

Weyerhaeuser Boardroom

February 20th, 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's 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.

Committee Updates ~ 10 minutes

- Student Employment Advisory Committee (SEAC)
 - Noah: Just talking about the things we've been doing there. Most recently there's now a tracker for student hours for student employees. Before, students wouldn't know how many hours they had left in their

reward. Now they'll get email updates and the first one went out this February. We're looking into our Instagram presence and having a Student Employee of the Year award nominated by supervisors and then the committee would choose and it would go up on the Instagram page and maybe have a little bio or something. Spring Bloom which is more for faculty and staff and it's a training seminar and it took place in May last year. That's the main things.

- Liv: Any questions? Ok, thank you.
- Educational Policy and Governance (EPAG)
 - Anna: A couple things we as a committee have been working on. First academics we've been going over department reviews and responses. That includes the French department, Latin American Studies, WGSS, Ed Studies and a couple more to name a few. The regular is course efficiency for the course catalog which you'll start seeing once we register for classes. Most exciting is the experimental FYCs for next year. The collaboration between staff and faculty. For the Mac for Palestine proposal. As you might know it's been in discussion with EPAG from the SRC. It's been in discussion since last semester so it's been the brunt of what we've been spending our time on. We've been doing discussion and dialogue with affected constituencies on campus. So, Shanti Frietas from Study Away, Rabbi Kelly Stone and Rabbi Emma Kippley-Ogman and then the Classical Middle East department, as well as President Rivera, Mac for Palestine and J Street. In discussion of ways to move forward we determined that our committee is divided with no consensus. It was brought to the faculty at the February meeting where there was also a motion for discussion. Looking ahead to the March faculty meeting and there's not much more to comment on because this is something we're actively working on. Thank you.
- Student Success and Retention Committee
 - Laurice: I'm here to speak about the Student Success and Retention Committee. This is a completely new committee with people from a lot of different departments. I'm the only student on it but there's people from Athletics and ISP, a lot of different parts of the school. Our goal is to figure out how we can make Mac better for students to be able to stay and when they leave they feel they had an enriching experience. One thing we discussed in our first meeting last week is looking at how we can become better student servers for our community. We're looking at students who do leave, why do they

leave and how do they leave? How do we make sure people's needs are met at Macalester? Another question is how can we make it so it's not just a positive outcome but also a cultural enrichment for the student. How do you make a person better when they leave Macaelster? We've just started so probably the next time I speak about it I'll have way more to talk about.

Chartering of Go Club ~ *Chloe Xu* ~ 5 minutes

- **☰ Charter of Go Club**

- Chloe: Hi everyone. We've recently voted to approve Go Club's charter. Go Club plays the board game Go which is a traditional Chinese board game also called Weiqi. There's a significant cultural association with this game so we thought it distinct enough to have its own club separate from the Board Games club.
- Trevor: This is a game that's prevalent to China, South Korea, and Japan. It's a game kind of like chess where it may seem that you will win but if you make a mistake then it'll reverse. I would say it's pretty fun and it can be a little time consuming. It can last two to four hours. I really want to create this club because three years ago when I was a first year student I was really interested in this board game. When I came here I found that no one here is interested or playing this game so I really want to get this specific kind of culture because it represents a kind of spirit for both committee and the specific culture in east asia especially China, Korea, and Japan. This would show the cultural and spiritual linkage between these countries and between these people would get a closer look at this culture.
- Chloe: Go Club came to us last semester so it's been going through this process for a long time. It's been finalized quite a few times, we've met with quite a few people.
- Laurice: Motion to approve the charter of Go Club. [second]
 - IN FAVOR: 22
 - OPPOSED: 0
 - ABSTAIN: 0

Bill for Special Elections ~ *AnLian Krishnamurthy* ~ 12 minutes

- **☰ MCSG Special Election Amendment**

- AnLian: After presenting this last week I've taken into consideration a lot of the ideas I heard and changed a couple things. The main change is the appointment process would only work in the spring semester so

if a vacancy were to open in the fall there'd still be a special election but if it was in the spring then a presidential nomination would be allowed to fill it for the rest of the school year.

- Liv: Comments?
 - Chloe: Could you tell me who's eligible for the presidential nomination?
 - AnLian: Anyone in the student body in general. We don't want it to be closed off to just MCSG members. I've made it pretty clear that the opening should be publicly announced.
 - David: From what we've seen this year with the amount of specific elections. For FAC specifically, it's just made it impossible to operate without an influx of members so I think something like this would be good because we just need to get more members in.
 - Joel: I had some concerns last week but based on how this has changed the appointment process to the spring semester and including the clause about the EPCs ability to overrule I can say as someone who's doing the most with these elections, I can support this iteration of the bill.
 - Elizabeth: I have a procedural question. For public announcement, would it just come out from the PEC email to student announce?
 - AnLian: I didn't specifically say that but I made it pretty clear that MCSG should use all methods they have to make the announcement public.
 - Lina: The president has direct nomination of someone and the LB has to approve them. What if LB doesn't approve the nominee?
 - AnLian: I said the president has 3 nominations before a special election has to happen.
 - Marina: Do you view this as an expansion of the presidential powers or does the way it would be in practice wouldn't expand the power?
 - AnLian: I don't think it's an expansion of presidential power because there's a huge check with the $\frac{2}{3}$ LB approval.
 - Ryan: Also there's also another check that $\frac{1}{2}$ of the EPC can call a special election at any time without presidential

approval. It's not like they can pick someone random and the EPC doesn't have a say.

- Cooper: I'm going to express a very unpopular opinion but I think at the very least we should have a filing process. I think if it's an uncontested election then it's fine but I think if people want to compete then people should be able to vote.
- Philomena: I have a clarifying question about the part about exec part positions. Is the president appointing an interim officer of exec that's not the same as them appointing a nominee? Could you clear that up?
 - AnLian: This was added because when Luke decided to take the semester off we needed an FAC chair to make things run. So, if there can't be a permanent nominee then the president has the right to nominate someone just to keep things running. There's some positions we need to make the government work.
- Joel: I want to respond to Cooper's point. I agree we should have restrictions on presidential power which is why I'm glad we have the checks and balances of LB and EPC override. I think this shrinks the presidential workload in a way that would let me do far more valuable things for the student body over the last three weeks then monitor the EPC email, write EPC email after EPC email, answer a million questions about the violations after the special election that was triggered by a special election where people who didn't file in the first special election file in the second special election. I think this provides a happy medium between the ridiculous status quo where we look ridiculous to the student body because we have four special elections in the semester and the Mac Weekly flames us.
- Laurice: My only concern is that this is a back way into MCSG. Everyone who's sitting here had to go through a process where everyone had to go through a process where everyone voted for them to get in. If we now allow a process where you're not voted to get it, it kind of makes me question the integrity of everyone in the room. I understand that special elections are very frustrating and it's happened a lot, but at the same time an unelected official versus an elected official, is there consistency?

- AnLian: I agree that's a good point but I'll say that we kind of already have backdoor ways into MCSG. We have FAC and SOC AT-Large members.
- Tor: I have a question about the process for the president selecting a nominee. The way you envision it, would it be if people are interested in being a nominee they would email or talk to the president in person? It wouldn't be a form they'd just reach out to the president one way or another?
 - Anlian: Yeah.
- David: To respond to the question about the back door in MCSG, I feel like all of us as elected officials are elected by the student body so if we were elected between ourselves between somebody then that should itself be a representative of the student body. I feel like we do represent the study body pretty well.
- Ryan: I would like to say this does not have to be the default option for a spring semester vacancy. At any point a special election can still be called. The president can still say that we should have a special election even if it's April 8th. If you look at this from a logistical standpoint where it could be April this is where it could be applied and not really seen as a backway into MCSG.
- Chloe: I think this is a great idea in terms of saving energy and being efficient. Right now, I think it's dangerous to think of us and people who are elected in and only that. I don't think this means we should completely cut off contact with the student body either.
 - AnLian: I agree and I think this bill tries its hardest to not do that.
- Laurice: In response to Ryan, if it's April and we've gone this far with a vacancy I'd argue that an additional member wouldn't be necessary for the three, four remaining weeks. Also, it's a matter of for the election that just happened. We had a person who got banned for doing the wrong procedures and now we're saying that there's a way that you don't have to do the procedures to get in. That makes me question the integrity of MCSG. In terms of At large, they don't vote, they just come in and help. They don't vote on things. The people who vote on

things are the people that everyone else outside this room say “yes, we want this person to represent us.”

- Cooper: Yeah. He just said a lot of what I was thinking. At-Large members are not a part of LB. All of us in LB with voting powers have been voted in themselves. The problem of not having a position filled we have interim positions for that if a position is necessary to be filled. I understand special elections are frustrating but I also think it's a process that should be followed. I also understand the concerns about having it at the end of the semester but I feel like it would be more acceptable saying like starting April 1 there would be no special elections but if someone were to leave today we still have two more months left. I think it's important to still have a process and I'd be very in support if there's uncontested elections to not have the vote set out but if multiple people want the position I don't think EPC or the president should have the power to appoint.
- Emi: Just a technical point FAC At-Large members do vote. They are appointed by FAC and will vote on allocations. They don't vote in the larger LB but just so you know.
- Ryan: I think this process would eliminate having long term vacancies but I think if we were able to go out and appoint people we wouldn't have those long term vacancies. If you look at it from an efficacy standpoint where this is not the first option. Special elections are still the priority and we're still going to prioritize student voices when we can but there are extenuating circumstances where an appointment will be necessary.
- Elizabeth: In terms of circumstances where an appointment would make more sense, I really do understand the concerns about this being less democratic because I think it's really important that we're as democratic as possible. The reasons that Mac Daily wrote about us is there was a senior representative election last year in which six write-in votes determined who would sit on MCSG. Honestly, I don't know if that's any more democratic than an appointment. I think this would be much easier on the president and everyone on EPC.
- Emma: I think another thing to consider that everyone is kind of tiptoeing around is that most elections are uncontested. It's

taken until February to fill the junior rep positions. I think because you have EPC, LB, and the president all have the ability to trigger a special election instead of an appointment. If there are 74 people who want to run for a vacancy, great. Again, there are three different ways that all of those agencies can decide that a special election could be better. So, I don't think it necessarily risks that democratic process because frankly it's not happening right now even when we are running elections.

- Cem: My question is directly to AnLian because I am in favor of this amendment as long as it's done correctly. There was someone who was running but then was removed for not filing out the correct procedures. Are there any procedures for the nominee to be chosen by the LB president? Is there a procedure for that and will the special elections still come first as a priority or will this be a last resort?
 - AnLian: To your first point I think it's up to LB what we think of the conduct of the person who wants to take the role. I know the junior rep candidate broke the rules but in the end we decided he broke the rules so in the end it's up to us to decide who we're appointing. I think it's whatever in the future we end up making it. There's obviously going to be special elections in the fall but in the spring it'd be up to LB.
 - Laurice: My thing is if we were in a position where we had this my only worry is that I'm concerned that it becomes a way in which the president's homies get into LB. If the nomination is being made by the president it becomes more of a head hunting thing. Right now we appeal to the student body if we ask people to file. Yes, it will make it easier but is it the right thing?
 - AnLian: I think the president appointing their homies won't happen because of the checks I put in place.
 - Marina: I wanted to remind everyone that it's really important to read the bills because I think that these questions would've been more specific if people had read it all the way through.
 - Aisha: There's no special elections being held in the spring semester, if two people or multiple people decide

to run for the position, who would the president decide to nominate just the person who would be more qualified?

- AnLian: I think the LB should be made aware that there's two candidates interested and it's up to the president to decide if they want to nominate first. At the end of the day they still need $\frac{2}{3}$ of the LB to approve it.
- Ryan: These questions about who would we pick if there are multiple nominees is exactly why we need this. If there's more than one nominee then there's a special election if there's one person then there's an appointment.
- Cooper: See, if that's what the bill said then I'd support it. But that's not what it says. I think it should say that if there's multiple candidates it turns to a vote. I think if there's multiple people then the only people to decide that is the student body.
 - AnLian: I think that's one interpretation of the bill but a future LB could also interpret it as special elections being the last resort. It kind of depends on who's in power.
- Philomena: Follow up question about what I asked earlier about section 4 about the difference between the person the president appoints and then the nominee. What's the difference between the appointed interim position and then the official nominee?
 - AnLian: The appointed interim is to make things run smoothly and then the official nominee is for the rest of the year. I guess for some positions the interim person could get removed?
 - Philomena: Ok that makes sense. I'm looking at Section 3.2 c iiiii. I don't know if there are other points where it would have to be added but I want to make a small amendment that it would include cabinet liaisons too.
 - Liv: Do I see a second? [second] The amendment passes.

- Cem: I wanted to throw this out for the general LB but is there a concern of the president to overuse his or her power. If the LB is still the people who are voting on the final position why not just leave it to the LB in the first place where the people who have applied for the special election that didn't fall through then goes to an election via the LB or the LB members that it concerns whether that be the sophomores, unions. Why still have the president? Why not cut out the middle person?
 - AnLian: Having the president means its one person instead of having a bunch of people fight over who to nominate. The president was also voted in and tends to get the most voter turn out from the studnet body so that's why I chose that. If a sophomore rep opened up and it was just left up to the sophomore class rep, that's an even smaller sample size. Is that what you meant?
 - Cem: I'm unclear what you're asking. What do you mean smaller sample size when there are four people making the decision rather than one person?
 - AnLian: Well, no. One person is not making the decision. One person is nominating but the whole LB is voting.
- Ryan: I motion to amend section 7.1 d point ii "Special elections shall remain the primary mechanism for filling vacancies. Appointments shall be used sparingly and as a result of conversation between the MCSG President, EPC, and LB."
 - Liv: Second?
 - IN FAVOR: 23
 - OPPOSED: 0
 - ABSTAIN: 1
- Ryan: I also motion to pass this Special Election Amendment to the Election Code and the Bylaws.
- Liv: Second? [second]
 - IN FAVOR: 19
 - OPPOSED: 3
 - ABSTAIN: 1
 - Liv: The bill passes.

Resolution to Alter BoT Liaison Guidelines ~ Tor Olsson ~ 10 minutes


-  R0017 - Resolution to Strengthen Transparency with the Board of Tru...

- Gabe: Hi, I'm Gabe, I'm the student liaison to the Board of Trustees. I've been working with Tor on this resolution which he brought to me last fall. This bill is to increase transparency between the Board and the student body which includes some changes to my role but also making sure there are publicly available summaries of the Board meetings and adding to part of this role's responsibilities.
- Tor: I want to thank Gabe for suggesting revisions on this bill and just providing feedback and input throughout this year-long process and a culmination of my four years in MCSG. I talked about the bill last LB meeting and I can share more about it or clarify any points but I'm here to take any last questions or concerns right now. I'm hoping to vote on this today if possible.
- Marina: Motion to approve this bill. [second]
 - IN FAVOR: 23
 - OPPOSE: 0
 - ABSTAIN: 2
 - Liv: The resolution passes.
 - Tor: I will keep all of you guys updated since this bill is basically just a bunch of asks for the SLT and the Board of Trustees. Thank you guys.

Cabinet Updates ~ Cabinet Liaisons ~ 7 minutes

- International Student
 - Laurice: Thank you so much. This week was very eventful. We finally created the committee and had our very first meeting for the WorldFest. It's coming up and I hope you're excited for it. The first meeting was very fun. I have meetings coming up with Joanna Curits to see if we could get alumni to it and a bunch of other meetings to make it happen. ISP is preparing on taxes and stuff like that. Things seem like it's going well so it's very fun times.
- Health & Wellness
 - Emma: Not a whole lot. I'm trying to get Paige who's our DOJ health coordinator here. I know there were some questions that were more appropriate for Paige when Rachel was here but there's some chaos happening in the world so we'll see what's going to happen.
- Athletics & Recreation
 - Ash: I met with Serve and Felicia and we talked about establishing first aid roles within captains and leaders within athletics. Also, streamlining information on the website for recreation specifically

about schedules and continuous updates for captains and stuff like that.

- Infrastructure & Sustainability
 - Sam: Yesterday I went on a tour of facilities with the head of sustainability and someone from facilities. We toured the heating and cooling plant and I learned a lot about that and will have a meeting with Megan Butler at some point about that. I had a meeting with the dining liaison and we're going to have a meeting with someone from cafe mac to talk about safety and stuff like that.
- Belonging & Accessibility
 - Willow: I want to remind people of the C-House applications which are due on February 24th, so in four days. It's a really cool opportunity to live in the C-House and go on a delegation to Cuba over J-Term. It's a new program that the LSC is launching and it would be really great to be part of the pilot program of the C-House and it would be really great to get more engagement and involvement in that.
- Dining & Residential Life
 - Questions for Kyle Flowers 2/27
 -  Questions for Kyle Flowers
 - Else: Galjer's not here this week but Kyle Flowers, the head of Res Life is coming next week so if you have any questions just add them to the link in the agenda.

Committee Updates ~ *Committee Members* ~ 3 minutes

- CEC
 - Mena: CEC has been working on election communications, social media campaigns, and we're hoping to plan an Exec Town Hall.
- FAC
 - Aditya: A light week for FAC. We had one request over \$2,000 for Fillapinos at Mac (FAM) and we have smaller requests from Mac Share and Outing Club. We approved all our requests and we talked about meeting with our respective clubs.
- SOC
 - Chloe: We tabled voting on E-Sports and we voted on Go Club. We've been focusing on check ins and emails have been sent out to our orgs. We talked about updating the website and its format and working on and finalizing the SOC code.
- AAC

- Elizabeth: We're waiting on hearing from the Serie Center on appointing a student representative on their committee. We're waiting on financial aid and administration to finalize discussions on equalizing study way costs and making sure people aren't overpaying for study away. Lina has been sitting on CIC which is discussing the U.S. ID and internationalism requirements. So far there's been a lot of debate in the faculty as expected so, glad Lina is there so, thank you. We're also planning our Coffee and Donuts on March 5th.
- Cabinet
 - Philomena: We approved \$659 for Doja Explore which is a biotech seminar from the community chest fund. Joel and I attended the BoT Admission and Financial Aid Committee on Tuesday. They talked about challenges about admissions to Mac mostly because of competition with other small liberal arts schools but also larger public institutions. They were talking about how low need students are able to pay more of the full tuition and admitting those students allows Mac to accept more higher need students to whom Mac gives more financial aid. So, they were talking about what Macalester can do to make Mac more attractive for those low need students so they can continue to provide the same services and continue to uphold economic diversity at Macalester.

Announcements ~ 2 minutes

- Graduation resolution update ~ *Ryan*
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- Fundraising ~ *Joel*
 - If you want to be involved in the fundraising working group please let me know by the end of tomorrow so we can schedule a meeting. I got some responses from the Mac student body from the Mac Daily posts that went out twice this week. If you're interested you are not committing to doing lots of fundraising work. You're just committing to having more eyes on the decision. So, please let me know
- LB at 11:30 (or 11:45am?) on 2/27 ~ *Joel*
 - Joel: Also, how many of y'all have read Rivera's new email about the Dear Colleague letter from the DOE? She announces an opening part of the strategic planning implementation session next Thursday from 12:30 to 1pm. Something we were wanting to explore is the feasibility of starting LB early at 11:30 or 11:45 so we'll be reaching out to see

how feasible that is. Can you raise your hand if you can't do 11:30 to 12:30.

- Laurice: I'd be late.
- Joel: We'll also reach out for email. Currency, plan on it, we'll reach out over email. Also, there's a separate session for students specifically with Student Affairs and Institutional Equity on 5:30 in Weyerhaeuser on the same day.
- If you spend money, email receipts to mcs@macalester.edu ~ *Else*
 - Else: If you are spending any of MCSG's money and you have receipts please make sure you are sending those in so we can get those accounted for.
 - Mathilda: MCSG got approved to bring in emotional support mini therapy ponies in April which I'm really excited for. If you're interested in helping organize and plan any of that, please reach out to me.