

Attendance: Rebecca, Kody, Jonah, Daniel, Eva, Maddie, Emma, Eric, Coleman, Kit, Ayana, Katie, Jordanella, Roon, Kashvi, Alex, Karsten, Eleanor, Mariah, Cecilia, Shreya, Bobbie, Angi, Brian, Tali, Simone, Roswell, Zach, Tarina, Laurie, Charlie

Introductions/settling~ 5 minutes

Land Acknowledgment (We are on Indigenous land) ~ *Jordanella*

Financial Barriers Working Group ~ *Shreya, Brian Lindeman, Angi Falks, Josh Groven*

Brian

- What financial barriers working group is
 - Began with student emailing President Riviera not being able to afford textbooks
 - Made up of five people from DML, StudyAway and three students

Angi

- A lot of the work is gathering stories about coming up with solutions and students insecurity (food, clothing, insurance, textbooks)
- Met with a variety of people including members of admissions, academic affairs committee rep, members of income and inequality committee
- Complicated problem with the goal of supporting students and those that teach
- Conversation about prohibitive cost of information is what Angi cares about most as a librarian
- No perfect solution, goal of weaving together possibilities

Brian

- Along with textbooks, also seeking solutions for health insurance
- Trying to streamline requests for help

Angi

- Possibilities of how to address textbook affordability are widespread
- Textbook codes are things that library can buy and share even though they are not shareable, transferable, refundable
- Opportunity to work with Barnes and Nobles is new
- Proposal helps make textbook affordability not a problem as a group and whole
- Textbooks are a growing charge
- Financial barriers working group is aware that books are not the only resources necessary for classes (art supplies, etc) and they want to address those in the future but for now textbooks are priority
- Website has big picture section that describes what is going on in the textbook industry at large
 - View textbook affordability as a social justice issue and equal access for education issue

Brian

- Proposal written for 20-25% of student population to pay no costs for textbooks
- Feedback has been very mixed
 - Concerns are good news including that students usually don't pay \$800 for textbooks
- Faculty are increasingly aware of textbook prices and are trying to suppress them
- Most recent study in mod 3 from social science inquiry class trying to quantify textbook affordability
- Recommend an opt-out for the new model
- One of challenges in current model is if too many students opt out, won't be enough money to provide grants for low income students
- Next meeting with interim CFO to share what group has learned so far
- Trying to resolve this by end of October to implement model by next academic year

Angi

- Please have people fill out feedback form on website

Questions/Comments

Ayana

- Question about textbook caps
- Has not spent \$800 dollars over the course of four years
- Is there a way to cap professors on how much money they require students to spend?

Angi

- The model is only for required textbooks
- Cannot get in the way of what faculty need to do to teach but can provide alternative models and tools (creative use copyright laws)
- Cannot speak to how it would work, but a great question
- Suggests more data gathering on faculty perspective

Coleman

- Really appreciates the goal but acknowledges that a lot of students have concerns about total cost
- Another concern over what potential alternatives might be if this model is not a solution
- Another concern about ability to give feedback where people feel inadequately informed
- What alternatives might there be to this solution and how do you address negative feedback?

Brian

- Number in proposal is same number from financial aid package
 - Estimate comes from textbook/course materials
- Not necessarily what every student spends but what is used as an estimate

Angi

- Reserves are one option as an alternative
 - But not every textbook is on reserve
- Continuing to incentivize faculty to use open education resources
- Another possible alternative is CPL which is a creative way around copyright laws

- Not up to group if Macalester can use this
- No solution for textbook codes
 - Etext access is very prohibitive
- If you have ideas, we want to hear them

Brian

- Feedback question about timeline is not ideal
 - This is a fast turnaround
- Goal is to help as soon as possible for the next academic year

Kody

- Concern about the amount
 - Doesn't know anyone who has spent that much ever
 - Main cost comes from language courses
 - Making this for all courses is not smart
- Concern about opt-out
 - Thinks people will opt-out because of cost
 - Thinks Macalester owes it low-income students to be intentional and thoughtful about this

Audie

- What about students who are not legally independent but are in reality? (with regards to income)
- How does this affect international students?

Brian

- International/undocumented students are included in the program
- For those who are not legally independent, it's a financial aid question

Jonah

- Really easy to teach classes without textbooks at all
 - Rather than creating complicated plan it might just be better to encourage faculty and departments to eliminate textbooks
 - Believes this is a more possible and equitable goal

Brian

- Big picture goal is to eliminate textbooks which cannot happen next fall

Angi

- It is true that many publishers lifted copyright for COVID and are no longer

Brian

- Moving towards no textbooks over time would lower charge because it is based on actual utilization of textbooks

Shreya

- Why is "100% of demonstrated financial need" not being met within this model?

Brian

- Financial aid goes towards tuition first
- Even students who receive most financial aid don't get enough money in their pockets to

Shreya

- Revenue sharing?

Brian

- Has no idea how much is shared from the highlander

Shreya

- How does this proposal work for and against Mac's goals of sustainability?

Angi

- Depends on how you define sustainability
- In general publishing market is something group pays very close attention to
- Market in general is not sustainable, prices going up 40%, 50%, 80%
- Do think of it as part of sustainability problem

Katie

- Opting-out is essential but there needs to be a lot of information on that
- Question about survey from 2019
 - Concern that only people who payed a lot of money filled it out
 - Will there be a new study?

Brian

- Designed proposal to be stand alone
- No plan to create another survey
 - With current timeline, not enough time

Kashvi

- Could you provide clarity on different streams of revenue and where money for financial aid comes from?
- If you are spending X amount of money on financial aid, why can't you just allocate more money for textbooks?
- Is there a plan to do a more extensive survey for different majors?

Brian

- No plan to do another survey based on department
- Doesn't feel like he has the agency to tell faculty how to teach
- Information about budget is available
 - Including salaries, financial aid, etc

Angi

- Seems like the dollar amount is the biggest concern, is that the case?
- Are there other issues beyond the money?

Kody

- Opt-out is a concern

Eric

- Main concern is money
- With any textbook online, you can find some form of a free version
- Is there a resource for ebooks that could be accessed online for free and then a certain amount for ecodes?

Brian

- With the right amount of money, maybe

Mariah

- Would it be possible to charge only full-paying students the full price?

Brian

- Sliding scale is possible

Kim

- How many people were involved in this process of feedback?
 - With COVID it's hard to gage community in general

- Opt-out is necessary but seems impossible in order to actually run program
- Question about additional fee for keeping textbooks

Brian

- 150 people have filled out feedback form
- Opt-out is a drawback
- True that some students would have to pay more for keeping textbooks
- Operating assumption is that as a community we take care of expenses together

Angi

- All the people they have talked to said ask everybody
- Essential that everyone fill out feedback form

Paul

- Most expensive textbooks are those with digital codes but codes just have access to activities available in the book
- Concern about digital codes being redundant with same material

Angi

- Faculty that teach with digital codes are aware of concerns
- Faculty would love an alternative but may not be another alternative for the ease of grading
- Encourages to speak with faculty

Retreat

Shreya

- All LB members required to attend
- More info coming, stay tuned

Additional Allocation ~ Rebecca

Rebecca

- Climbing club
 - Request for van needs for the semester
 - Essential to org operations
 - FAC recommendation: approve \$3,330.90
 - Yes : 15
 - No : 0
 - Abstain : 2
- Mac First Aid
 - Request to compensate instructor and purchase materials for course
 - FAC recommendation: approve \$988
 - Yes : 18
 - No : 0
 - Abstain : 0
- Outing Club
 - Already approved and budgeted for, but this is for wilderness first aid course
 - FAC Recommendation: approve \$1850
 - Yes : 18
 - No : 0
 - Abstain : 0

Election Code

Shreya

- Every year on third meeting, EPC presents edits
- Everyone within LB comment on suggestions
- To be discussed next week
- Code applies for next election cycle

Election Procedures Commission: Violation

Shreya

- EPC is a campus committee that students normally apply for, last spring no one applied so currently just Shreya
- There is a violation but the President cannot vote, would normally move on to judicial board but also does not exist
- Shreya will not be voting

Rebecca

- President cannot make a motion or vote
- Anyone running for a position also refrain from voting

Ayana

- Does the person who filed the violation abstain?
- No

Shreya

- Discussing the violation only
- Election code states that candidate who misses debate without proxy is in violation of election code
- Reported to EPC this morning
- Violation is for an executive board position

Kody

- What do campaign privileges refer to?

Shreya

- Can't put up flyers, can't post on social media
- Depends on what LB decides

Anne

- Was the candidate invited to this meeting and made aware of the violation?

Shreya

- Candidate was made aware and welcome but not invited

Coleman

- What's the precedent?

Shreya

- Disqualification

Mariah

- When does this election end? When is voting over?

Shreya

- Tomorrow at 8 AM

Bobbie

- Difference between disqualification and removal from ballot?

Shreya

- Removal from ballot - name is removed but still can be a write-in
- Disqualification - votes go to the next person

Mariah

- With the timeline, what would happen?

Laurie

- In the past, violation was reported immediately after candidates debate but we are past that

Shreya

- Could not notify herself

Kashvi

- How many times has this happened?

Shreya

- Many students have been disqualified because of this

Kody

- Motion to disqualify

Rebecca

- Yes: 14
- No: 0
- Abstain: 3

Shreya

- Tomorrow student announcement

Katie

- To clarify, is this only for this specific election? Could the candidate run for the position next year?

Shreya

- Yes the candidate could run again next year

LB agenda items

Shreya

- Content warning: transphobia
- Transphobia has no place at Macalester or in MCSG
- The hurt that has happened, has happened
 - Cannot fix the pain but can look to the future to correct the wrongs
- Guided conversation because it is such a tricky topic

Ayana

- Would love to see the MCSG draft a condemnation of transphobia/homophobia for the larger student community
- Thinks its an oversight that there isnt a clause against hate speech
- How do we legally incorporate this into our bylaws?

Kody

- This incident shows we have these issues on campus, as student representatives we should look at not just this incident
- We need to do something
 - By-laws are not sufficient
- How do we do something to solve the overall issue?

Rebecca

- Reminder that we are not discussing the incident

Coleman

- Mac likes to present itself as very welcoming and open but we are confronted by the fact that we live not only in Mac community but larger communities that are less active in fighting hate speech and transphobia
- We need to be specific about what we need to do here
- Mac is very proud of how it tries to fight these problems
- Not enough to say we need to fight transphobia but look at how what we have been doing is failing

Eric

- Proposes an ad hoc committee for what we can do to address this topic
- Motion to create ad hoc committee to look into discrimination at Mac within classrooms and outside

Marjorie Trueblood

- GSRC is another resource
- Plans to establish bias education response team
- Office of institutional research is conducting campus climate survey in October

Shreya

- Roon, diversity and inclusion officer, will be serving on bias response team

Mariah

- As a member of women's cross country team which has had many Title IX incidences the office doesn't have the power
- Not a lot of consequences for people's behavior
 - We need more so that people feel less likely to say things

Marjorie

- Part of bias education and response is recognizing there is a difference between bias and discrimination
- Title IX does have power but only where policy is violated

Ayana

- What can we legally and illegally talk about?

Shreya

- Issue with Title IX comes down to processes/by-laws/codes
- Students can't know Title IX information
- Free to discuss what you want in the room right now
 - No legal action if speaking specifically

Laurie

- Because of meeting minutes and mac weekly, this room is not sealed

Katie

- Served on Title IX committee for three years
- So frustrating that incidences of hate happen and there are no repercussions
- We need direct steps but we are also students
- There are resources on campus but we can't just rely on Title IX

Ayana

- Revisiting ad hoc committee idea

Roon

- Open to working with anyone and hearing responses
- Ad hoc

Shreya

- If Ad hoc was created would love for focus on election code to figure out legally how things can be done that also logistically make sense

Rebecca

- Kashvi created a committee last year to support sustainability
- Ad hoc committee could function as support for work Roon is already doing

Eric

- When are we doing by-law edits?

Shreya

- Starting today

Eric

- Was thinking of connecting committee with existing resources

Kody

- Revisiting official MCSG statement

Shreya

- Both are possible (ad hoc committee and MCSG)
- Can draft something for edits

Rebecca

- That would be a resolution, written message capturing the sentiment of LB

Jonah

- Supports resolution and willing to help

Coleman

- Rapid response is a priority instead of ad hoc committee

Kit

- Reminder to contact trans community directly

Anne

- What was the summarized point of that?

Katie

- Motion to establish ad hoc committee led by Roon

Rebecca

- Yes: 17
- No: 1
- Abstain: 0

Community Chest Request

Jordanella

- UWC Day/International Day of Peace
 - Event for the whole Mac community to celebrate Day of Peace
 - SSRC recommendation: approve \$500
 - Yes: 17
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 0
- Event for Latinx Heritage Month:

- Event with food truck for about 200 people
- SSRC recommendation: approve \$1000
- Yes: 17
- No: 0
- Abstain: 0

Kody

- Is this normal procedure for an unchartered org?

Jordanella

- Yes

Election Update

Shreya

- Elections ends tomorrow at 8 AM
- Exchange students did not receive ballot so there will be additional 72 hours for them
- Won't have campus wide election candidates released by retreat (SSC, FAC)

Open Floor

Announcements