

Weyerhaeuser Boardroom

February 22, 2024 | 12:00 PM CST



MACALESTER COLLEGE
STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Legislative Body Meeting Minutes

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

Transparency Improvements ~ *Mariah Loeffler-Kemp* ~ 5 minutes

- I have been working on a few behind the scenes projects with admin before announcing them publicly
- Tuition increases
 - A few weeks ago, I met with a few other student body presidents from the area
 - They were talking about how each spring, their administration sends an email each time the tuition raises
 - This email explains why and where the money is going
 - We don't do this at Macalester yet, but we reached out to Patricia Langer, the Vice President for Administration and Finance, to see if this could be something Macalester can begin to implement
 - She agreed, so we sat down together and made a timeline and plan
 - We should get this email at the end of March or beginning of April
 - It will be sent to students, and possibly faculty, staff, and parents

- We will also invite her to come to one of our LB meetings to explain this in person and to provide more clarification
 - This is something we are really excited about
- Student handbook
 - We have gotten a lot of questions about this in the last year because some things have been changed throughout the years, so we have been talking to Kathryn Kay Coquemont and Javier Gutierrez about this
 - Making a student-based committee to help decide on Student Handbook changes
 - Any time there are big student handbook changes, we have asked them to come present them to LB
 - This will allow for more question and answer

MUWU Resolution Discussion ~ *Mariah Loeffler-Kemp* ~ 20 minutes

- We have also been working on how to support the Macalester Student Union
 - And so we wrote up this resolution, and I've been working directly with some representatives from the union, so they've had their eyes on it, they've approved it, and they think this will be really helpful for advocating for them
 - The beginning is kind of like a definition of how the union describes themselves and then talking about what they're advocating for and how they can increase more student voices in decision-making
 - Administration has agreed to sign a neutrality agreement stating that they will not shut down the union
 - Next step is recognition
 - This could be voluntary recognition from administration, or it could be sending in union cards
 - If you get 30% of the workers to sign up cards, you can send it to the NLRB, the National Labor Relations Board, and collect and hold a secret ballot election
 - If you get 50% plus one of that election then the union happens
 - This union wants to have more than 50% before sending in their cards to demonstrate that the majority of people want a union to happen
 - What they're also advocating for is that once they hit that 50% plus one, the college grants them voluntary recognition instead of having to go through the election process

- This would avoid the election process, which is important because it is sometimes difficult to get out the vote
- In the resolution, we ask the college to grant voluntary recognition once we get 50% plus one of the union cards, which would avoid an NLRB election
 - Once this is recognized, the union is just asking for good-faith bargaining
 - This ensures workers are being treated well
- The goal is to vote on this either this week or next week
 - We want to have enough time to look at this resolution and make amendments if we want
 - For right now, we are just going to open the floor for questions and discussion
- Questions
 - Sophia N: If the college recognizes the union, does that mean it exists and that bargaining will happen?
 - Mariah: This would mean that the union exists and would get fair bargaining
 - Sophia: What happens next?
 - Mariah: Yeah, so again, I'm not a member. I'm not like a leader of the Union. So this is all coming from conversations with them. But I mean, right now, the focus is getting the union in place so that they can have a chance to reach out to the whole student worker group and figure out what those actual specific demands are
 - It is important to create the government and the space first before fully describing what the goals are
 - This being said, it is important that Cafe Mac workers are getting paid what they should be, so this will be a large goal of the union
 - There have also been many people who haven't been able to reach their full award that has been offered to them without working insane hours
 - One idea is potentially increasing pay and decreasing hours

- These are just some ideas
- Tor O: What are some of the anticipated pushbacks from the college?
 - Mariah: Having to have an NLRB secret election rather than voluntary recognition is the first barrier
 - Overall, we know our admin and we know that they are not bad people
 - The only thing is just financial barriers and how we will be able to support all asks from students
- AnLian K: In the bargaining process, who is going to represent the students?
 - Mariah: There are already lawyers working with the union
 - The union is also planning to join a larger union organization
 - Some students will also help the lawyer decide what to fight for
- Jordan G: There have been talks about this new money coming from the endowment, but from what I have heard, money from the endowment is not easily used and is more for emergencies
 - If we just increased wages and decreased hours, it might make things harder for Cafe Mac full-time workers
 - MUWU is a loud and well-organized group, but it may not represent what all students actually want
 - How do we know we are amplifying the right voices?
 - Mariah: Honestly, this is all stuff where we won't know what it actually looks like until we come to it. And that's part of the scary part about organizing and advocacy for students
- Eliora H: I just want to speak to the financial part of that question. I want to be clear, I'm like a huge supporter of the union and I think that it really benefits students. But I do think that when they were talking last week about just tapping the mysterious surplus, I don't think they were trying to mislead us, but I don't think it's entirely accurate
 - So we have a couple of funding sources. There's tuition, there's the endowment, and what we do with the endowment is we take part of it each year, my memory is that it's about five-ish percent, we take that and then it

just comes out to so many million dollars that goes in tuition. There is some money Macalester extracts from nearby property

- We do also have unrestricted reserves, but those are for emergencies, or for things like capital expansion, like what we're seeing with the comprehensive campus plan
- We don't have untapped fiscal resources to generate new revenue
- My suspicion is that union bargaining efforts will lead to slight tuition increases
 - These tuition increases are more likely to impact students who can already afford this
 - Most student workers are more likely to be have more complex financial aid packages anyway and would already be getting reduced tuition
- Joel S: Speaking to the special needs of Cafe Mac, some people have expressed interest in having workers from different sections representing themselves in the union
 - We can't know what this would look like without the union forming, but as long as we keep our voices in that process and continue to express these concerns throughout the process, the structures of the union can be well-equipped to handle these needs
 - Mariah: Unions are very representative and will let all voices be heard
- Alec C: The idea that if you are serving the lowest population you will be serving everyone else is more complicated
 - What we are missing is the middle
 - When the middle class is given these same opportunities, there will be disillusionment
 - Has the college considered cutting spending anywhere?
 - Mariah: I am not the college admin so I will not speak to that, but I trust their decisions to spend money in ways that make the most sense
 - Eliora: Just really quickly, a lot of the reason that we are spending the money that we do is to remain competitive with the colleges in our Peer 40 group
 - Cutting spending disadvantages us
- Emma K: What does the process of Macalester verifying our union cards look like?

- Mariah: To sign a card, you had to share a lot of information such as emails, phone numbers, and addresses
 - The college will likely just verify this information
- Mikayla G: I don't know the best time for this, but I think we should table this until next week when we have more time to talk to other students more before making any big decisions
 - Mariah: We have a few more minutes for questions before we motion
- Andrew S: Both you and the union representative were talking about different pay tiers for student workers
 - I worry that this means that people who can't afford to be paid less will be stuck in much more difficult and unpleasant jobs, while students who don't need an extra \$2 an hour will have better jobs that will be more helpful on a resume
 - How monolithic are these goals, and how much room for dissent is there?
 - Mariah: I would argue that we are already set up like that and that the union can only support us to disband that more
 - Hopefully everybody's wages will be raised in a way that works for everyone, but I think this is already just an issue in work study
 - It is important to start the union before deciding what your platform is
 - To make your voice heard, you have to let the union begin
- Vote
 - Emma R: I motion to table this resolution until next week
 - Emma K: Second
 - In favor: 25
 - Abstaining: 0
 - Opposed: 0
 - Reagan: The resolution has been tabled until next week


Give to Macalester Days Presentation ~ *Emma Kopplin* ~ 15 minutes

- Emma: Today we have two guests from the Give to Macalester Fund
- Abbey Kamin and Liz from MacFund
 - Liz: Whoever arranged this agenda, thank you so much because this is the perfect segway
 - You may or may not be aware that there are three main sources of funding
 - Tuition payments are 65% of what keeps the college going

- As as February 9, we were 65% percent of the way through the school year
 - If we didn't have any more money at this time, we wouldn't be able to continue
 - We also have the Endowment and the philanthropy of the Macalester Fund
- Liz: How many gifts were made to the Mac Fund in 2023?
 - Eliora: Approximately 8000
 - Liz: Yes, 8,018
 - This philanthropy is the third leg that keeps Macalester going
 - Eliora: We also extract some rent from the properties in the area that we own, correct?
 - Liz: Yes, that is correct
 - This is called the Highlands Fund
 - Macalester decided in the 1950s that we should invest in the community around us and have the people who work at the school also live nearby
 - At their peak, Macalester owned 300 properties, but we have sold many as the neighborhood became more desirable
- Eleanor: What is the percentage of the yearly budget that the Mac Fund produces?
 - Abbey: Don't have the exact number, but the Mac Fund is 5-7% of the money at Mac
 - Liz: It depends on the year
- Abbey: Give to Macalester Days are the main avenues through which we get these donors
 - This is an annual giving campaign that you can all be a part of
 - We are also one of the largest student employers
 - GTMDs is the annual giving campaign when all parts of the Mac community come together to raise money and celebrate all of the great things about Macalester
 - Parents, students, staff, and faculty participate
 - Fundraising event is March 27-March29
 - We have multiple hubs on campus, one in the CC, one in LC, and one in JWall
 - There is cotton candy
 - People can support everything that makes Mac great

- Athletics, program support, racial equity support, financial aid, student emergency aid, and faculty support
- Liz: To incentivize people to give, students can donate five dollars and the Board will donate \$100
 - GiveCampus will keep track of this
- Abbey: Matches and Challenges
 - Young people donate \$5 and the Board will donate \$100
 - Young alums give \$25 to a certain department, and the board would decide where the matches will go
 - Likely, matches will go to SupportItAll
- Liz: How can you help?
 - You just paid tuition, so thank you
 - It is really meaningful to people to see that students care about this institution's future
 - Makes donors feel generous
 - Giving a gift through GTMDs is a good way to honor people who have helped you along your day
 - You can make a \$5 gift in honor of someone, and the college will notify that person
 - Increase visibility, make videos about why GTMDs is important
 - If there is interest here, we can help you all coordinate a video
- Questions:
 - Emma K: Does the SupportItAll fund get split equally between all groups?
 - Liz: This money is put where it is needed to support any area of Macalester that needs it the most

FAC Request Approval ~ *Eliora Hansonbrook* ~ 6 minutes

- Eliora: We have one normal request and one special request
-  questbridge-exchange-chicago-trip-2024-17-2-021931.pdf
 - We received a request for \$1611.13 from the travel fund for Questbridge
 - Normally, we wouldn't bring this to you, but the total request for this org was more than \$4000
 - Mikayla: Why are we voting on this again? It is under \$4000
 - Last week we approved something for the same trip, and this makes it over \$4000 in total for the same organization

- Vote
 - Tristan: I motion to approve the allocation of \$1611.13 from the travel fund for Questbridge's trip to Chicago
 - Andrew: Second
 - In favor: 24
 - Abstaining: 0
 - Opposed: 0
 - Reagan: With that, the allocation of \$1611.13 from the travel fund for Questbridge's trip to Chicago has been approved
- Funds Transfer Authorization – Up to \$5000.00 from Capital to Travel
 - Want authorization from LB to move up to \$5000 from the Capital fund to the Travel Fund
 - This would help us if we get more requests, and we want to have a little bit of overhead
- Any questions?
 - Tristan: Would any money in the Travel Fund that doesn't get spent would just do a normal rollover at the end of the year?
 - Eliora: Yes, but we also wouldn't move all of this at once, just as needed
 - Philomena: How much is in the Capital Fund?
 - Eliora: \$17,000, approximately, and it is our least utilized fund
 - Vote
 - Emma K: I would like to move to authorize FAC to transfer up to \$5000 from the Capital fund to the Travel Fund
 - Second: Willow
 - In Favor: 24
 - Abstaining: 0
 - Opposed: 0
 - Reagan: The motion passes

Committee and Cabinet Updates ~ *Committee Members* ~ 3 minutes

- Eliora: FAC onboarded our new members
 - Getting ready for Budget Bonanza, getting new requests, and working on dealing with depletion of Travel Fund

- Tristan: AAC met with Associate Director, Alumni & Parent Engagement for Career Exploration Tamo Lucero
 - We discussed a pilot of the meetaway networking fair specifically for us in MCSG
 - We'll communicate with all of you shortly about scheduling a time for this
 - Please let us know what times work for you when we send this out so people show up
 - Other pilot groups include ScotsLead with athletics and institutional equity for a queer-alumni and student-focused pilot
 - We also discussed changes to MacConnect and we may be seeking a student to join a committee on changes to MacConnect.
 - Last Thursday EPAG finalized a set of questions about the automatic textbook billing contract
 - Patricia Langer meets with EPAG on 2/29.
 - Tomorrow we will meet and finalize a message to GSAT Program targeted stakeholders and discuss potential questions to propose to CEC for the student survey formerly run by SSRC.
 - Additionally, MCSG Executive Board approved Riley Hodin to fill the vacant appointed EPAG student representative position
 - While outreach could have been more comprehensive, Joel's rationale was that we should have this position filled ASAP due to the time-sensitive conversations happening on EPAG right now surrounding issues such as the textbook contract and the ad-hoc curricular committee.
- Yosephine: International Student Liaison
 - Met with Philomena and Priscilla from Residential Life about how rooming works and how room draw works
 - Spoke about move-in days for international students
 - Having conversations about orientation and move-in dates
- Emma R: Health and Wellness Liaison
 - Please take the college National Health Survey
- Jordan: Athletics & Recreation Liaison
 - I took the National Health Survey
 - In Athletics, we are explaining how the money works to certain groups
 - Meeting with various groups and planning the Scot Ball
- Philomena: Residential Life & Dining Liaison
 - Trying to figure out the software for placing first-year roommates together

- Previously didn't have the information about whether students are international or not
 - Trying to prevent having two international students together while keeping in mind individual preferences
 - Talked about Mac Dining Advisory Committee
 - Trying to make it a place that is more for solving problems and less for complaining
- Elizabeth: Belonging and Accessibility Liaison
 - Met with Sam about drop-in hours and C-House
 - Discussing the legacy of the C-House
 - A student will be running a project on this
 - Take the NCHA survey
 - Meeting with director of accessibility resources
- Lorenzo: Media and Outreach Coordinator
 - Sent out a survey that only got seven responses
 - It will only take two minutes, and CEC would greatly appreciate it
- Mikayla: SOC's mega-chartering day went well
- Mena: Please stay for TikTok for the CEC

Announcements ~ 3 minutes

- [Day at the capitol](#) ~ *Emma Kopplin*
 - Event hosted by MN Private College Council & Advocates for MN Student Aid – “Join your peers in advocating for need-based aid for Minnesota college students, learn first-hand how legislation is made and meet your legislators”
 - Wednesday, Feb. 28 from 9:15-1:30
- “A Living History of the Macalester Student Body” ~ *Emma Kopplin*
 - Tuesday Feb 27, 4:30-7pm in CC Atrium
 - Sesquicentennial Grant Event
- [Apply to be an OL!](#) ~ *Emi Menk*
 - Apps Due March 8 at 12PM
 - Early move-in, meal plan during training and orientation; students who complete training and orientation will receive a \$900 stipend for volunteering their time!
- [T-shirt form](#) ~ *Else Gerber*
- Reagan: Next week we will be back in the Harmon Room