

Attendance: Caleb, Eva, Jonah, Ayana, Coleman, Roon, Libby, Kit, Katie, Daniel, Kody, Tom, Rebecca, Shreya, Bobbie, Charlie, Eric, Mariah, Karsten, Amber, Ana

Land Acknowledgment (We are on Indigenous land)
Given by Jordanella

Introductions ~ 5 minutes

Updates and Reminders ~ Shreya

Shreya: First I'd like to begin with something from last week. Our lovely advisor, Laurie, has her improbable fact.

Laurie: The first one is I've been in student affairs a very long time and I can never think of what to say with icebreaker. If you know me well you know I really like to sing. If you're around me enough you'll hear me sing a lot.

Shreya: I just wanted to remind everyone that the retreat is Sunday the 26th. It's gonna start around 8:45 and go to 5:30. I also wanted to update you on elections. The candidates debate is tomorrow night. If you'd like to come, please come. We have a pretty stacked amount of first years. It's at 6pm in the Loch. It's a really great opportunity to get involved. If we get enough excitement, maybe in the Spring when we replace all these seats.

Conversation About Faculty - Student Interactions ~ Jordanella

Jordanella: For the past two weeks, I've been approached by students about racist instances, of marginalized communities, who feel a lack of inclusivity particularly in the classroom. I wanted to bring this to meeting to discuss what we can do as students and the community. A student of a marginalized community was sitting in the classroom, when the teacher made a comment that was clearly inappropriate. The student left the classroom. Of course the incident has been reported to deal with the faculty, but I wanted to bring this to MCSG for all of us to discuss. Any suggestions or ideas?

Shreya: I would say modeling the behavior that you would want to see if you were in that student's position. If someone were to say something harmful to my background in the classroom, I would want someone to say "hey that's not appropriate" and use their privilege of not being harmed to address the situation and check in with me later.

Ana: I feel like it's really obvious that that's what we should do. It's one thing to acknowledge that another to actually do that. There have been so many instances where people feel unsafe in the classroom. People who actually protest and want to stand up for marginalized communities keep having these discussions. Speaking will not get us anywhere. It's really harmful for a

student and for other students to continue the discussion. You think that you're crazy because no one is doing anything.

Eric: No matter what, we still see professors as professors. You know, in an authoritative position. I think we need training or something to help students be able to respond to professors when this happens. Rather than making a big deal out of everything, it could be helpful to have some kind of procedure in place.

Caleb: These actions are very serious and should be treated as such. It happens and it happens. But what do we do? What's the next step? As the MCSG we need to make it very clear what the procedures are for reporting these instances on campus. We have all these offices, but which one is it to help us do it? We need to make it very clear how to report a professor, staff, faculty, or other student. There might be a procedure, but I personally do not know what to do in this circumstance.

Ayana: I have a couple of questions. Is it the same professor?

Nella: Multiple students and multiple professors.

Ayana: Have they been reported?

Nella: No.

Ayana: They need to be reported. I know there is a violence response team. Any procedure needs to be very clear about how the professor will be held accountable. I know there are professors who are racist and sexist on this campus but people still like them. We know that there are different professors in different departments who do these things.

Nella: I also wanted to bring this up because professors have something called academic freedom where they can say what they want. There's a procedure in place where you can fill out a report with Title IX. I want to encourage all of us, as student leaders, because if someone starts then they will see that. We still need people who are brave enough to drive that change, to ask a professor, can you see that from this perspective.

Ana: If there was a way to check the teacher's content in class, I think that it would be really helpful. I think the professor's should have some kind of process to check what they teach. At the end of the day the professor's freedom should not infringe on that of the students.

?: I think there are professors who are just racist and those that teach potentially racist content. For example the training for all the professors as for the academic content, there's some departments that are much more likely to need that content review. Like the social sciences and humanities. Other departments like computer science and biology may not need it. I don't know what the distinction is but I think there might be two different approaches.

Bobbie: I was gonna bring up academic freedom. It'd be useful for students to know what academic freedom is and what is covered underneath it and what isn't

Ambre: I feel like there was an issue recently of discrimination where the student faced a penalty because of reporting the incident. I'm not sure about the particulars, but I do know that there might have been something to do with graduating on time. I don't think it should be done anonymously, but how do we protect students where they feel confident in the classrooms and that their grades are also protected?

Ayana: I've heard about academic freedom a lot in the last year. One thing we can do is define academic freedom and look at the limits. I don't think we should be passive, just because we get an answer doesn't mean we have to accept it. As far as creating this toolkit, we should include what is academic freedom.

Roon: I think there are a lot of issues when someone does something wrong and doesn't want to take accountability for it. Professors do need that kind of competency training. Maybe they don't understand how some things are hurtful. Some of them also might be hardcore in their soul racist. This is the student's perspective, giving a student a certain look that's really damaging. Forcing someone to learn something in their heart that they really don't want to take in is hard. A lot of professors have tenure so they can like get away with murder. Maybe we include something like we reserve the right to take away your tenure if you're racist.

Eric: We barely have any agency over professors. In the past they tried to require bias training, but the professors wouldn't do it. Even the administration doesn't have agency over professors sometimes. I feel like having a training and those kind of hardcore approaches, it's going to be hard to accomplish. But we do need something that students can share when professors say one thing.

Rebecca: I wanted to respond with Amber's point. I think it is so important for students with privilege to stand up when there is a microaggression. There is something to a lot of people saying hey that was wrong to help stop retaliation.

Ayana: A lot of the times students who do have privilege don't realize the microaggression has occurred. One thing that is helpful is to email your classmates, this happened and this is how you can help. Getting classmates to come together to address the professor collectively can be very impactful to get a more desirable result.

Nella: Thank you everyone. I understand it feels like there are a lot of limitations but we have to remember we have a new President and Provost. I'm going to talk to the Provost about this toolkit and these resources.

Ana: When do you plan to talk to the Provost?

Nella: I have met with Regina, the Title IX coordinator, and we've identified the students who have been impacted by these events and hopefully this week or next week I will meet with the Provost.

Break ~ 5 minutes

Nella: I'm thinking we create a signal so that you either wave or put your hand to your ear if you can't hear.

Additional Allocation Requests

Rebecca: An additional allocation request is from an org for an additional expense. It basically comes up when it's something they didn't budget for in the Spring. Typically the FAC reviews allocation requests and they only come to the LB when it's over \$4,000. ANY requests under \$4,000 go to the FAC. Until we have committees everything will come here.

First request is from the Chinese Culture Club for the I Mooncake You event. The event is open to everyone in the community. And you can sign up to send a mooncake. It is part of the org's purpose because it speaks to the org's culture. The amount they are asking for is \$764.55. So that is the amount we would be voting on. Does anyone have any questions about the event?

Kody: I have a question about a question on this form. "Have you registered in presence?" What is that?

Rebecca: Prrescne is a platform where student orgs record their balances. It also shows upcoming events.

Kody: Would this have any weight on our vote?

Rebecca: We are encouraging them to do this but it's not necessary? The FAC recommendation is to approve this.

Shreya: I would like to motion to approve 764.55 to the Chinese Culture Club.

Nella: All in favor?

Yes: 20

No: 0

ABstain: 0

Shreya: We passed our first thing!

Rebecca: Our second additional allocation request is from ourselves. Something we do is invite the org to come and speak directly so we can ask questions. In this case, we have Shreya here.

Shreya: First of all this was very confusing. We have two requests. The first request is for breakfast for the retreat. We're asking you to come early on Sunday morning which is kinda rough. Just a little bit of something to get blood sugar up before we start. It's 70 donuts and 80 cups of coffee. The next item is for lunch, which is Jimmy John's little lunches. They are individually wrapped so we don't have to do too many covid interactions. Idea is ham and cheese, roast beef, vegetarian, and vegan sandwiches. It would be 60 sandwiches for the 54 students coming to the retreat. I hope you vote yes.

Rebecca: So there are questions

Ana: Can we have tea and can we have drinks that aren't water?

Shreya: How would you add that, Rebecca?

Laurie: Just make your life easier and say no.

Shreya: I can bring tea.

Roon: Is the retreat on campus?

Shreya: Yes it's in this room.

Ana: Can we brunch in the CC?

Shreya: It depends on the timing.

Katie: If I vote yes, I will have a lunch to eat?

Shreya: Yes.

Rebecca: I forgot to mention. The FAC recommendation is to approve this request.

Shreya: Technically I'm the only one who has to abstain because I wrote it.

Rebecca: Did somebody motion? I was adding that the FAC recommendation is to approve it.

Nella: All in favor?

Rebecca: Again that's \$468 total.

Yes: 19

Nella: Everyone against? Raise your hand. Anyone wishes to abstain. Please raise your hand.

Abstain: 1

Nella: The LB has decided to allocate the money for the MCSG retreat.

Open Floor

Shreya: Normally when we send out the agenda, we'll have a link to add anything. Now if there's anything that anyone would like to put on the open floor.

Ayana: Roon and I have been going to the strategic planning meetings. This committee is in charge of reviewing the strategic plan from 2015 to review if we have or have not followed it. We don't have to do this right now, but I'd love to hear if LB has anything to include in the strategic plan. That was the first thing. The second one is there is a different system for Robert's rules that we could try.

Shreya: We have tried different systems. They haven't worked the best.

Kody: This is something I've talked with people about. Since being off campus, I've noticed that food insecurity is a thing. Cafe Mac doesn't have things to take food in right now. I know a lot of students are feeling this way. I would really like for something to be done about this.

Katie: As someone who has a severe allergy that Cafe Mac has done nothing about.

Ana: I think a lot of people have been talking about Cafe Mac lately. It's really frustrating that we have to worry about the food because it is not good and there's not enough of it. This one time we were waiting for food and someone said it was over and it was 6:30pm. Burger stations and pasta stations always have the same thing. I really respect everyone who works there, but it feels like they don't care about students or what they eat. I don't understand why the policy is that there's only one spoon of food allowed. Students are really talking about this and it's very frustrating in general.

Coleman: The Cafe Mac experience has been that there's a lot of people. If there's anywhere on campus that is a COVID risk it's Cafe Mac/. Because of that I've been very surprised about the lack of take out options. The green boxes are never there and there's a lack of cardboard boxes. As a student I'd really like to see more ability to eat not in Cafe Mac. Should be something we push to help thin out the crowd.

Jonah: Our first instinct with food insecurity is open pantry. It's a great resource for those who can't afford to get food a lot of the time. It can be expanded, we don't have to talk about this right now but Bone Appetit is a bad company. There's problems with the plans. We have power over renegotiating the contract to do something about that in the future. I'd love to talk more in depth about this.

Roon: I personally have not stepped foot in Cafe Mac in two years on purpose. An issue as someone who's not been there is halal food. They'll have it as an option and then make it go away. I know there's ways around the meal plan. The main excuse is for religious purposes. Maybe divesting from Bone App. I'd just like to throw that out from one of the religious communities on campus.

Shreya: I'd like to make a committee about Bone App. Nella would you like this under SSRC.

Nella: First I'm hearing about food insecurity and open pantry and then Cafe Mac.

Shreya: Do we have anyone that would like to lead a committee?

Katie, Coleman, Bobbie, Kody, Ana

Shreya: I suggest if you are interested in taking part in those discussions. Contact one of those five people. If you're in the slack group you can find them pretty easily in the DM section. Work together to find a time to meet.

Katie: Do we have to vote under the constitution?

Rebecca: I'm not sure.

Ayana: I think we did last year.

Shreya: I'd like to make a motion to make the committee.

Yes: 20

Bobbie: I've worked with Bon App a lot over the past year. I have had a meeting with the manager and she said this happens every year. She said it calms down. There are no limits on servings. They cannot deny you to go a second time or to another station. They are working on it but it needs to happen quicker.

Nella: Ayana

Ayana: As a person who's been four years, Cafe Mac has never been good. I don't know what Cafe Mac is on. But I just wanted to say that.

Charlie: Could those of you who signed up for the committee see me for five minutes after?

Roon: How do I get on the slack?

Shreya: The link was sent out last meeting.

Nella: Is there anything else on the open floor?

Tom: As some of you know, Macalester is now considering a new textbook reserve model. In the past few weeks, there have been so many opinions that I feel like it's good to talk to the LB. It must be implemented before October 2021. So I'd like to hear opinions.

Coleman: These aren't my thoughts, they are coming from the campus. The price is far more than anyone has had to pay. I think there is a concern that this is not for low income students but a way for MAC to get some extra money especially when seeing the high prices asked and the book prices in the past.

Ana: I think this should be a separate email sent to students. All the students on campus right now think that this only benefits Macalester. At the end of the day many students have not taken courses for the cost of the textbooks or online resources. Instead of saying this is how it works,

we invite each one of us to read it thoroughly because I think they answer all the questions. Questions like can I opt out from this project are all questions to be submitted because they are really waiting for feedback. Encourage students to read, send feedback, and then have discussions.

Tom: I think we should have a separate email that every student on campus should receive and be able to vote on this program. I don't think the current method of collecting opinions is working. Should there be a voting email for every student?

Kody: Is that something we have the power to do as MCSG?

Nella: I think he's just asking for an opinion.

Coleman: I think that's a good idea. People think this is something Mac is trying to slip under the rug because of how it was communicated. I think actively seeking out people's opinions would be good.

Ana: I agree with everything that is being said but I don't think that students are going to read the whole proposal. If we ask them what they think without having read the proposal, I'm not sure it's fair. We should invite some students from EPAG and that would be a much better option.

Ayana: One thing that's sticking out to me. Why would they charge more on people's tuition for the books? I think someone should come and explain what the proposal is. If you want people to support it then you need to actively engage.

Shreya: I wanted to respond to Ana. Brian Lindman reached out to Tom and I. We can definitely invite him to speak. EPAG isn't the one making the decision. This group was formed by President Riviera last fall. They call themselves the breaking down barriers for students. This is just one of the projects they are working on. There are a lot of different staff working together on this. Currently the representation of EPAG is Tom and one representative. I don't know the process of increasing individual representatives.

Ana: Increasing reps was more in response to this specific project. Can we share the date of when Brian could come to a meeting?

Shreya: Definitely

Kody: As someone who qualifies for this, it would personally cost me much more. I lost my train of thought, I'm sorry.

Nella: Do you want us to get back to you?

Ayana: This is not EPAG. Is there a place where we can find this group?

Shreya: I met with them last year and then it transitioned to the AAC Chair.

Ayana: One thing I want is more transparency on all these committees. What I'm realizing is I'm on way too many committees. How do we find out who is on these committees?

Shreya: The biggest place to do this is to apply to campus committees. The biggest people are people who work on campus committees. If we get students to apply to those in October, we could have more representatives. Tell your friends to apply to committees when they come out.

Katie: Can we do something or table instead of just talking about this?

Shreya: Currently I'm the only person, but we can connect on that more.

Katie: Cool

Nella: Just a reminder there hasn't been a decision yet.

Rebecca: It was just a point of order. The earlier Chinese Culture Club vote was 27 and then it was changed to 20.

Nella: Yes, I miscounted. It was actually 20.

Shreya: If no one has anything else. I'd like to start this tradition. Say one thing that made you smile this week.

Passing the Goat