

MCSG LB minutes 4/7/15

Tuesday, April 07, 2015
6:45 PM

Meeting begins 19:01

01	IC: We've got a full docket today so keep that in mind while making comments. We're starting off the meeting with William and Meghan giving their AAC presentation.
	WT: We represent the Student Affairs Advisory committee. It basically exists as an informative line to student affairs and the President. We bring student concerns and objectives to those who can change things.
	Meghan: We've met once this semester, we talked about Kagin and sexual assault problems. Also we've discussed drinking violations. Next thing we're doing is talking about the financial aid package being tied to on-campus living.
	WT: That's us in a nutshell.
	IC: What are you specifically being talked about with the financial aid policy?
05	Meghan: Really all we know about it is what was published in the mac weekly. We're hoping to learn more about it, how it will be implemented, knowing the facts before opinions are made
	WT: Anything that will make your committee more effective?
	Meghan: I don't think we're ineffective, we're the communicator between the students and Laurie.
	WT: Having more information from MCSG being sent to the members would help, that open line can help share the problems on campus.
	AB: I'm also on the committee, the meeting is this Thursday so talk to us if you have questions.
07	IC: Thanks for coming in. Next up is the sustainability advisory committee.
	JG: In terms of the SAC, they keep scheduling meetings during class which is a problem, I know there are other SAC people in the group so chime in if I miss anything. Now with the strat plan being more finalized the SAC is coming up with their own plan for action. Most of the same things you've heard before, the 0 waste pledge, carbon emissions, etc.
09	RB: Scheduling is tough, its trying to coordinate with staff and students. The plan being made right now is different from the strat plan. They're looking at having a complete revision of the 2011 plan, it will be coming out sometime later this semester. Hopefully I can bring it here when it is released. Another thing is the new public transit system is being worked out, there are some great deals for students.
11	IC: Moving along to bill B0007.
	CW: I'm excited to introduce this bill, I'll give some background to this bill first then pass it along. The purpose is to create rules in the bylaws for the responsibilities for class reps. There are things for execs and staff but not reps. This bill creates a section for us. It will require reps to solicit feedback from their constituents systematically, we left the language vague in order to allow creativity. We want a model of openness but also specificity. The next section details what reps will do to let people know what they have been working on.
	CD: You've seen recently what reps have been doing to meet their constituents. Basically we've had meetings with our class reps to focus our efforts. This next section of the bill requires 16 min meetings each semester with their class to discuss goals and topics of concern. There is also language that encourages these meetings to continue. We hope you'll comment on this part too.
15	CW: Section 5 gives an example of the fruits of these kinds of meetings, creating an institutionalized memory of class cohort s. This section outlines what that could be. Feedback and commenting is greatly appreciated.
	WT: I like where this is coming from, what I'm about to say is about 2, 3, and section 4. The ways we go about doing things can be vague, putting in more vague bylaws and rules could not be easily followed. I think a different way might be working with the things we already have in the bylaws and using more outreach could be simpler. We should worry about changing rep roles next semester.
18	IC: Some of the sentences are not consistent with the way the rest of the bylaws are constructed, it's a little colloquial. It should be formal.
	CW: I think William is right that we need actionable things to follow, its also important that future years can interpret guidelines to fit their situation. We think giving examples of the spirit of the bylaws is what we tried to do.
	DT: I wanted to hear what you all thought about the possibility for class rep groups to be the conduit from MCSG to the student body, to have a compulsory meeting for all the reps that is a drop-in place for students. It could be a way for students to hear more about what is going on in the LB.
21	JK: In the past this was done in the MCSG office, it didn't work, no one came.
	IC: Next year I plan to have a randomized list of 4 LB members that can come in for an hour to get dialogue going. It not exactly what you're talking about, but its close.
	JH: If the spirit is good, where you took yourselves to the students, then I think that will be more effective.
	CD: For class rep meetings I was contemplating what to add at the end. Should we add a meeting every two weeks/month?
23	RD: I think having specific goals is more important. Required meetings can slip off and not be effective. When there is no leader then sometimes its not productive.
	IC: That's one of the phrasings I didn't like, either make something clear or don't.
	JM: We've talked about class nights, maybe a night at the beginning of the semester with MCSG reps could mean a set program every semester, from there reps can structure what they like.
	LW: I agree about more bylaws and transparency, but when there is no structure or accountability then its not effective. Having someone there to hold people to these bylaws would be better.
25	CW: Thanks for the feedback, there is room for a lot of changes, I hope the things you've been talking about can be translated into concrete steps, step that can be shared with the rest of MCSG.
	IC: MCSG guidebook discussion is next.
	CW: What is a guidebook, what does that mean? I see sometimes that MCSG can be hard to understand. I thought one way to help would be to collect a lot of the wisdom that we have here that can be passed out each year to new members. Shifting discussion from how to do things to what to do would be more effective.
	HT: When I first came to MCSG there were things I didn't know, its been little things that would be nice to have when someone new comes in. Just having these things in a booklet form, especially for middle of the semester joiners... that would be helpful.
	WT: I like this idea, maybe in a PDF, we could share it with our guests.
29	CW: The next step is a google form that will be shared with you all, it can collect feedback and mention if you'd like to help structure and create part of the guidebook.
30	Harrison: I have a quick question about this guidebook, would this be available to all students?
	CW: Yeah, that's not what I first thought of when thinking of this but I think that that is a good idea.
31	JL: I move to suspend the bylaws in case this meeting runs over by 30 mins.
	WT: Who else can stay? Would there still be quorum?
	IC: Raise your placard if you can stay for an extra half hour.
	JK: m2q
33	22 for, 1 opp, 0 abstain
	IC: Lamont is here again.
	JL: This is a major revision since two weeks ago, we wrote a replacement clause for student affairs, I'll take questions after I introduce this. I move to approve this bill R0002.
35	LW: How do you define consensual.
	Lamont: An individual will make a prior announcement before engaging in expression, this was to be some form of public outlet, mac weekly, facebook.
	JL: It would be in line with the college's definition.
36	SD: Would student affairs have the power to reject this?
	Lamont: If it were passed it would be sent to some community members who would make motions to amend the handbook.
	RD: How do you see consent being communicated?
	Lamont: Originally I saw it as if someone saw this announcement they could make a choice to avoid this expression. It could also include or exclude people who want to engage in a heavily trafficked area.
	JL: I don't think we need to prescribe the exact process to the Student affairs committee, its just so consent was originally put out in case of complaints.
	JH: I commend you guys for working so hard to get this done. I have concerns about how this is written, there is a phrase about this clause not being the outlook of the college. Also how do you define consensual. We can't allow the public consent of something that is illegal. Also the duty we have for protecting the community at large, if we were to change the policy it should be more in depth. That sense of when and where this could take place should be even more defined. In a public space with working people, do they have to consent or lose their job? We don't want people in that position.
41	IC: Consent for me is the absence of a no does not mean yes. The idea is that people would have to contact you to say no to what you want to do, you'll have to know everyone in the place and receive and positive affirmation first.
	LW: Last time you were here you talked about a space for expression and a line to administration. Consent is affirmative, is there a space for this on campus where this won't be a problem? Also direct question, isn't the last line a copy of the top line?
	JH: I was implying the ability to go and still have that same...
43	JL: When we met to write this obscene exposure line, a lot of concerns are covered in this policy, we're using the college's definition of consent. If there is a group or individual who breaks this then that will be a violation.
	Harrison: Even if you sent out an email then a person who isn't aware of email would not be given consent. How would you work this out.
	Lamont: We did look into the definition of the word we use, the term "indecent" for example, it is not definitive of the language that guides the body. To consider a positive expression obscene would be about health code violations. In terms of consent then ambiguous accusations could be discussed, I haven't heard of any complaints about people being nude on campus previously in the semester. Ultimately I've talked with students and am working on a mac weekly column, people have told me that there is a level of nudity on campus that is not discussed or mentioned. I believe our policy encompasses lots of forms of expression.
48	CP: I think the discussion we're having does not contradict the language of the bill, having someone invite people to a space to share in expression is affirmative consent, the current policy isn't working. I support this policy, even if it is a

	first step.
50	RD: I agree that there is a problem in implemented policy, such as streaking. I think we as a community needs to discuss why we're holding this to a different standard. I think the fact that this policy doesn't mention positive consent is worth discussion. There is some many example of how consent could be not achieved, like what Jim said. JH: There are complaints about nudity, I get them. There usually isn't enough information shared in the complaint. There have been cancelled events on campus because of the amount of nudity that is expected. JL: Concerns need to be kept in mind that there is a vague policy right now about that does not mention or clarify the issue with exposure. Our policy defines it better and what the reasons are behind violations behind exposure. We're not changing things the college does its clarifying it better. We're trying to capture what the community sees as indecent exposure. IC: I move to approve this resolution 22 for, 2 opp, 0 abstain IC: Now some guests from MacFEAST.
55	JK: I move to approve and ratify the charter of MacFeast. Macfeast: It's a student org that has discussions, events, projects about the food system and social justice in food. RD: I did a bulletin board and mentioned you guys. M2Q 22 for, 0 opp, 0 abstain IC: Is mac christian fellowship here? No. JK: We could just start with... never mind. Go ahead and walk us through your budget. MCF: We wanted some books with our worship evenings, we also wanted money for an amplifier, we're partnering with mac protest ants and mac catholics about christianity, we had an Easter dinner, we have a fair trade chocolate progressive, we were interested in christian hip hop and faith so we wanted a speaker to come in, we had a lock in this past spring which was fun, we're partnering with the muslim student association to have a dinner, we also were interested in reconciliation and social justice on campus, we handed out rootbeer floats in the beginning of the year, science and faith journal panel. Any questions?
01	CD: What was the removed section? MCF: It was for the easter dinner I believe. IC: Thanks for coming in. JK: Next is chinese culture club. CCC: On the left I listed our budget allocation from last year, there were some major events and dinners and also a spring fest banquet. We usually have over 100 students attend these events. This year we requested more money because increased memberships, anticipated increased interaction with other culture clubs. We had a cooking competition this past semester, it shows our expanded membership. We were only about to give out a few slots for this competition due to money. These two pictures here was from the APA awareness kagin. We requested more budget for capital for costumes and supplies. We wanted to purchase some costumes this year for these events. We also increased our salary fee. We had a game night with more than 50 students per night. We wanted capital for chinese traditional games to increase diversity for our cultural events. We also wanted some funds for chinese papers and new year celebrations. JK: Any questions?
08	IC: How much were you approved... was there anything you wanted to be approved for? JK: We didn't approve some supplies from source, there also asked for money for utensils which is free, we didn't fund snacks for meetings and asked they should use flexie. Cory: They wanted money for language dinners, we hoped they'd start with one dinner first then try the second afterwards. JK: Thanks for coming.
10	AB: Could you go over the funds from each email? JK: Hegemonical was recommended about 1k, they asked for money for a kagin which we said to talk to the student activity fund, we also wanted them to talk to the mac weekly about an adobe creative cloud that we approved last year. We approved to recommend the full amount for publications. JM: I'll bring kagin information to the next meeting. For the media group we were hoping to buy one license for all media groups on campus. Hege: I'm here representing Hegemonical, a humor org. We need money to print the magazine, we do 3-4 issues a year. We hope to do 5 issue next year. Its usually 700 copies printed and each issue is roughly 700\$ per issue. We print most in black and white and a few in color for the staff. We requested the adobe creative suite for the editors, we want to have those programs on our computers as the space we use is in the Mac weekly office.
14	JK: Any questions? WT: Last year when we were funding block budgets we didn't want to fund events that were included in the block budget. Is that still how we're doing it. RD: Will we make sure orgs will spend all the money they have before we give them more. I think that's a good way to do it. This way the Hege can still do their first edition and we will know how much they've spent. JK: Next is MJO.
16	JK: Walk us through your budget. We didn't approve their kagin. Also the bagel brunch was not approved. MJO: The top here is our mission statement, we posted our big things on the top, we have a shabbat meeting every week. Our al location went up from last year as we've used all the money we have, we get about 30-40 people per meeting. Our Passover seder is a really huge event, we needed money for kosher food. We needed a lot of money for that. In the past we've had to add allocate for more money. The high holidays is in the fall, theres the breakdown for that. At the bottom are our smaller budget items. JK: Any questions for MJO? Thanks for coming.
21	JK: Next is MacPIRG. MacPIRG: We're presenting the budget for MacPIRG. Over the last year theres been a lot of discussion about our funding structure. We're glad we can find a new solution for our funding. So, thanks for hearing it. On campus events, this is an overview of what has been happening for the past year. We had an environmental justice week, we had panels movies and speakers come. State-wide events, they will be budgeted through the travel grant, these events happen throughout the year. We're a student org devoted to student organizing around issues which encompasses training students to organize. I'm not going to detail all of these trainings for tactics but they range to on and off campus events. There was some feedback about campus organizations and how not transparent they are. Having a space for taskforces to work with other student organizations on campus. We're trying to be intentional about getting this to be open to all students. Our final slide, by funding us with our campus organizer, being having a part of the larger state run organization has many benefits. There are board leader opportunities as well for mac students. We also have identity caucuses. What does it mean to be organizing as a certain identity, etc. Also internships and other opportunities.
29	JZ: How do you publicize these events? MacPIRG: We don't have set times yet for these events, the goal is in the daily piper and reaching out to student orgs. Also a table tent with all out events. Seeing the mac weekly could be a space too. WT: Why did the FAC not fund organizer ours? JK: We didn't fund the taskforce ours as they were exclusive, we doubled the consultation hours for off campus people. IC: I was a bit confused about that, is that a common thing?
31	Cory: Part of the reason is we were trying to help structure the campus organizer hours, we're talking to people about having consultations before or after the weekly training hours. Because then the specific taskforces there would be higher demand for that person, they could use an extra two hours every other week to keep them accessible.
33	RB: So that negotiation, is that reasonable for what you had in mind? MacPIRG: We budgeted what we thought we needed, I thought next week is what we were going to change... maybe next week we can talk more about that. RD: The reason is the LB wasn't seeing the whole figure last time so we thought it would be more helpful. JM: The campus org hours, we do not pay for advisor's salaries. We wanted them to have the hours to operate but not enough that we break this bylaw. We don't pay for a weekly person to come in as an advisor. We made a suggestion for open consultations for open time with that person so that others could take advantage of this person's expertise. Also the amount we were spending was more than any other org, we wanted to keep it equitable.
36	IC: Sorry if this is confusing, I just wanted clarity so I could think about it later. We want to make that clear, more on the FAC side.
37	MacPIRG: Just something to add, how we chose these rates is compared to other leaders in the twin cities, we'd be happy to supply quotes for these experts. We talked about that with the FAC proposal. The biggest difference is open consultation should be about questions while taskforce would be a sustained campaign from beginning to end. JK: Thanks for coming. Next is the QU budget.
39	QU: It seems FAC recommended our full budget, we want workshops with Robin Oaks one day, part of her price structure is all inclusive, including transportation and lodging. The next part is \$12 for publicity for our caberet, we shifted it to october for this year. We also have more for the Queer union gala, its coming up in two weeks. We're expecting 60-70 people. In the kitchen with QU is a program with MCL, the org covers the cost of publicity. And the flexie.
41	JK: Thanks. Mactivists is up next. Mactivists: We weren't sure of what we wanted to present. We were approved for almost 8k, its \$20 less than what we asked for. Our main events is reproductive justice week, its comprised of a roundtable discussion as an exposition of the event. We'll have a documentary screening and some activists come in. The other major event is the menstrual health panel. This year is our 4th annual, this year we're focusing on identity and not just products. It should be hopefully more diverse and more representative of the global menstrual experience. We need more money for better condoms too. We're hoping to bring in a comedy to have reproductive justice featured better than it usually is. JK: We have 4 minutes before Afrika is here, so the Mina kagin is not going to happen... About the appeals thing, we're hoping to... Next week we're going to start appeals, some orgs haven't presented yet, the week after that we'll vote on the budget.
47	RD: I think we should approve the budget first then make motions to amend with orgs, that way even if we don't get stuff done we won't have an awkward situation. JL: If we approve the budget what way to we amend it? JH: I think you have to recall something and vote on it.

49	JL: I think this idea, it could be a procedural nightmare. It would be easier for us to leave things we don't want to finish, rather than forcing the body to have 2/3 reconsider the event. RD: Defaulting to the FAC budget makes more sense then running out of time and approving a budget nobody wants. I just think we should approve what the FAC says and then go from there. JM: Could we shorten the appeals process?
50	IC: I thought last year to approved then amended it. JL: Last year we reconsidered the mac weekly thing. We did hear one appeal afterwards. WT: I have two bills that I want to introduce that will take time, I think pushing all of that stuff into one week would be tough. I think hearing the appeals then waiting a week would be better.'
52	IC: I'm confused about how this will happen with procedure, if we're hearing appeals before a budget... we'd have to put the budget on the table then approve the budget after a bunch of hullabaloo. The pressure will be on us to approve that, then approve the budget. The FAC is the experts, I think we should pass what they have then vote 2/3 once to reconsider the entire budget. We don't want to risk the budget not passing. Now we have a guest. JK: Hi. Afrika is here.
54	Afrika: I divided the budget into fall and spring semester. The welcome dinner is to welcome people to the group, also the welcome kagin is to share the org with everyone. Spring semester is Africa week which is happening now. We usually invite somebody to come in a speak, the speaker is usually from africa so they give a good outside perspective. After that we have a movie screening, we also have a kagin, then there is a dinner which is a graduation dinner for members who are seniors. Its also a way for us to introduce the new board.
56	JK: We recommend them 5240\$, we didn't want to fund the kagins as I've said before. We gave them the money for the Africa week speaker. And they used checkbook. Cory: we cut money for the speaker transportation until details come out.
58	IC: Returning to the previous discussion. JL: I think Jenny sending out an email to all the orgs to submit an appeal and agree that we will hear them. There should be a way for the orgs to come and let us know that they will be here for an appeal. WT: We should contact the orgs and have the orgs submit an amendment for the orgs through the SOC and FAC liaisons, we could consider each individual one. This is a way for the orgs to be filtered as well. We could have this be the way to have the budget finalized by the end. JM: The FAC should be the people to contact for orgs. According to the bylaws it doesn't say... does there have to be a decision before we hear oppositions to the decision. JH: I see it as a way for people to appeal the recommendation.
01	DT: I think it will put too much pressure on the orgs themselves. Information should be provided to orgs so they know why their budget was cut, and how they can appeal in the correct way. JK: Orgs have contacted me already about appealing. I was planning on sending this budget to the Daily Piper for the whole student body and have orgs send us their comments. RD: Yeah, I think that's the best solution. We should approve the budget, vote once to consider appeals, and then at the end have the budget as the backup. I don't think we're going to arrive at a perfect budget.
03	IC: We should think about the process about approving the budget blindly. The 50% cut is what I'm talking about. It seems like we're moving towards specific org appeals afterwards. We're going to still have a discussion first, JM: I have to go but also know if you do it for one org then you have to do it for them all. Branding something should not be wipe out.
05	JL: The proposed idea is next week we'll vote on the budget then have the appeals process on the last week of april. We shouldn't schedule an appeal later, we want any org that is interested in it show up. JK: I'll send out the budget to the piper, then org leaders can contact me. On the 14th we'll approve the budget and then have the appeals thing after. JL: We only have two meeting left. LW: Can you send an email out too? Thanks.
07	JK: We're not doing a kagin for this persons kagin since they didn't submit funding on time. TV: The MPIRG assembly will be coming up, it is required to go to.
08	AH: Can we get dinner? LW: I don't have a response to the dinner thing. If anyone wants to hear more about the assembly let me know.
10	AB: The forum, it went well, there were a lot of people there. The Q&A went for longer than we thought so we let that go on. We're going to reschedule the small group discussion for later. Also if you didn't come then let me know if you have questions. JK: We'll look into dinner. RD: If you're a meal swipe kid then bring you're dinner. If you're off campus then pack a lunch. IC: Anything else? Ok, lets do quick announcements.

Meeting ends 21:15