

Harmon Room - Library

January 25, 2024 | 12:00 PM CST



MACALESTER COLLEGE
STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Legislative Body Meeting Minutes

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

Vice President for Student Affairs, Kathryn Kay Coquemont ~ *Mariah Loeffler-Kemp* ~ 30 minutes

- First update is that Reagan has a gavel now
- We also have Kathryn Kay Coquemont
 - This is very special and we are lucky to have her
 - She is the Vice President of Student Affairs
 - We work closely with her and she cares a lot about MCSG
 - Brief intro, talk about role, we'll ask you about Dean of Students later
- Kathryn Kay Coquemont
 - There's no one that I feel more comfortable with than students
 - Welcome back, different demographic than last semester
 - As Mariah mentioned, my name is Kathryn, please feel free to call me that
 - Call me anything as long as it is respectful
 - What does it mean to be VP of Student Affairs?
 - Constantly evolving, as are all roles
 - It means that I am an advocate for what is best for students at an institutional level and within the wider community
 - Coordinates with what y'all think is best for yourselves, but sometimes advocates for things that are different than direct student requests

- This is okay, as long as we are always in contact
- Can't do this job without communication with students
- Don't just want to be an administrator, because that doesn't adequately represent the students
- Partnerships and success with colleagues
 - Move things forward through influencing people
 - Trying to build relationships so that we can all have mutual respect for each other's expertise
- How do I want to interact with MCSG?
 - You can determine this
 - This is your time and you get to decide
 - I might also have an agenda, but you have the agency to decide how to interact with me
 - Anything that you'll give me, I will happily accept
 - Make sure that every group gets their say in how to develop this relationship
- Mariah: awesome, thank you so much for that answer
 - We are going to start off with student questions, starting with Joel
- Joel: I imagine that a lot of us are curious about the fact that we have a Dean of Students and a VP of Student Affairs. Could you speak more about the new Dean of Students' role? How does that change or affect what your role has been?
 - Kathryn: this actually isn't new, but going back to how things have been in the past
 - There was a decision to rework some things in the past with a new president and a new focus on Institutional Equity
 - The model that was created was a really thoughtful one and they knew that I would have a vision of my own
 - This new model works better for me and for the students, who want more accessibility to administration
 - I arrived right after the sit in, and I wanted to help amend some of the problems of the past
 - If you haven't met our new Dean, he is fantastic
 - Accessible and willing to serve students
 - Strategic leaders
 - We split up some things
 - He will work with things that have direct impact on students

- Residence Halls
 - He will make sure that students are engaged in these processes
 - This frees me up to look at how to structure occupancy with res life, how to get more donor engagement, working with career exploration to create feasible ways for students to get more internship opportunities
 - More of the strategy at an institutional level and working with partners is my job now
- Willow: Our President and Vice president will be getting academic credit by participating in MCSG and working with you this semester. Can you expand on your vision or long-term goals for this pilot program?
 - Kathryn: Really want to acknowledge last year's administration who did a really good job of recognizing the importance of student voices and advocating for them
 - It is common for admin to forget the voices of students
 - We have talked about what people often think of compensation—money, as well as the opportunity to advance a liberal arts education
 - I had some ideas for a pilot program for the President and VP to get academic credit, but we are willing to open this up to other roles within MCSG related to the practice of leadership
 - Working with leadership theories and structures
 - Hoping to benefit this group and others, possibly even formalized into a leadership concentration or minor
 - Allow for interdisciplinary thoughts like this
 - We need leaders in all areas, and this is what a liberal arts education can look like
 - Theory is important because we need to know why we do what we do and why it matters
 - If you have more thoughts on this, please give them to me and the CSLE staff
- Tor: With the new textbook plan, we were told last semester that students would be involved in the implementation committee, but so far, we have not been included over break or in this new semester.

Could you speak to that? Could there be students on the First Day Complete Implementation Committee?

- Kathryn: This is more of my colleague Patricia Langer's wheelhouse, so I will reach out to Patricia and get back to you
 - I appreciate the advocacy and accountability here
- Sean: Are there any things that you have been hearing about from students that MCSG should focus on advocating for?
 - Kathryn: I think a lot of it you already know, but one thing that I am excited to talk about with Mariah is asking about the structure with which you support student groups
 - Understand the SOC, but wondering how to partner better with student government for identity-based groups, who get support from LSC
 - Still hearing things about anti-Blackness and other different issues and wondering how to foster support and advocacy within MCSG for this group
 - We need to do better on campus, and are interested in making changes within the structures in place?
- Reagan: Do you have any questions for us?
 - Kathryn: How are you doing? How is the student body?
 - If you were to give me a grade, how am I doing, and what are some areas of improvement?
 - What are the things that I should keep doing?
 - Willow: I would actually give you an A-
 - Reasoning for that is that I like how you speak to us
 - Being informal recognizes us as people and feels like you are open and accessible to us
 - I feel like you remember people's names very well, and that feels good
 - It is only an A- because we talked one time about the strategic plan, and I would like more transparency about that
 - Requested more presentations to MCSG about what is happening and what we can do
 - Students want transparency
 - Eliora: I think you are a very warm and affectionate person, and this comes across in every interaction with you
 - I often feel like we as MCSG have a very privileged position where I see you and talk to you, but other people don't feel like they can advocate

- I would also say an A-, because in an ideal world everyone would know how to find you and advocate for themselves
- But thank you for all you do
- Alec: I would give you an A because it is hard to reach out as a student
 - The way that the school is structured, it is hard to be at every single activity, but you do a very good job being present
- Joel: I have an area of improvement or possible suggestion
 - Students often feel like various government facets are murky and superficial, particularly with strategic plan and textbook policy
 - We would like to see Student Affairs place more energy in these aspects
- Andrew: I really enjoyed sitting with you on the Infectious Disease Task Force, but I do have a question about this
 - My understanding is that there are currently no students on this
 - Kathryn: I will be transparent that I learned that we decided to move forward without students right now, and I apologize for that
 - I provided feedback about this, and in the future there will be students
- Alec: You hear that the faculty to administrative staff ratio is somewhat warped. Compared to other institutions, how are we doing with this? There are often more admin than faculty.
 - Kathryn: This is something I am very sensitive to
 - Students need resources
 - Higher education was formed after Oxford University, that was very academic and not supportive to humans
 - We have moved forward in the US more quickly than other places in thinking more holistically about students as people
 - There is consumerism and capitalism here, where people are paying and feel as though they should be getting what they are paying for
 - Because of this consumer capitalism, institutions are fighting for the same students

- College are adding new things to attract students in different ways, but not always the best ways
- Students are now wanting a lot more health and wellness support
 - Larger universities are able to do this because they are also medical institutions
 - We are not in the middle of nowhere in terms of location, but in a thriving metropolis with many places to go
 - We have to think about what we are prioritizing and what people are spending so much money on to be here
- The expectation here is that I know if a student has suicidal ideation
 - That is a very big ask that is rare for larger institutions
 - We are a small community where we are expected to know each other
- In terms of the amount of admin, we need people to meet the expectations that people have for us
- Mariah: Thank you for coming! We want to be respectful of your time
 - Kathryn: You all never answered how you were doing! Please give a thumbs up assessment of this, and reach out if there is anything that any of us can do to support you

Class Night Breakout and Update ~ Emma Kopplin ~ 10 minutes

- As you all know, we had Class Nights last Friday
 - We wanted to give you the space to write down what did or did not go well
 - We will share this future MCSG
 - If you all spent money, please send your receipts to the MCSG email and to Heather
- Reagan: Are we all ready to share?
- Sean: Sophomore Class Night was an incredible success
 - We had around seventy people
 - A lot of people came after the food ran out, but stayed because of the ping pong
 - Met new people and talked to them
 - We were all pleased with the turnout and engagement
- Owen: First-year Class Night was a mediocre success

- We had about seventy-three people come in the door, but left when they saw the food
- We didn't have a set activity, just assumed people would mingle
 - Need to fix this
 - Need a set music list
 - Took notes and won't make the same mistake again
- Sophia: Seniors had a really big turnout, although we weren't counting
 - We ran out of all of our food
 - This is was good because no food waste
 - Next time, the seniors will get different food or have a game or something
- Mena: Junior Class Night was a success
 - We ran out of food pretty early, but next time we will advertise this as an opportunity to talk to the class reps
 - Some confusion due to the turnaround in members
- Joel: one thing that every Class Night needs is a student-facing set of materials that actually explains how MCSG works and functions
 - This is a good project for a rep or for CEC
 - Encourage people to create this

AAC Postgrad Support Brainstorm ~ Joel Sadofsky ~ 5 minutes

- Who here has heard of the AAC GSAT program?
 - Offer 25 grants per semester in the form of a \$100 rebate
 - This is for students in need to be reimbursed for grad school testing fees
- We are considering expanding or rethinking how we offer this program
 - Potentially increasing the amount that these grants are offered
- Brainstorm session to talk about the program
 - What else could AAC explore/do to improve access to post-grad activities?
 - What test prep activities do students want?
- Maybe tables could take some time to think about this

Committee, Cabinet, and other Campus Committee Updates ~ *Committee Members* ~ 3 minutes

- SOC (Mikayla): Hopefully the week after next, we will have some orgs to vote on
- FAC (Eliona): currently working hard to determine a meeting time
 - In the meantime, conducting votes over email
 - Will have some things to vote on next week

- AAC (Joel): Found a meeting time on Fridays at 1pm
 - Planned at the retreat and found some new goals for the semester
 - Also looking at bringing someone into LB for a demystifying faculty governance presentation of some sort
 - Inquire about students on the General Education Requirements committee?
 - Continue to learn and ask questions about academic policy spaces we end up in
- CEC (LeSean): happy to announce we have a meeting time on Tuesdays at 7pm
 - Very excited to get to work helping the student body learn about events and what MCSG does
- Cabinet (Willow): we also set a meeting time at 7pm on Thursdays
 - The first time we will meet is tonight
 - Trying to make the community chest more accessible
 - Working on transparency
 - Encourage people to meet with the Mac Weekly
 - Emma Rohrs set a meeting time for the Hamre Center to come present in March
 - Working to start a relationship with Hamre and MCSG
 - Philomena: Campus Plan meeting with architects on February 6
 - Talking about new dorm, we are all encouraged to attend
 - Elizabeth: just got here, but had a great conversation about belonging and accessibility and will have more to update last week
 - Jordan: have a meeting on Friday with Donnie Brooks about the mascot and engaging the student body
 - Working with women's rugby on inclusive lifting group
 - Yosephine: meeting with ISP staff at the beginning of next week
 - Also part of the search committee for the Director of the International Student Program and will be meeting with them on Friday, Feb 2
- Emma K: Tristan, Emma R, and I have been meeting with Hamre since last semester about Narcan and public health supplies
 - Pushing for Public Health Vending machine in the lobby of the library where students can access Naloxone and other supplies in a place that is open 24/7
 - Not a lot of schools that do this, but Hamre has been very cooperative
 - Considering how this will be incorporated into RA training
 - In all residence halls, Narcan will be accessible in AED

- Fentanyl test strips and safer sex supplies are accessible through the Hamre Center and can be delivered to your mailbox if you fill out a Google Form

Announcements ~ 5 minutes

- Office update ~ *Mariah Loeffler-Kemp*
 - Officially announce that we are moving offices this summer
 - Right now, we are on the second floor of the CC
 - Moving into the first floor of Weyerhaeuser
 - Laurie, Emi, Liza, and Kathryn will be there with us
- Org fair this Friday, 4:30-6:00 ~ *Emma Kopplin*
 - In Kagin
 - We will have a booth there, please come hang out
- Mascot focus group next Tuesday, 11:30-12:30 ~ *Mariah Loeffler-Kemp*
 - Lunch will be provided, just MCSG with Donnie Brooks
 - If you can be there, that's awesome
 - Fill out the [Mascot survey](#)
 - If your committee has not found a time to meet, do that ASAP
- 150th scarf giveaway ~ Laurie Adamson
- Find committee time if you haven't
- Election