

Weyerhaeuser Boardroom

February 6th, 2025 | 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 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.

Welcome & Introductions ~ *Ryan Connor* ~ 4 minutes

- Name, pronouns, position
 - Ryan: I wanted to give us some space because we have two new members. We've had a few rounds of introductions already but I want to go around and give us the names, pronouns, and position.
 - Harmony: Hi, I'm Harmony, I use she/her pronouns and I'm a junior class rep.
 - Sam: Hi, I'm Sam, I use he/him pronouns, and I'm the Infrastructure and Sustainability Liaison.


- Joel: Joel, he/they pronouns, I'm the president, and a senior geography major.
- Marina: I'm Marina, she/her, Junior class rep and class lead, and bio major.
- Chloe: Chloe, she/her, I'm a first year rep and probably math and econ.
- Cem: Cem, any pronouns, first year rep, and I'm interested in psychology and maybe political science.
- Aisha: Aisha, first year representative, she/her, likely economics major.
- Cooper: Cooper, they/she pronouns, senior class rep, and political science and anthropology double major.
- Elizabeth: Elizabeth, she/her, senior class rep, and political science major.
- Ainsley: Ainsley, she/her, junior class rep, and political science major.
- Emma: Emma, she/her, health and wellness liaison, junior, and biology and computer science major.
- Ash: Ash, he/him, athletics and recreation liaison, sophomore, psychology and studio art double major.
- Willow: Willow, any pronouns, belonging and accessibility liaison, junior, WGSS and political science double major with a human rights concentration.
- Laurie: Laurie, she/her, MCSG advisor, Executive Director of Center for Student Leadership and Engagement.
- Else: Else, she/her, chief of staff, senior, geography major.
- Emi: Emi, she/her, Associate Director of Center for student leadership and engagement, advisor of AAC, CEC, EPAG.
- Garrett: Garrett, he/him, Coordinator of Student Organizations, advisor of SOC, FAC.
- Tristan: Tristan, they/them, senior, WGSS major, AAC chair.
- Philomena: Philomena, she/her, history major, Cabinet chair.
- Sylvia: Sylvia, she/her, senior class rep, anthropology major.
- Aditya: Aditya, he/him, sophomore class rep, neuroscience and econ major.
- AnLian: AnLain, he/him, sophomore class rep, math major.
- David: David, he/him, sophomore class rep, history major.
- Laurice: Laurice, he/him, sophomore, international student liaison, econ and data science major.
- Galjer: Galjer, she/her, sophomore, dining and residential life liaison, political science major.
- Mathilda: Mathilda, she/her, media and outreach coordinator, senior, econ major.
- Thea: Thea, she/her, sophomore, secretary and treasurer, geography major.
- Alec: Alec, he/him, SOC chair, data science major.

PAG Update ~ Joel Sadofsky ~ 3 minutes

- Joel: I was going to give an update on the President's Advisory Group. The President's Advisory Group I sit on as a student member. The chairs of the staff council, faculty advisor council, alumni board, and parent council all sit on that body and it's supervised by Sara Sueflow. So Sara, President Rivera and the designated representatives of those constituencies all get together and talk about once a month. Recently, we've been talking about Macalester's ability to ensure the safety of its students and itself in response to the various executive branch attacks on higher education, immigration status, international

students, and trans gender students. Lately that's been a place where we've been discussing those things. We've also been discussing everything from Mac Books to divestment to the dining survey. I've been giving updates on MCSG's actions and concerns to President Rivera and all of the other constituencies of the college. I'm happy to be asked questions but I also wanted to explain it more because it can be a good place to direct thoughts and concerns not just to put it on President Rivera's radar but also the radar of these other constituencies. I also want to acknowledge that right now as we're sitting in this meeting there's a protest for immigrant rights at the flagpole. I felt that it was important to call attention to that strong show of community while we're in here and because its relevant to the PAG space. There's also the Provost's Student Advisory Group and we'll have at least one student on the Provost Group either next week or the week after. We'll keep doing these updates periodically.

Updated Financial Code ~ *David Christenfeld* ~ 15 minutes


-  (USE) Draft of Financial Code 2025
 - David: This is just a space for you guys to ask any questions and we're hoping to vote on it. It's been voted on and approved by the FAC. There's still some edits and comments left. So we'll be making edits to those probably later and bringing them back. Also I should say the FAC voted to remove the subpoena and SODC. Does anyone have any questions?
 - AnLian: What's the rationale for the contentive committee and the other removed parts of the FAC code?
 - David: There's many reasons but one is that that's something that already exists with the Judicial Council and CSLE having their own ways to go about that. Also the student disciplinary committee, it didn't seem very appropriate or reasonable for students to hand out punishments to their fellow classmates.
 - Liv: We're going to be doing the speakers list.
 - AnLian: Is there any place to make sure orgs are responding? In SOC there are some orgs that have taken months to charter because they're so unresponsive.
 - David: If orgs aren't responding to FAC emails, it's kind of on them. If they're not responding then their org might not be voted on and then they won't necessarily get the funding approved. It's on them to communicate to get their requests across. If they stop responding during budget season, it'll be cancelled in the budget so, it really only hurts them if they don't respond.
 - Chloe: I have a question about SEction 6 sub clause 3a. In there you talk about how there's an effort to accommodate for the unreliable prices for airfare and lodging expenses and that you would approve items that were requested within 7 days of the event. Say in the unlikely event that prices fluctuate a lot because it was approved close to the day and it went up by double, would you have an amount extra that you can fluctuate?

- David: We've seen small fluctuations in a 7 day period. If we see that it's really close to an event that's something we take into account. If it was going up a significant amount we'd bring it back to the FAC to make sure people are still ok with that much money,
- Elizabeth: For section 11 clause 3a. Emi left a comment. The language says "All submitted requests for additional allocations will be reviewed and voted on by the FAC in a timely and efficient manner which does not impair the operation of any Student Organization." Emi asked "Who is determining whether or not something impairs the operation of a student organization? I could see this becoming contentious language." Did FAC discuss this or what was your resolution to this?
 - David: We haven't done anything with that so far. If there's something that an org needs money for and they're reaching a deadline for registration costs, FAC will try to get that done as soon as possible. I think that part is really trying to help orgs not FAC so that orgs can get their money even if it's a little past their deadline or a little too close to it.
- Ryan: Section 15 for annual renewal, there's a process in place for a failure to renew the financial code within both the FAC and LB. But what's the practical implementation if neither of those orgs review the financial code? It's at the very last page.
 - David: I'm not really sure about that one. Luke added it at the end. I think that's trying to make sure the code doesn't get to the state that it was in. Right now there's nothing that forces the FAC to do and I think this is making sure that that doesn't happen and we don't have to redo the whole thing.
 - Ryan: What's the value of a join session? Whereas this could be resolved outside of LB within FAC on its own. A lot of this editing is within FAC so why now turn to LB for renewal?
 - David: If we want to take it outside of LB we can still do that. There's nothing in the bylaws that says that LB has the right to vote on the code. We can work out how that process goes but right now we want to make sure both the LB and FAC have oversight on that.
- David: I saw a few comments about the At-Large membership of FAC. If anyone has questions about that now would be a good time.
 - Joel: Something to note that feels relevant now is the past precedent is that all of LB would regularly vote to approve the financial code. This last editing has revealed a hole in our documents that we don't actually have that in writing but I'm definitely interested in updating the bylaws to have that in. in upcoming years. As the elected members of MCSG we have the responsibility of overseeing the operations of FAC.
 - David: I think that was a point of contention is that in the bylaws and financial code there's nothing that says that

FAC needs LB approval on the code but almost everybody in FAC decided that that was a needed process and that's why it's here today.

- Ryan: Moving to the At-Large reps. I have some concerns about the number of 6 at large members being more than MCSG members. I know that Luke's comment sort of deals with this but I still see that as an unbalance. What do you see as an applicable justification for this?
 - David: 6 is what we settled at because we want to make sure we have a lot of eyes looking at each request. Having 6 people instead of 5 or 4 people is always helpful having more people looking at allocations that can total up to \$30,000 dollars. As Luke said, I think that the people we're bringing in are representative of the student body and I think if LB wants more input in the At-Large membership that's something we can talk about.
 - Ryan: Just to follow up, if you are going to stick with 6 we need to amend the language in Section 14 because right now it says 4.
- Laurice: I wanted to add and say that given FAC is using a lot of money. I feel like 6 people maximum is justifiable especially if they're part of the community because it gives the chance for the people who are paying for this to have a say.
 - David: I think a lot of it is having people in MCSG but also do we want only MCSG members voting on these bills? I think it's helpful to have at - large members who are separated from MCSG.
- Chloe: This isn't about the code. I'm a bit unclear on the voting process.
 - Liv: We'd be making amendments before we approve the entirety of the code. I'll go over that before it happens.
- Laurie: Does that mean that every time you have to amend this document it has to come in front of LB?
 - David: That's something that we discussed that for smaller grammatical things we would not bring it in front of LB because it doesn't make sense to take up time but for the bigger things, yes.
- Laurice: I motion to approve what's been presented to us today.
- Liv: Ok, just to go over, I would get a motion then a second. Then all those in favor would raise their placards, then all those against, and then abstention. Do I see a second? [seconds]
- IN FAVOR: 22
- OPPOSED: 0
- ABSTAIN: 2

Resolution Calling for Divestment ~ *Tristan Niedzielski* ~ 20 minutes

-  R0016 - Resolution Calling for Institutional Divestment Related to the...
- Discussion
 - Liv: We introduced this resolution last semester so there's just a few edits made.
 - Tristan: For this resolution, most of you have seen pretty much all of it back in November. Before obviously, the that was before the divestment decision came

down. So a few things are worded differently. With this resolution I thought it still important for us to put a message out there that we support a divestment and continue to call the college to divest. Whether it be this year or in 10 years I think it's important to put our name down saying that we support that. I would like to draw your attention to the section down after the companies are listed. There is a couple points where we said "WHEREAS Macalester College Board of Trustees, even within the context of an ongoing genocide, cowardly failed to support Palestinian-led calls for divesting from businesses that materially support Israeli occupation and their apartheid regime" that's the only new full section that's condemning the divestment vote that did happen. The wording has changed in a couple of the therefore sections after that saying that we want a reconsideration and calling for no new investments because they never specifically mentioned that. Unfortunately, we don't have any people here who wrote the resolution but we won't be voting on this today but next week because this is a reintroduced resolution. So if you have any questions about the proposal by Mac for Palestine you might want to hold off until next week for that. Other than that, I'd love some discussion.

- AnLian: So since the Board already voted one way, what are you trying to achieve?
 - Tristan: So I think the goal is to show that we weren't in favor of that vote. I think it's important for the student government to align themselves with the student body in representing the fact that there was a lot of frustration and irritation and frankly disappointment in the Board of Trustees for doing this. And then again, it's asking specifically for something they didn't say anything else as I said the new investments so no new investments in these businesses. Lastly, it is a reconsideration. Yes, they did vote one way and do I expect them to change that vote in one month? No, I don't but I think it's just putting out the message that we just want them to reconsider. We are unhappy with the decision and we want them to reconsider.
- Joel: I wanted to add some historical context from the Fossil Free at Mac campaign. This was the movement that led to a pledge of no new investments in a set of major fossil fuel companies. For those of you who haven't read anything about this campaign there are several pamphlets in the Student Affairs suite. In the pamphlet it tells the story of the projection of initial divestment and then a narrower, less sweeping but still significant and real partial divestment being achieved due to that movement. I hope that's helpful to know.
- Liv: Anyone else have anything to add or say? Ok. That was us introducing the divestment proposal. Prepare to vote on it next week. We'll move onto the agenda.

Cabinet Updates ~ *Cabinet Liaisons* ~ 7 minutes

- Dining & Residential Life
- Health & Wellness

- Emma: I met with Jen Jacobsen and we talked about Hamre's priorities moving forward. Keep an eye out for some posts in the Mac Daily about some health information. I'll be meeting with some other offices and departments so if you have any questions about Hamre, Health Promotions or the Title IX office, please let me know.
- **International Student Liaison**
 - Laurice: This week was pretty fun. We managed to come up with a committee. This semester one thing we want to do is create an event that celebrates internationalism at Macalester. We came up with a planning committee for this event. For now we'll call it the International Festival. We have two from PB and two from ISP so these are the campus divisions that'll be working on this. It'll be a great event and we'll just showcase the cultures and nations we have on campus. Hopefully that'll be something you enjoy. ISP hired a new service specialist Laurie O'Brien. That's a great step towards us international students feeling safer because that's a specialist that all these F-1 visas and the other institutions are being watched. I highly recommend international students take a look at that. I also want to say that all the people in ISP are doing a fantastic job.
- **Athletics & Recreation**
 - Ash: One thing to highlight is that club athletes have the opportunity of basic first aid and taping training in the next week. I have a meeting with Steve Murray about more about that and potentially having club athlete leaders potentially have that required especially without coaches or athletic trainers present.
- **Infrastructure & Sustainability**
- **Belonging & Accessibility**
 - Willow: Just a small update, I've talked with the WGSS department and potentially a partnership with LSC to create places of belonging on campus because the world is a scary place right now for many people and we're figuring out the logistics of how that will work. I'm excited to keep figuring that out and working on that project.

Committee Updates ~ *Committee Members* ~ 3 minutes

- **CEC**
 - Mena: CEC is preparing for the next election, doing social media, and chalk and potentially table. Also coming out with the member spotlights.
- **FAC**
 - David: We voted on a few requests. We passed a large one for some people to go to Chicago. We also have some from MacBike who's hoping to hire someone to give a presentation on how to fix bikes.
- **SOC**
 - AnLian: We're currently in the process of chartering a few clubs. We're also finalizing the SOC code and working on a template to send out emails for our orgs check ins.
- **AAC**

- Ainsley: We decided on dates on midterms Coffee and Donuts events and Redbull and Ramen during finals. We also discussed the GSAT grant and we decided to accept 15 student applications and distribute \$175 per student. This would increase the GSAT grant request from \$5,000 to \$5,250 and we do intend on writing a bill to reflect that grant request change. We talked about starting discussions with EPAG regarding pass/fail for study abroad and the possibility of making that the default rather than normal grades. We also talked about redistributing money for abroad programs that cost less than Macalester's tuition.

Announcements ~ 1 minute

- Make sure your office hours are updated on the [MCSG Gcal!](#) ~ *Else*
 - Else: Since it's a new semester if you have office hours that are changing please just invite the MCSG Gcal and then we'll make a list of the hours.
 - Joel: Because we elected David to be our FAC chair on a non interim basis congratulations david. We get to have another special election. If you think our election rules could be changed, you are not alone. Filing will open tomorrow morning and our fourth junior rep positions and our sophomore rep position vacated by David will be open for filing.
 - Gabe: There's a Board or Trustees meeting on February 28th. It's all digital but if you have concerns or something to talk about please email me and I'll be having office hours over there.
 - Ryan: Just to wrap this up, we have an extra 25 minutes and there is a protest outside. I'm not saying anyone should or should not be there but just to let you know it is right outside by the flagpole. So, meeting adjourned.