

## Weyerhaeuser Boardroom

January 30th, 2025 | 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 Peterson*

- 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. LB members can request additional agenda items for future LB meetings by emailing the Macalester College Student Government email.

#### **Visit from Rachel Banen, Associate Director of Health Promotion** ~ *Emma*

*Rohrs* ~ 30 minutes

- Presentation
- Rachel Banen: This feels really official. Which is great! Hello everyone, my name is Rachel Banen. I use she/her pronouns. I'm the associate director of Health Promotion in Hamre. I'm here to talk about what Health Promotion is

and a new opportunity that is pertinent to MCSG. Cool! I also like to say that I'm an alum myself. I graduated in 2016, was in MCSG for a hot sec and then was not a great MCSG member. I told Emi this story and she was like "Great ... sounds good." So, what is health promotion? This is a commonly misunderstood thing which is totally fine. Health promotion is a subfield of public health. Is anyone here interested in a career in public health? Ok.... yeah, sure! Which is fine. I don't have a public health degree myself, I'm a clinical social worker trained myself. I just mentioned this to say that this is related to the larger field of public health. When we think of health in general we think of a doctor, or a mental health counselor, a therapist. "I'm sick, I'm going to go see a doctor." "I'm depressed, anxious, stressed, I just got broken up with, I broke up with someone, I'm going to go see a therapist." As we can see in this "Snail Model" we have that protractor type thing that says health care, that's primarily what we think of. That is such a small spectrum of health in reality. There's so much else that goes into health that is not commonly understood. And that is exactly what health promotion is. It's focused on prevention, it is not reactive. We absolutely need health care, it's super super important but we also need to be asking, "What if people didn't experience this in the first place?" Especially because we know the vast majority of physical and mental health challenges we experiences are not individually driven, they are determined by the society and environment we live in. In health promotion we are looking at what are the social and environmental things on our campus and societally that are contributing to our health. I'm not going to go through all these tenants specifically but there's so many things that we do when we think of proactive health care. We think about creating supportive environments, building healthy public policy, strengthening community actions, etc. You're like cool sounds good Rachel, how is this relevant to us? It's super relevant to you because you are the student government on this campus. You are in a position of power and authority to make decisions. You are people who are contributing to creating a healthy and supportive environment on this campus. That's why I'm talking to you about this. I really like this quote from Paula Swinform at USC, she's a badass, I love her. "Health promotion is very different from health education." This is also what's commonly misunderstood that when we generally think of health we think "cool, sounds good. Give me narcan training, I know what narcan is, I know how it works, I know that it reverses overdoses, cool sounds good." We like to think that if we just have all the correct factual information then we'll make the correct health decisions. Turns out human behavior is much more

complex than that. Health promotion is different from health education in the sense that health promotion is a political process. We're looking at the social and environmental determinants at various levels of society that contribute to our health. Again, I'm talking to MCSG because you guys are a political body so this is just really pertinent to your work. Given the complexity of health promotion and we're looking at our built environment we do so much. These are just some examples of things we do around campus. That first photo is work by our health promotion assistants. Tristan is one of our health promotion assistants this semester. They do a lot of work around campus. They do programming around healthy relationships, consent, safer substance use, harm reduction, and mental health. Also with the help of MCSG. With the help of MCSG we implemented this harm reduction cabinet. The other thing I'll mention is that we do these things that focus on developing personal skills which is really important but thinking that health promotion is a political process, we have to do more. This is a photo of Fall Ball. We've partnered with Program Board to create an environment that's more conducive to safer parties. We know that a lot of times parties are the locus of sexual assault behavior and unsafe substance use. We've worked with PB to try to create an environment and culture where everyone feels safe. We've also created these emergency rooms so that if someone feels unsafe they can come to these emergency rooms. If someone is experiencing or has experienced sexual violence they are able to stay in one of these emergency rooms. We also have a number of committees on campus that are open to MCSG and other Macalester students to help us inform policy around these key strategic areas. So again, we're involved in multiple levels of the institution. This is just to illustrate that we're involved in multiple layers of the institution. In my role specifically, I oversee the health promotion assistant program. So those folks who do naran/naloxone, please use the word naloxone, the naloxone trainings. We also do various workshops, trainings, events in FYCs, other classes, club and varsity sports, and other events. We also distribute safer sex and harm reduction supplies around various areas on campus. Again, we also implement large-scale communication around our strategic public health areas so you might start seeing more information about nicotine and cannabis usage from a harm reduction perspective. Our job isn't to tell you whether or not to use substances, you're going to do what you want with your life. Our job is to make sure that you have enough information to make the best decision for you. We also are an evidence-based center so all of our work is evidence based and research driven. We always evaluate our programs and we do that

through multiple ways. We also work with different department heads and administrators to implement other policies through campus like those emergency rooms. So, now that you know exactly what health promotion is you don't need to go to grad school for public health. I'm going to talk about a more specific opportunity that's very pertinent to you all. In health promotion we're really trying hard to work with communities that are typically underserved in the medical field. We really believe in not positioning ourselves as the experts on everything and coming in and telling people what they need and doing it for them. We're trying to partner with folks who are part of those communities to work in partnership with them. This is one of our ideas and I know it says student orgs but if you're super passionate and want to do this yourself, don't let that word limit you. You can apply to partner with us and up to \$500 in additional funding. We do ask that your ideas fit within one of those. They are broad on purpose but they are also specific. If you have any questions, please feel free to work on. Just try to be specific in what you're trying to do and then we can figure it out. The application itself is pretty straightforward, just let us know your ideas and how much money you would potentially want and then I or my boss Tiger Simpson will be in touch with you. The other thing I wanted to mention is that we have a multitude of workshops across campus. The one thing I want to highlight is our BEST Party Workshop. Especially, because I've heard mumblings that Kagins are trying to make a resurgence which is totally fine. I was at Macalester when Kagins were a hallmark of the party culture here. But Kagins dissolved for reasons, sexual violence occurred there. There's nothing wrong with wanting to have a party, but how do we create parties that are safe for everybody? We're really proud to offer a workshop and governance around that to help student org leaders if they're trying to throw a Kagin or some other party on campus. If you're interested in helping with that or anything else on here, please reach out to me or anyone else in Health Promotion. These other things are absolutely related to health promotion and if you have specific concerns or want specific guidance, please let us know and we'd be super happy to respond.

- Marina: I have two questions. The first one is about the emergency rooms you talked about. Are those available who live off campus as well or just those who have a housing contract?
  - Rachel: Great question. My colleague Paige Olowu manages that. I don't know. I can put you in touch with her though and we can figure that out.

- Marina: The second question is that there's been a big difference in the sexual education received from when the student org Sexy did the training and when health promotion started taking over. I think the gaps are pretty noticeable between the education that the first years and sophomores have received and what the upperclassmen have received. I'm just wondering if you guys are continuing education, doing surveys, and what work you guys are doing to fill those gaps. Because that was kind of a hallmark of Macalester education, at least in my opinion, during Orientation Week getting that Dirty training, Sexy training. I was wondering how the work to improve that is going since it's not going to be a student org thing.
  - Rachel: I appreciate the question. I would be curious to meet with anybody. I get it, I was here when Sexy was in full swing. I'd be really curious in terms of what your experience has been and what you received at Sexy and what you do know. Me, personally, I just started in June on staff so I wasn't here when that decision was made. If you have any questions please reach out to Tiger Simpson who was really involved with that decision. I know he's interested in having those conversations with that. In terms of ongoing surveys, how we're continuing to conduct sexual education at Macalester, it is something that we're doing and trying to prioritize in our work. It's just hard to do because we have a lot to do. I'm not saying that as a cop out I'm just saying that's just something that's on our minds that we're trying to prioritize. Please reach out to Tiger if you have more specific questions about Sexy and why that decision was made in conjunction with Sexy. I can also answer more specific questions about the actual programming and what Sexy did and what we did. There is a ton of overlap but thank you for that.
- Elizabeth: I was wondering what actions have you taken to promote the emergency rooms because I am an on campus resident and this is the first time I've heard about them.
  - Rachel: I personally don't know. That's a great question for my colleague Paige. I'm happy to forward her information and get some information on that.
- Sylvia: Is the application to partner with Health Promotion has been announced yet and if not, how is it going to be advertised?
  - Rachel: Great question. We are currently rolling it out as we speak. Talking to MCSG, it's on our instagram. It's gonna be on

our website. If you have other ideas, I'd love to hear about it. Also Garrett sent it out in our newsletter but yeah trying it out in various ways.

- Marina: Sorry, it's not a question but I just think that the best way to do it would be a Mac Daily post.
  - Rachel: Mac Daily yeah.
    - Marina: I just think that would get the most people.
- Rachel: thank you for letting me speak and sorry I couldn't answer all your questions. Transparency is something that I really value so I'll make sure that I pass along Paige's information again about Sexy. You can reach out to me or Tiger. Thank you.

### **FAC Health Check** ~ *David Christenfeld* ~ 4 minutes

- David: Hi everybody. We'll start off with a health check. One of the big parts I want to point out is if you look at the percentages on the right side, seeing numbers like 42%, 22%, 9%. While those look pretty scary there's a lot of off the top allocations that come up first. I would say that we're actually in a pretty comfortable spot. We're about halfway through our funds for the year. We're looking at \$32,000 for the travel fund which is a bit higher than we usually have. We're expecting some big travel works to be coming in the next few weeks because it's the beginning of the semester. or capital we're at \$7,000 which is a pretty healthy number for where we are. Looking at that \$32,000 for operating. Operating goes down pretty quick but again we're about halfway through that fund for the year and we're halfway through the year and we also have those reserve funds so again I'd say we're looking pretty healthy.
- Liv: Unless there are any questions we're going to do a quick overview on how to vote for our new members. Ok so first someone would make a motion then someone would second and then all those in favor would raise their placard I would count. All those opposed would raise their placard, I would count. Then all those abstaining would raise their placard and I would vote. Just a reminder that abstention is not a yes or no vote, it's typically used when there is a conflict of interest on the subject matter.

### **FAC Additional Allocation Request** ~ *David Christenfeld* ~ 8 minutes

- [\\$8,029 for YDSA National Wintercon Conference Request](#) - Original request
- [Details for FAC amended request](#)


- David: For the YDSA request we got some questions from other orgs to let FAC go first and then allowing the org to finish off and present their reasoning last. That's what we'll be doing today. I hope everybody's pulled it up. We put together a little presentation about the financials. This is what was originally requested. It's \$8,029 for 13 people to fly to Chicago for a conference. That breaks down to \$3,367 for flights, \$780 for food, \$1,625 for registration fees, \$2,088 for hotel rooms. The first calculation we did is that cost per person. It's around \$617. We're trying to keep it under 650. This is on the higher level but still pretty reasonable. There were a few places that we thought could cut down some costs especially because this would be about a third of what we have left in the travel fund and we expect some new travel requests to be coming in. So we approved the request for \$4,400. We got to this number because we removed \$416 that was already allocated to the budget process. We looked at the account on Involve and that is still available to be spent. We then removed \$696 by reducing the rooms from 6 rooms to 4 rooms which would have 4 people per room which would have 3 rooms with 3 people and one room with four people opposed to 2 people in basically all the rooms and one room with 3. As you can see the big chunk comes from changing traveling by flight rather than vans. This was a pretty contentious piece in FAC. What we heard was that they didn't want to miss any school on Friday which is super acceptable and get back on time on Sunday night. We thought that if we did it by vans they could cut it off by around \$2,500 and the amount of time that would be left they'd have to leave around 3 on Friday so the only classes that would be missed would be those after 3:30 and end at 4:30 which seems pretty doable in terms of not missing school. This also provides more flexibility on leaving on Sunday because they'll have the transportation there. The final part of this is we had to think about if they have the Mac vans they'd have to have them in Chicago which would require parking fees. We couldn't find exact numbers but we provided more than we thought they would need so we provided about \$150 for parking. That's how we got to our decision. The number you'd be voting on is the \$4,400 which is what FAC has approved and then YDSA will come up.
- Vi: Hi, I'm Vi, I'm a sophomore, I'm the treasurer of YDSA. I think David did a pretty good job of breaking down the costs. The amended amount would be a pretty big reduction and the most efficient way we could still do the trip. We were able to attend the conference last year and it was really meaningful. It would be really meaningful to be able to attend and I think that amount would be the best way to do that.

- Liv: Since this request is still over \$4,000 we have to vote on it.
- Philomena: Motion to approve \$4,400 for YDSA from the travel fund.

[Seconds]

- FAVOR: 23
- AGAINST: 1
- ABSTAIN: 0

### **FAC Proposed Financial Code Update ~ Luke Evans ~ 10 minutes**

-  (USE) Draft of Financial Code 2025
- Luke: Hello everybody. Some of you may remember me. I'm FAC chair emeritus. My effort over break was to update and edit the financial code because it was in a pretty bad spot to be useful in FAC decision making. I went through and pretty comprehensively edited every section of it including moving things around and inventing new sections. And inventing some new rules and regulations which I know some people took issue to. If you think the rules are stupid that doesn't bother me. I just tried to make it better. Overall, the edits were inspired by my time on the committee both as a member and as chair. David, myself, and the rest of the committee along with Garrett, Emi, and Laurie have had a number of discussions about what was lacking in the committee. For example, there was no language about special pricing exceptions for religious, cultural, or affinity related purchases which are things that we take special exception for that didn't exist. Things like that were FAC policy but we're actually FAC rules including the clarification of many FAC suggestions. The FAC voted to approve some of the sections that I had made for sections 1, 2, 3 and maybe 4 and 5. There's still a lot more to go through. At this point, does anyone have any questions if they've looked through it about things that I edited or removed?
  - Joel: I was going to urge all of LB, especially those of us not on FAC, to please give this document some time and attention. This is essentially the accountability mechanism for the entire operation for the allocation of the student activity fee. Even if you're not part of FAC, that's part of MCSG's purview and that's what we've been elected to do. So I would say over the weekend, early next week, today, tomorrow, extra time at the retreat, please look at this. Please.
  - Elizabeth: This is just a logistical thing but I think those of us who aren't on FAC can't see your edits because we only have view access.
    - David: I can send it out again.
  - Chlose: When will you be here until for which we can talk to you about?





To my knowledge, I didn't add anything that's breaking the precedent that we've established this year. A lot of the precedent we've established is precedence that I've made. Balance of power wise, those edits probably will not remain in there. Some of these edits might seem a little out there and part of that is me just having a bit of fun and some of that is that some of these regulations were so broken that it fell on me to make them up. Those ways that I came up with are not perfect. So I just invented new things. Things like that are subject to I would say major change. All the things are not final.

### **Cabinet Updates** ~ *Cabinet Liaisons* ~ 3 minutes

- **Belonging & Accessibility**
  - Willow: Recently, I met with Sam from the LSC who had some updates about the C-House and some programming. I don't know if it's already been said but the C-house will be demolished this summer and moved to Summit House. Kagin is going to be renovated to provide more cultural space for cooking and other things. They're implementing a program with the C-House that will allow people to apply to the C-House which used to be the Summit House where 16 people will apply and there will be an international trip aspect of that. If you're interested there should be an application now or later in the Mac Daily. It's a completely new program right now so it's kind of a pilot program to see if it's sustainable. They really want very interested and trustworthy individuals to sign up for the program. Definitely sign up if you're interested. We're looking into creating spaces of belonging on campus and I'll keep you updated.
- **Dining & Residential Life**
  - Galjer: Some quick updates. The new app for Cafe Mac workers to schedule is now up and running. It's a lot better than a spreadsheet so I'm glad we talked about that last semester. I know we also talked last semester about an email address that Cafe Mac workers can specifically reach out to you. That email address has been created so hopefully that will create more communication between Cafe Mac workers and their managers. Also there will be more campus events so keep an eye out if that's something that interests you. For residential life, the study away space that used to be in Summit is now being placed where the dietary committee was. I had a meeting with Kyle on Wednesday. Kyle and Residential Life are meeting with the Macalester laundry vendors in March to work on improving the

quality of the washing machines because a lot of them are old and not working properly. I also recommend students and MCSG to look at the comprehensive campus plan to see the renovations which will take place in the summer. I'm also going to be in contact with Paige, the project director of the Department of Justice office, working on a lead towards stocking up the dorms and houses on campus. I also wanted to say that I've been working alongside a lot of great student leaders and organizers and a lot of this work would not happen without them. As my job as a liaison there's been a lot of big and small, it's an uphill battle, changes as a result of the hard work of these students so thank you.

- Health & Wellness

- Emma: This past week I met with Health Promotion with Rachel and Tiger and we mostly talked about the harm reduction cabinet that Tristan, Emma, and I got started last year. They're still trying to assess how this has changed the usage of Naloxone, so stay tuned for those updates. As well as a harm making cabinet that Tristan and I got started last year. There will be posts Thursday and Friday in the amc daily coming from the Hamre Center that has to do with political changes in the United States. There's also been a change of staffing at Hamre. This is your monthly reminder that they are working on it. Emergency medical records are moving really slowly and they're working on it and hoping that someday soon they'll have it. I'm going to meet with Jan Jacobson from Hamre later next week so if you have any questions please feel free to let me know.

- International Student Liaison

- Laurice: It's good to be back and see your faces. I really hope the Mac Weekly is listening because I hope you will send this message to the international students. Today I had a talk with Britt Nelson at ISP. They had a session with Minnesota International Educators and one of the people who was there was a liaison to the government. This is what they had to say about the recent activities of Trump. We highly urge that international students watch out for any illegal activities. Please be careful and keep an eye on yourself. It seems that everything is under scrutiny. Another thing is that another executive order lays the foundations to deport international students accused of anti-semetic harassment and violence. This could be seen as anything and at Macalester we want people to protest but just please be careful. For international students, please be careful we just don't know what

could happen. Even social media is something that's being taken a look at more carefully especially international students. The liaison to the government said that there are instances where your phone is looked at at the border just to see for national security is what they're calling it. Please we really want to urge international students to be careful and take care of yourselves. I hate to be the person bringing these types of news. Hopefully the international student liaison office will be a space where we can celebrate a little more.

- Athletics & Recreation
  - Ash: I spent a lot of this week with introductions and getting into communication with Queer Athletes at Mac and BIPOC athletes at Mac. I also scheduled meetings with various athletics leadership to help with this transition from fall to spring. Club sports and PB are having a big event next week in Kagin that is also open to the entire student body so there will be more information about that.

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

- AAC
  - Elizabeth: AAC had the first meeting of the sem on Monday and we recapped our newest member Ainsely on our work in the fall. We discussed the parameters of the GSAT grant. We also went over updates with EPAG. Our big work for the semester is getting a meeting with Jen Jacobson to try to offset the costs of the EMT course.
- CEC
  - Mena: CEC has been working on pushing out election communications. We also did some work this morning around campus. We've also been working on brainstorming more social media series to advertise various things that MCSG has been working on and also thinking about planning a major spring event.
- FAC
  - David: FAC had quite a few requests, most of them pretty small. Some of the bigger requests YDSA we saw today. We approved all of them. Macalester Consulting Club requested \$2,000 to take a trip to Harvard to do an African Leadership summit. We also have the Rocketry Club is requesting costs for rockets which makes sense. We approved about \$8,000 to \$9,000.
- SOC

- Alec: SOC went over a few different clubs and we talked about the SOC code and check ins.

**Announcements** ~ 1 minute

- Candidates' Forum ~ *Joel Sadofsky*
  - 7-9pm, JBD
- Retreat February 1st (this Saturday) ~ *Joel Sadofsky*
- Study Away in Israel Update ~ *Tristan Niedzielski*
  - Joel: Tonight from 7-9pm in the JBD is the candidates forum for candidates for FAC Chair, Infrastructure and Sustainability Liaison, and Junior Class Rep. Ballots will open on Friday at 1pm and close at Monday at 1pm. Make sure to vote, make sure to tell your friends about the MCSG election. If you're a senior on EPC or exec board, a reminder that you cannot publicly endorse. What you do privately I don't know about. We also have a retreat the day after tomorrow. Everybody received a G-Cal so if you're new we'd love to see you there with some more food at 11:30am and if you're not new we'd love to see you at 1pm there will be snacks but try to eat beforehand. I can also give Tristan's announcement while I have the mic. I'll also announce the org fair it's 4:30 tomorrow in the Kagin Ballroom. Liv will be there and lots of people will be there. Update on Tristan's behalf is that EPAG and the faculty are moving forward and they will be introducing something to vote on regarding the two study away programs in Israel and they will be introducing that at the February faculty meeting and planning to vote on the March 11th faculty meeting. They're in the Kagin Ballroom from 11:30 to 1pm on one Tuesday every month. Students are allowed to attend if they are not disruptive. Let's not strain that relationship because it's good to be allowed to go.
- First-Year Class Night Volunteers ~ *Aisha Ibrahim*
  - Aisha: I and the other first year reps are organizing the first year class night that will be held tomorrow. We'll need MCSG volunteers to help set up and clean up, especially the afterparty. Wait what! There's no afterparty. Yeah so anyways if you're interested in helping setting up the class night just message me on G-Chat.
  - Liv: It's on the fourth floor of the old main. Ok, that's it.