

MCSG LB minutes 3.10

Tuesday, March 10, 2015
6:57 PM

Meeting begins 19:01

01	IC: We have two new members with us today. Your name, pgp, and favorite type of dog. After that, lets get started. Straight to the SSRC with updates
	AB: When are we putting it on committees?
02	RD: Lets meet after this and talk about committees.
	AB: Biggest change from last week is we made a from that we'll send to people during spring break. The first part of the forum will be some speakers in a panel, the second part will be questions derived from these forms that we're going to send out. It'll help guide discussion. I met with Robin... we're going to start publicity in a couple weeks after the form goes out.
	SLK: We're in the middle of publicity, now we're into budgeting. We'll be putting in an allocation soon.
04	SM: We've only gotten a few, really good, submissions so tell your friends?
	IC: When is the deadline?
	SLK: The 25th.
	WT: What are the guidelines for these submissions?
	SLK: The goal is to create discussion on mental health, the submissions will help define but not limit what mental health is. We want a whole mix of student stories to show what mental health means to students.
	JZ: If the submission from the person is in their eyes on mental health, then it is.
	SLK: I got an email from someone who liked the broadness of the topic but wanted some more definitions to help them write. I really enjoy the submissions I've gotten already. We're going to do a second round of publicity soon after the first one is done.
07	JG: is there a way to be anonymous?
	SLK: Yeah, we created an email for people to use to send things in who want to remain anonymous. Some people have created a separate email, this is a bit extreme but it's the best way.
	JL: Could they SPO it to MCSG? Or to one of you
	SLK: That's a good idea.
	IC: Nowfor FAC.
	JK: We had our first budgeting workshop today, it was pretty quick. Many orgs showed up, hopefully more will come on Thursday. Dan also presented.
	DY: It was pretty awesome.
	JK: That's it. Oh if you know anyone who didn't sign up tell them to come anyway.
10	CW: I'm passing around some paper, its feedback forms. Staff can provide feedback too. We're talking about MCSG's role in getting out information, transparency, and effectiveness.
	SLK: We saw two important things when we wanted to make statements, first it needs to be timely, second its accurate. We thought and idea of a press release would be a good idea. So, um, when we were first talking about this we thought to create rules for LB members to release that. We thought having one LB, one exec, and one other would be good. We're looking for ideas on this, what issues... We know there is a lot of fluctuation with how we interact with students. Maybe after every week or every meeting the members could release a video or something to get the word out. So, if you have suggestions or questions that be great.
13	CW: LB summaries, its in the mission of transparency. No one wants to read minutes. We could have reps summarize each meeting and upload it to facebook. Its about getting the word out and having people know who is involved in MCSG.
	JL: I think this is awesome. Questions, what is the medium for distribution? We can't do student announce or class list very often.
	CW: I think a summary could be great on facebook, we could update our own website. In terms of press releases we could have that be in the daily piper.
	JL: I think summaries is a great regular thing. Press releases... thinking three or four years ago... many people don't care about MCSG so people won't read anything that comes out. What is an example of something that has happened this year that warrants a press release?
	CW: Kagin policy changes. There was confusion, we needed to address it with facts.
	AB: Going off that, I think the Kagin thing specifically, it wasn't us specifically. We'll have to decide... theres always things changing on campus, when do we decide was is important for us to change things versus us just talking about it? I think LB summaries is a great idea. Its also in the secretaries job description.
	JZ: Theres already an infrastructure for that so some one could take that on as a role.
19	NE: This is a great idea, students don't hear much from MCSG so this is a great way to change that. We can talk about how we chartered this org, etc. I was thinking the same thing initially about talking versus doing stuff, I think its important as well for students to know, that way they have motivation to come to meetings and express their views. What would be a good platform for... we're talking about this, let us know what you have to say.
	TV: I think getting everyone involved is nice but i'm worried things won't get done.
	JL: Two things, the only thing about Kagin is it wasn't a MCSG policy, it was a student activities thing. We can encourage them to release a statement but we did that last semester and it didn't happen. I also think press releases should be approved by the LB.
22	DT: I think this is a good way to distribute information reporting for all the members. However I think that students working here should also have the responsibilities centered on them.
	IC: I don't know if you remember this, the Mac weekly used to come in and write a report of what was going on. It was unbiased. If we're making a statement then that's more appropriate as a resolution. I think we should reach out to the mac weekly.
24	LB: I don't mind taking over writing summaries for the meetings, nobody reads the website though so maybe it would be better put on Facebook.
	RD: we used to have a member of the SSRC that did meeting summaries every week. The Daily Piper would get them and put them in the newsletter. People don't look at it every week, people look for information when they need it.
26	CW: So, bias... I don't think there is a formalized process yet to get information out. My first idea is google forms.
27	Sam: I'm not a member of the LB, what is the role of a press release? Meeting summaries have been done in recent years, bullet points are the best way to do that.
	DT: I don't think the SSRC should take on these tasks. It might distract us from other important issues.
	CW: I'd like to recommend that we move on.
29	NE: Theres a difference between... students who want to learn more about MCSG they can look on the website. I think we should give them information whether they want it or not. I think social media is a good idea. The mac weekly is great but it takes searching to access it.
30	CW: We're going to switch to productivity. Sophomore reps and first years have shown great responsibility for getting things done.
	CD: The first and second year class reps have put on events, we've found they are pretty successful for getting feedback. We think it's a good idea to hold class reps accountable for getting these things done, perhaps we could block budget it.
	JZ: I love the idea of increasing productivity, I would like to keep it flexible about the requirements and that. Different classes are different, we've talked with reps about getting things done. Keep that in mind while writing particular rules.
32	SN: Last year we had reps do posters. I think we should have a follow up on that event. If we're talking about flexibility, we could have an open house so the whole campus could come. If its harder for juniors to have an event we can combine resources.
	CW: Good feedback, the idea was requiring a networking event or action. Just to quickly introduce the last thing, ever since the dawn of the class of 2017, we've sent out a class newsletter. We've gotten good feedback on that. Its beneficial as we've gotten great feedback. I think we should shift that responsibility to class reps.
35	Lucy: In addition to or separate from existing newsletters?
	CW: We want what is useful.
	AB: I think the SSRC doing the newsletter is a better idea. I think there could be something via email like "Get to know your reps" or something like that.
	IC: We're going to exhaust the speakers list.
	SN: How are you getting feedback?
	CW: In our newsletter we have a linked google form. We've gotten limited responses.
	WT: I think Abaki is right, last year we lost a lot of reps and keeping it centralized would be easier to keep it going.
38	RD: I think social media is good. I get a lot of email from the school that I never look at. I'm afraid the same fate will befall our emails.
	JG: The things that's positive about getting individual messages from class reps makes it more personal.
	CW: Good, good. Perusing who see the newsletter, we usually get 50 or so people. Pas back your sheets please and thank you.
	IC: Alright, now to Jolena and Steph
	SM: We met with people last week to talk about summer internship oppertunites. We looked at a proposal for summer internship funding. They've done a lot of work already which is great.

40	JZ: One of the best things is we proposed that a pilot version of this program could be launched using some money from the strat plan. There are people acting on our feedback, I'll keep you guys updated. That was a really amazing development
	AB: The goal of the plan is to have funding for 25 internships for students, the pilot could just be 10. Students would give presentations in order to have donors give more.
	IC: Moving back to the FAC
	JK: We have a request from MUN to bring a speaker to campus. We decided to ask the LCB to fund speaking engagement because we're running low.
	JZ: You need to tell them to talk to us ASAP. We're not always going to have extra funds. Yeah. Um, we've gotten a lot of requests recently, we don't want to become a pot of money.
	JK: We somewhere around 3k right now, we've been allocation about a grand every month recently so we're anticipating more in April.
45	JZ: I think they should send it to you first, then have you guys talk to us. I think we should table this allocation for now.
	RD: I disagree, I think the point of the LCB is to have big speaker events. Its our job to allocate money, not the LCB. I think we could maybe write a resolution to siphon additional money to the FAC. We hope the LCB will spend their money in the future.
	IC: You said we have about 3k? We have allocations presented tonight that total over 3k.
	JK: Sorry, point of order, 3k is the estimate after we've funded things on the table.
	JZ: Leadership in the LCB is encouraging cooperation. We helped pay for a couple things around campus. We could discuss that at some point, I don't know if this is the right time to talk about this.
	PM: How can we take advantage of the reserve fund is the operating fund expires?
	JK: Its just FOPOL stuff.
49	RD: I want to reiterate, this is a discussion that should have happened earlier. Also with regard to reserve fund, if we move the money to the OF, that won't be a problem. Where money is locked up is where student orgs that aren't spending their money. That's the solution as far as I'm concerned. Also LCB needs to do what they need to do.
50	IC: I find this proposal to be interesting, its happening after spring break so the LCB doesn't have time to meet for this. I don't think right now is the moment to discuss LCB funding, its irrelevant to funding our allocations.
	JL: The reserve is not a set amount, it's a rollover and its supposed to be for emergencies. Rothin made a good point about orgs locking up money. Some orgs have needs for speakers, some have operational costs. WMCN has not submitted an allocation yet but they will and we need to pass it as its essential for their existence. I think we need to reorganize orgs so that we don't run into an issue of fees and fines later in the year.
	JK: FAC recommends \$0 for this allocation.
54	RD: Throwing this out there, we should approve it and next meeting put some LCB money back into the OF.
	JZ: We need to have a bigger conversation before taking money out, but I do think we should approve this.
	JK: I move to approve this request for a speaker for MUN.
	JL: Why \$0?
	JK: We thought LCB would take care of it.
	DT: MUN is a great way for people to get involved in politics. Why is advertising costs \$100?
	JK: I don't know, we're not recommending that.
	PM: M2Q
	22 for, 4 opposed, 0 abstain
56	RD: That means we've incurred this cost, the money needs to come from somewhere. The broader discussion needs to happen next meeting while there is money being sat on.
	AH: I think we should have LCB come to next meeting.
	JL: People need to meet and have a bill ready, so that we can get this going.
	JK: APA month requested money, \$1870 is what we recommended. I just had org leaders email me about combining resources. I move to approve this amount.
	WT: M2Q
	25 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstain
	JK: Two more things, if you want a breakdown of APA month talk to me, Lose the Shoes is an event that happens every year. We found out that womens soccer was using mac public health money to get this approved. I had a womens soccer rep come in and talk about this, we've decided to have Mac public health come in next week.
01	JL: This is related to stuff that keeps coming up. Org passwords keep coming up as being changed, we need to prevent this from happening. It puts the whole system in jeopardy.
	IC: now to AAC
	AH: So far for educator of the year we have 9 responses. We'll take more until the middle of spring break, we'll submit the req by Friday. Alumni fair, bon ap send us an estimate. We have a few alumni confirmed already, it should be rad.
03	SN: PB, pushball was fun. Staff won... but really soph won. We're making decisions during break on candidates. Beauty and the Beast tickets are going on sale soon. Friday we have a movie too. Springfest, we're looking for a local band still.
	WT: I heard a rumor that the student body voted for JoJo overwhelmingly. Is that true?
	SN: We go from top to bottom of the student poll to prioritize artists.
06	IC: guests, go ahead and introduce yourself.
	Sam & patrick: We have a charter so that MPRIG could submit a budget, this is a major change from previous years. The major changes was clarifying membership, now its defined by people who attend two or more meetings. Officers and duties in CORE, we clarified that. Article two, that's the most changed. We seperated the mission statement from the history. We also clarified that MacPIRG is first and chartered org with an affiliation with org rather than a state org with affiliation with Mac.
	RD: This has been something we've been discussing. Regardless of your opinions, this charter has been worked on a lot in order for MPRIG to get funds. I ask you to hold backon specific questions on what the money is for, right now we just need to see this as a way for an org to get funds.
	IC: Any other questions?
	CD: How does additional allocations work with this?
	JL: They used to have a contract and also have additional allocations. This would give them a charter and a way to get a budget. Seemingly all the work is being done this year to make audits easier in the future.
	IC: Anybody want to make a motion on a student assembly or the like?
12	WT: I hereby, make a motion to make a student assembly to discuss income equality on March 24th.
	Sam: This conversation has been happening about income inequality on campus. You may have read an op-ed about this issue recently. We've been tabling, collecting petitions signatures. To call an assembly we need a bit over 400 signatures. We're very close, right now we're at 370 or so. I want MCSG to acknowledge this and get it approved.
	WT: I saw these guys tabling and I thought it would be a great idea for MCSG to branch out and get involved in this conversation. Its good for these discussions to be made.
	Sam: We collected signatures through a google form. It's a convenient way to get it done. We talked about the issue of income inequality and how it relates to the college.
17	RD: My basic question is: why is a student assembly the way you want to get this done? In the past we've had a low attendance. You also have a bill that is making big demands of the school in the name of the whole student body. What comes to mind is the faculty diversity bill, I'm not seeing this as the same.
	Patrick: I think we've got a lot of attention of the student body. The fact that we have signatures shows we have sparked conversation in this issue. We're going to keep communication up with the student body in order to follow up on this.
	Sam: A student assembly is different than a forum. Its not completely disrepresentative of the student body. We've been working hard on this and I think all students have a pretty good grasp about inequality.
	JH: I don't think your numbers are right. You're comparing a whole package of health benefits and a house with a basic salary. It looks like you're using the presidents total compensation package as the denominator rather than his salary. You make good points about the student body getting involved, but I don't think that its fair if students are misinformed about this. Your fact about the raise is a bit off. The numbers are important. If that's why people signed the petition then we need to look at this.
23	JZ: I also have concerns, I don't think students who attend this issue aren't going to be as informed as those who work in the salary and wages departments. I think having an assembly needs to be preceded by this information. Have you reached out to the president and the lowest paid workers? Are their voices being considered?
25	IC: Who is going to be chairing the meeting? Its important to have this student assembly, its also important to have the numbers presented to be valid. If this does pass, I urge you to reach out to MCSG so when people come to the meeting the facts are checked by many people.
	Sam: We can debate numbers, I think though that's not the point. My vision is in the introduction, chaired by the President, creates a period for people to dig into this issue. This is simply important to call a student assembly versus having a specific solution. We have a bias obviously, but its not the desired outcome of right now. Right now we just want to have this assembly. Members of the senior staff can present in this assembly too.
	RD: I'm going to push back. I think we're downplaying the importance of numbers. Its difficult to conceive Mac students signing a petition on income inequality means they sign on to your solution. I think that a student assembly does not mean you're speaking on behalf of all students. We need to understand what it means to have a student assembly. I don't think the petition takes into consideration what is being presented.
29	Lucy: Have you spoken to David Wheaton?
	Ilana: I'm Ilana, I met with Wheaton and talked to him about changing this policy. We thought about taking this issue to the student body. The petition was made clear to be not a signing on to our solution, its just to get people

	<p>talking about this issue. You can all access the numbers about this if you want.</p> <p>JL: We have many ways of getting peoples opinion heard. Reps in the student body, a referendum. You can stack a room with an assembly, not the case with a referendum. Also, the petition not getting enough signatures isn't fine. If its easy then get them. Its one thing to approve a student assembly, its another thing to approve a bill that we haven't read or seen. I tried getting the word out to turn it into a bill, but it didn't happen.</p> <p>KF: Could one of the authors of the bill talk about why 18:1 is the desired outcome?</p> <p>Patrick: I didn't create this number but my friend Nick did, we compared Mac to similar institutions and came out with the average of 18:1, I can get you the data that we used as well.</p>
35	<p>Ilana: These are peer institutions that the Board uses when considering the presidents salary. We tried to be realistic in this document while retaining the ideals of Macalester.</p> <p>DT: I advocate that making decisions needs to be well informed. The priority shouldn't be getting an assembly but rather affirming the data. What you just explained is great to explaining that.</p> <p>Sam: Stacking the room, I think that there will be more people there than the LB and our org. Students showing up is important to get their vote heard. James, its not that we can't get 20% I would just rather have my schoolwork done than tabling. To the motion that WT introduced... if the general sense is that this shouldn't be in side then that's fine.</p> <p>RD: I'm not disputing the bill, I'm concerned with the assembly. The claim that students showing up to make their views heard is suspect. The fact that 27 people showing up to a room and having the power to speak on behalf on the whole student body. Saying we're speaking on behalf of the student body and its their fault if they don't show up is suspect. We've never had 400 people show up to a forum, we know that.</p> <p>Patrick: If we don't get a lot of people to come to the assembly, then that is the students fault. Its our resposibility to get the word out about this, we have done that. People haven't agreed with me about this bill, but people have still signed on to the petition.</p>
42	<p>IC: I'm going to either move to question or table. If I were to M2Q, who would object? I'm going to move to table discussion.</p> <p>RD: Do you take objections?</p> <p>JH: I think you have to first.</p> <p>JL: Table until when?</p> <p>IC: Until after bridge club.</p> <p>26 for, 0 opp, 0 abstain</p>
44	<p>Oliver: I'm Oliver, I'm a junior. I'm here to present a charter for a Contact Bridge club. Basically its people getting together and playing cards together. We'll probably meet once or twice a week. Carleton has one, we should too.</p> <p>IC: The advisor for this org is Beverage, hes great. I think this is an exciting idea.</p>
45	<p>PM: Other games into this?</p> <p>Oliver: We're going to stick to just contact bridge. Its confusing, maybe later we could branch out.</p> <p>JL: This is a non-budgeting org. They would just need a flexie of 200\$.</p>
47	<p>IC: So, we will return to our discussion for the motion of the student assembly.</p> <p>Lucy: I think, Ilana, you mentioned this an opportunity for people to get educated. I think an open forum is a great idea. I don't think going to a vote in a student assembly is appropriate. I think having a conversation with Rosenberg and other faculty to see if they can work on this.</p>
48	<p>WT: I move to omit, any reference to appendix A in order to make this a purely student assembly not an assembly to vote.</p> <p>RD: I think the need for an assembly is suspect. To say the assembly is not attached to the rest of the bill in naive. I don't think it's an honest move. We should have a forum first, not pass a bill without information.</p> <p>DT: I agree. We live on a busy campus. That means only people who can come are available. This amendment doesn't change anything.</p> <p>WT: We've been using the word forum a lot. This is a student assembly and not a forum itself. The language behind forum was not said by myself or the guests.</p> <p>RD: SO you don't want a forum?</p> <p>WT: this is a student assembly, not a forum. Lets not conflate the two.</p>
52	<p>IC: I think this is a good amendment. Its not including something that we don't like. I move to question.... Hold on. The amend ment is that the appendix A will be removed from discussion.</p> <p>General hubbub</p> <p>IC: All those in favor</p> <p>17 for, 8 opp, 0 abstain</p>
54	<p>WT: So now we're having a discussion about having a student assembly to discuss this issue.</p> <p>SN: If we do not pass this bill and you would have to get more signatures, won't you have to get more?</p> <p>JH: I don't think so.</p> <p>IC: I can move to question or extend the meeting. I am going to move to question.</p> <p>3 for, 22 opposed, 1 abstain</p> <p>IC: Alright, this is the first full meeting.</p> <p>DT: Thanks Tess and Ian for keeping us on task and on the agenda.</p> <p>IC: We really don't have anything else. Lets do some quick announcements.</p>

Meeting ends 21:02