

MCSG Minutes 11/4

Attendees

Konnor F	Peace M	Heather J	Cole W	Steph M	Sana N
Rothin D	Jenny G	Caroline D	Rick B	Michelle K	Biftu T
Sean D	Akila C	Ari H	Jennie K	James L	Nandita E
Chris B	Tejas S	Suveer D	Seth L-K		

::

>Meeting begins 19:07<

:07 KF: To start off the meeting today we have two guests who will speak to us about sexual violence.

Lisa Landerman: Hello I'm Lisa Landerman, I am the coordinator for sex violence prevention on campus

Lisa Bruth: I'm Lisa Bruth, I work with the health and wellness center with students

:08 LL: We're going to briefly talk about a very important issue in college, sexual violence. I hope this will promote discussion amongst you all once were done. To begin I'll give a bit of context. Sexual violence is defined as any physical or emotional control, stalking, inappropriate physical contact, and other things that I'll speak more about. It can happen to anyone, regardless of gender or sexual orientation, this is an inclusive problem. Here's some statistics about sexual violence here on campus.

LB: We get a sample from students every two years for the mental health department. This is tough information to process, so I appreciate your attention.

:10 LL: This is a very important issue for college aged people, but also for people of all ages. This past year we've had 6 mac students report sexual violence of some kind. This kind of assault can cover many different things.

LB: Relationships are varied, and we need to look at this issue in the context of our culture as well. For example if someone would like to eat healthy and the environment doesn't allow it, this is a sign of sexual violence.

:13 LL: Lets end sexual violence. Information on sex assault is only one aspect of the problem, an analysis of the culture that produces it important to breaking down the issue. Another important thing for all of you is bystander intervention.

:14 LB: First year halls are required to attend a sex ed class that spread this kind of information. At the same time though each individual must take responsibility to learn more about this issue and what they can do to stop it. The continued conversations program that we host is our way of looking at sex and consent beyond a traditional setting. We also have a program called "lets talk about sex" which looks at sexuality in our culture. Alcohol and sex ed modules are a requirement to complete online before orientation.

:16 LL: Recently there has been a lot of conversations about consent and school policy towards sex violence. The state law Title 9 is being brought up a lot, it is designed to protect victims of sexual assault and gender based violence. New regulations are also being forthcoming in Minnesota, and we need to train the members of faculty here to learn these new regulations. We train all sorts of people, not just members of the staff or faculty. Federal mandates require this. Ok now I'll talk about some definitions. Sexual violence can be many things, including opportunities being closed due to gender or sexuality. Stalking is also more common and is still considered sexual violence, even if no physical contact is made. Partner violence is under this too, and it can include things besides physical or sexual assault. The most important thing is consent, this is the cornerstone of our education process. It must be informed and voluntary, not implied and coerced through threats or violence. Consent is often hard to pin down because it can be nonverbal.

:20 LB: Consent education is really important for first years, it gives them a chance to learn from the beginning. Alcohol and sex modules have a section on consent. Consent is mac is a program started by

students around 7 years ago that raises awareness of this issue. Its always been a student led group, and it does a lot of good work spreading information on sexual violence. This year they've stepped up again, with a lot of talks and posters all over campus. They also talk about relationships and culture. We've found it's a great way to get people talking about the issue and get conversations started. Also "How we drink @ Mac" has done a great job with incorporating sex ed. It's a bit more informal and focuses on small group discussions. They are prominent in social marketing campaigns.

:23 LL: We have speakers come in every year to talk about sexual violence, as well as all other kinds of topics. This year we had a speaker come in who talked about masculinity and what it means to be a man. Bystander intervention is really important, if often the best way to stop sexual assault from taking place. That doesn't mean interrupting a rape in progress, rather its about knowing what situations to look for at parties and the like to prevent the assault from beginning. You have a choice, either do something or don't. We hold meetings often that address this issue, you are all welcome to come and listen. Other resources are available online as well, our website has a lot of comprehensive information on sexual assault. There also guides for survivors, FAQs, and a quick overview of what we have talked about today. That's about it. Any questions?

:27 JG: If a sexual assault is reported and identified on campus, why is the accused allowed to remain on campus? I don't want a rapist in my classes.

LL:: Sexual assault can cover a lot of things as we have shown, not just rape. People who are involved in a sexual assault are often removed from campus, its an option we have.

RD: I have a question about policy and sexual assault survivor experiences. What are the immediate steps taken once sex assault has been reported?

:29 LL: It depends on the charge and the people involved, often people report through our anonymous report online. There are many ways that the case can proceed from there. Sexual assault charges is a formal process, however informal and formal consequences can result. Many people are involved in the handling of each case. Again, every issue is unique and requires a unique approach, depending on the origin. Every case has a trained conduct board member involved that oversees the proceedings.

:32 AH: Legal actions aren't usually the common route to take. Why is that?

JH: I can answer this question. Legal action is uncommon, but not unheard of. Sometime the victim does not want to involve the police. When it comes to this issue, there tends to be a lot of abstract thinking, a lot of black and white perspectives. In reality these situations are very fragile and need to be carefully managed. The police are kept away because often they complicate the issue and halt progress. Also the institution that works with sex assault in colleges prefers to handle these cases without police.

:35 LL: Its always an option though.

RD: What kind of punishments exist? And if someone is punished for sexual assault, why are they still allowed to remain on campus?

JH: Theres a continuum of people involved in this process, and an ambiguity usually on whether or not consent was given. This is a very difficult part of these decisions, determining consent. We have had people leave campus as a result of charges, there were two students who were asked to leave in the recent past. Some schools have their own lawyers that come in and handle these cases, we don't.

:38 LL: Sometimes its not a clear cut situation, we can't be completely sure about what really happened. Two people can take away different perspectives of the same experience. Sometimes victims don't report assault because they don't want the perp to be treated badly and get in trouble. We try our best to maintain a consistent approach.

:40 JG: What kinds of long term follow ups exist?

LL: We always have support available for the victim. Some cases require tracking of the involved and intervention in class selection and rooming to keep them separated.

:41 JH: Its my job to follow up of the follow up process.

JL: What percent of what policy is made comes from federal regulations and from mac?

LL: We have had training for dealing with sex assault for a long time, before federal requirements. Once the requirements came out we basically had to make no changes. Now we have to mandate discussions and continue things beyond orientation, but that will happen later.

:43 JH: There is still new legislature coming out, often with conflicting approaches to dealing with sexual assault. One thing that's agreed upon is effectiveness, nobody wants to see this process become dragged out.

JL: I'm glad to hear that, and I hope mac stays innovative when it comes to this issue. Also comparing us to other schools is nice but it doesn't matter as long as this continues on campus.

LL: I'll add that when there are areas where we are behind standards, it is the areas of peer support. Prevention is important but sex assault is more than an definition. One guy experienced shame for asking consent all the way through a sexual experience, he got laughed at. Peer to peer relationships is often the most effective way the prevent this situation.

:47 JL: Students sometimes don't like the process, claiming its not harsh enough.

RD: We should clarify policy to keep the topic clear. Also when does the school hand down punishment, is it before or after evidence? And what does it take to get a sanction

JH: Its important to keep in mind how wide this issue is, we need to have a continuum for action or else we aren't doing our jobs.

:50 LL: For example, someone being inappropriately touched during a Kagin dance can be considered sexual assault, even if the person touching has no malevolent intention.

RD: Are there any clear lines in this continuum? Like different severities of assault?

JH: everything is determined on a case by case basis.

:52 LL: These situations are always complex. We always take it seriously though, no matter what the severity may be.

SN: I have another question related to follow up on campus. How do appeals to decisions work?

LL: We have a person whose job is to follow up on these cases and manage appeals.

JH: I put things in place to keep parties apart through many means. We sometimes have to come back to previous decisions and adjust things whenever new things come to light.

:56 SN: what opportunities are there for upperclassmen to get educated?

JM: I think a lot of people have been expressing a desire for clear cut answers, however that is simply impossible. I've worked at a few universities and I can say with certainty that Mac handles sexual assault cases very well, probably better than anyone else I've seen. There are often things in these cases that can't be shared with the public for obvious privacy reasons.

:59 LL: Remember if you have more questions, come talk to us!

RD: Alright thanks for coming. This is a tough issue guys, I think it would be good to take a 2 minute break. I make a motion to take a break.

2nd chris

Motion to break passes, 24 for 0 op 0 ab

...

:06 MK: Ok now we're back. The October newsletter is coming along. There is an event at the CC planned for next Thursday. I invited a admissions councilor to the next meeting to talk about peer training programs.

RB: The MCSG sustainability task force is meeting up, we've been trying to figure out ways to make MCSG more sustainable. We are thinking about creating a work study position that will act as a sus. Officer, keeping track of sus and submitting reports to the LB. We put a document of orgsync about the position, take a look. There are still some issues that need to be figured out

:09 JK: What about sus in student orgs?

RB: we're thinking about making a rating program that will measure student progress. The FAC chair can monitor purchases to keep up sustainability.

:11 JL: If this position is created we'd work out a thing next semester to maintain student org sustaining. The FAC and SOC will be set up to review this position. Major allocations will be flagged, and we'll be able to notice trends in spending.

JK: we want this position to last.

:14 SN: Alright thanks guys. Winter ball is coming up, tickets are on sale. Everyone is required to take the bus there and back, nobody can get their own ride unless they have a hotel room. If you show up earlier than your time that's ok. We need hosts to help out, so please sign up. It's a really easy job and you'll do a lot to help with the process. We have the GoG coming this Friday. Also more information on samosas is incoming. Also next week, PB has a surprise planned for all of you!

AH: If you miss your time can you get off the next bus?

:16 SN: It depends but probably not. There is no guarantee.

CP: The bus is mandatory.

CD: What do hosts do?

SN: They are students that who go to the ball sober and look out for other students that appear too intoxicated or in trouble. They will be there to take care of those who are intoxicated. They can be designated.

:18 NE: What about people with hotel rooms?

SN: it requires confirmation, they aren't forced to take the bus.

AH: how does the hotel bar work?

:20 JL: Alright next up we have a new org called aware asia. They met all the criteria and are approved and recommended by the SOC.

Laura and Zora: Hello, we're the founding members of aware asia. We actually came up with the idea separately, and met through some friends. The purpose of the org is to promote discussion and foster talks about issues that matter in asia. We plan on having monthly discussions and collaborating with other orgs, also inviting guest speakers. The visit of the Dalai Lama last semester is what really prompted this group to action. The students for free Tibet approached the Chinese culture club and concerns were raised for a need for a new platform for these issues. Some of us in these groups decided we needed a new org.

Laura: I feel like this group would be really important on campus to promote intellectual discussion of the topics. We plan on having regional reps and collecting ideas from students about our topics of discussion. This is a good way to open up new conversations.

:25 AH: What other orgs do you have connections with?

Zora: There is a U of M group we have been talking to, also our adviser has connections to people in Hong Kong. These are historical issues.

Laura: also other students have shown a lot of interest in this group and doing collaborations.

:28 RD: I think this is a cool idea, however aware asia is really big. Maybe you should focus your group more?

Laura: We want to keep it inclusive and be able to cooperate with other orgs.

Zora: we plan on having a committee structure that will host one discussion a month

:32 JL: Thanks for coming. Next is another new org, the fishing club.

Cash: My name is cash. This idea started over the summer, fishing is really big in Alaska where I'm from. We want to get more people in to this activity.

Elliot: This org is based around showing people the thrill of fishing and will encompass an huge range of skill levels. I enjoy sharing my knowledge with other people. We've been contacting other orgs like the outing club to get access to other bodies of water.

:35 JL: We will not fund any competitive aspect of this club, and they already have an advisor.

AH: What about licenses, are you going to need funds for each person?
Elliot: We can purchase one day licenses for people instead of permanent ones. Also we will subsidize the cost for members.

:37 JK: Will you be having any on campus activities or will it all take place elsewhere?
Elliot: We'll host meetings on campus to educate people about fishing
Cash: They'll be open meetings
Elliot: Also having speakers come in and talk would be pretty cool

:38 SD: Have you considered having fish fry events
Elliot: Yeah that would be cool
RB: Is it possible for them to secure enough funding for one time fishers?
JK: Yeah its feasible

:40 JL: One day passes are what we would be able to fund, not the license.
RB: How are you getting the equipment? Its pretty expensive
Elliot: Yeah that's where we'll have to spend the most, I have friends who can lend equipment and also some places are willing to lend stuff out

:41 Cash: Making connections with other fishermen will help save money
CD: What have you said to the outing club
Elliot: I think it would be a great club to collaborate with
SN: The biology department owns a station on a lake that has tons of fish in it

:43 JK: Alright thanks for coming fishing club. Next we have two requests from the JCPA. I move to approve \$1700 to pay for a journal
2nd tejas
JCPA: This is an academic journal that people from all over the country can submit their papers to be published. The faculty on campus will also get involved. This benefits mac on an intercollegiate and state level. We would create both a printed version as well as an online one. We plan on printing enough for archival purposes as well as distribution. Mostly we'd use the internet.

:47 JL: You'd print 300-400 copies? How many would stay on campus
JCPA: 50-150 would stay, the rest we'd send to other schools
JL: It also says you want a commission, what is that for?
JCPA: It is what is known as an honorarium, basically its meant to recognize those who contributed. Those that submit and are accepted will receive \$50.
JL: Ok, we can't pay mac students. Also that seems like a bit too much printed material, it'd be expensive. Can you lower the copy amount?

:50 JK: They're using an outside printer to do the deed
JM: I'm concerned about the amount of benefit for mac students, it seems like this is geared towards off campus and other colleges. You guys are a brand new org and this is an ambitious project, why don't you try the online version only first and see what response you get.

:53 JCPA: This is mac centered as its being compiled here, however yes it does reach out to many other schools. Also I don't think that the fact we're a new org should be a reason to discriminate.
JM: If we fund this project, remember that we can't take the money back

:55 RD: Where does this project fall in regards to the purpose of the student activity fee? Its meant to benefit students on campus, which it seems here is not the case. If anything the institution or a department should help with funding.

:56 JH: If you want to access school funds beyond this you need to act quickly as the deadline is approaching.
JCPA: We've put a lot of work into this idea, I think it deserves funding. And I still think that this would benefit the campus as it is being created here. We'll keep the focus regional but also want to stay with the vision of the org

JL: By the way guys we should extend the meeting by thirty minutes
2nd Jennie

Motion passes 19 for 3 against 0 ab

:59 JL: You should talk to me after this to find other places to get funding, there is a lot of other ways. I've seen how much you've prepared for this and I think we should postpone funding until we know exactly where we stand. You should send out some feelers, see who bites. Otherwise we don't really know what we're funding

:01 JCPA: This journal requires a lot of planning and coordination, not knowing if we have funding or if we can print at all is not an option moving ahead. We've already heard from some interested parties about this idea

JK: Have you thought about using the Brirose direct fund?

:04 RD: We need to keep aware of how our funding affects relationships. I don't think an honorarium is a good idea, since it doesn't stay on campus. This isn't what the SAF should be used for

JCPA: This is an exchange of goods, this journal is a product. We need to have the honorarium

AH: What about smaller amounts of copies?

:07 JCPA: Buying more than less is better as what we cut back on will be taken out of what remains here on campus

:08 JL: We want to keep in mind sustainability, these journals have open calls for articles all the time. We can still hold up on printing. I propose a motion to amend the amount by removing \$1000
2nd biftu

:10 RB: Hold on we still haven't figured out this commission business. I move to table James' amendment

JL: NVM I withdraw it

:11 JM: What does your timeline look like for setting a goal date? Are there any other schools that will give money?

JCPA: Monetary control means we get editorial control which is the point of the journal. Asking other schools for money probably wouldn't work as we go to this one. Our goal is getting the journal out by march/april. I can't think of any ways this journal would specifically benefit mac other than peripheral ways.

:14 RB: I don't think the honorarium helps mac at all, and it shouldn't be included. Students should be wanting to submit papers to publish because of exactly that, they want to get published.

JCPA: We're going to be contributing to discussions on campus through this journal

RB: Yeah I think the journal sounds cool, I just reject the honorarium

JCPA: It's a way to recognize the quality of work being submitted

:17 JK: Alright guys lets wrap it up

AC: I agree with Rick, and with what Joan said about you guys being new. You should take it slower

JCPA: We're not talking about stuff in the future, the fact that we're new won't mean anything once this is published

:20 RD: I think a good example to look at this situation is with the CC and Lil Scots. We're investing in good ideas, not to provide benefit. Its like a cookbook

:21 CW: This is a new idea, unprecedented. I don't see guidelines for this sort of thing in the SAF

JL: Alright, if we move to question now and reject it that means they'll have to wait until next semester to try again. I move to table both allocations until next meeting

2nd rothin

Motion to table allocations passes, 20 for 0 op 0 ab

>meeting ends 21:31<