there are public office hours that are happening. I'm also looking forward to continuing working on entrepreneurship for international students. Another thing that came across my desk is the issue with the U.S. government saying that 5 months is the maximum amount of time to be outside of the country while still holding your visa. If that's actually the case, something I hope to fight for is that people studying abroad would be sponsored by Macalester for their visa fees so they can come back. That's something I believe we could work on. Otherwise, it's been a fantastic time and I'm really grateful for being a part of this team.

- Dining & Residential Life

- Galjer: Hi everyone. I'll be really brief. For residential life, there was an email sent out this week about winter closing with a lot of information. Kyle told me that we had over 200 students sign up for winter housing which is much more than we had last year. The form for winter housing for tomorrow. Looking forward for housing selection, there is housing available for rising juniors and seniors. For dining, I'm planning on meeting with the Cafe Mac dietician next week. There is a lot of continued work and after our MDAC meeting this week we want to focus on the survey and I'm going to pass it on to Ryan to share a bit more.

- Ryan: The survey got over 660 responses which is about 30% of the student body which is an insane amount for a student survey so we're hoping that we can bring that data to our meetings next semester. Let me know if you have any questions.

- Health & Wellness

- Catherine: Hello. We had our alcohol and drug committee meeting. Our numbers are looking great. We didn't have any crazy bounceback from Covid in terms of risky substance abuse behaviors. The biannual review which informs the college's policy around alcohol and other drugs will be posted before December 31. There's also backpack

reflectors given by public safety that people can take for crossing the street.

- Athletics & Recreation
 - Jordan: I met with Donny right before break. We're working on involving students in basketball games and swim meets. So if you come to a game, it'll be very fun. I also recently found out that anyone, even non varsity athletes, can participate in Kofi Kupp. We're going to have a safe for sex game. Pro tip from me is that we're pioneering a lot of these fun things at basketball games, mens and womens we're doing a toy drive starting now. If you're going to a basketball game you can drop a toy in there. We donated about 70 last year.
- Belonging & Accessibility

Committee Updates ~ *Committee Members* ~ 3 minutes

- Financial Affairs Committee
 - Luke: As my last FAC update of the year. We have 11 requests to go through. We approved most of them, tabled 2, and we also have one more that we're meeting with on Tuesday. It was a good semester. We're still working on the FAC code and the semesterly budgeting model.
- Student Organizations Committee
 - Chloe: SOC had our last meeting yesterday. We worked to finalize a rubric for the student leadership awards. We allocated people to check in on certain groups for SOC check ins. We're continuing to work on the SOC code and starting to ideate for the SOC check out which is in conjunction with FAC.
- Academic Affairs Committee
 - Sam: We finalized the nominations for educator and student educator of the year awards. We continue to stay in contact with the Serie Center and we considered implementing a student rep position for their meetings which would meet like 4 times a year. We also discovered this cohort called the Administrators Coordinators Collective. This should be a good resource to see if we can continue working on showcasing faculty research in the future. We marked up the international student handbook to see what could be approved for incoming international students at Macalester.
- Communications & Engagement Committee

- Marina: We have an LB that we'll send out after LB talking about the Legislation Week feedback we received. we're also working on piloting a new MCSG mentorship program. We're going to try to do a trial run next semester and have our big one in the fall. If you've been on MCSG for a while it would be great if you could sign up to be a mentor. Also, if you are someone who is on a split ticket keep an eye out because we want to do a social media post that's about outgoing member reflections. That will be a form to fill out so we can post about you.

Announcements ~ 2 minutes

- BoT Fundraising Meeting ~ *Joel*
 - Joel: I imagine we've all read the BoT's response to the divestment. There's a point on that that gives us the challenge of raising \$50,000 that will be matched. If you have questions as to what that will look like, I also have questions about what that would look like. I'll be meeting with President Rivera and Gabe Karsh, the BoT liaison, and the Board chair Carrie Killoran in a meeting that has yet to be scheduled. This is the last LB meeting of the year for all of us and the academic year for the 6 of us who are going on to other things next semester whether it's study away or the state department. I wanted to take a moment to publicly thank our outgoing MCSG members. I believe that is Jordan, Sam, Catherine, Sean, Kurian, Luke. Thank you all. [Applause] We're going to officially adjourn the meeting and turn to the white elephant which Else is going to run.
 - Liv: The meeting is adjourned. Thank you guys for a great semester.
- Last meeting of the year for some of our members ~ *Joel*