

# MCSG Minutes 3/3/15

Tuesday, March 03, 2015  
6:58 PM

Meeting begins 19:00

00	Patrick: The title of my presentation is the Higher Learning Commission. It's empowered by congress, it is what verifies that institutions are up to scratch. We are updating our accreditation this coming December. I'm here to reach out to students and raise conversations about this happening. What is accreditation, it's a good thing. Its to maintain high standards. For profit industries often don't hold these standards, which devalue degrees. There are many accreditors, we're dealing with institutional accreditors. It only happens every 10 years, so you'll most likely not have to deal with this again. The Higher learning commission is an independent industry but it is influenced by the policies of congress. If an institution does not have accreditation, then you can't receive financial aid.
	JZ: How does the congressional influence work?
04	Patrick: One of the things congress has been asking is what do credits mean? If you spend time in a classroom that should mean something towards that credit rating. These ratings can be transferred to other schools so the system should be looked at. There are some criteria for being accredited: having a mission, integrity, demonstrating high quality education, have responsibility for quality. All the assessment work you all have been doing.. Well not all but most... is all geared towards proving ourselves to accreditors. In these criteria there is also a lot of subcriteria, if you want more info then feel free to google it. We have to present an argument to these agencies, its pretty technical, we just need to show that we have processes for each of the actions of conflicts of interest, plagiarism, etc. We have to make this argument in 35 00 words or less online while providing agencies to back it up. Good news, we're going to pass. We've actually been given a free pass because we've been working with the accreditors before this happened. This brings me to the student role. Its happening, we welcome your interest. If you show an interest let me know. If you don't, my job is to hear who concerns and get your engagement. Its not just my view of how mac is doing, I collect opinions from all over the place. You can even ask to meet with the team that will come next november to ask questions about Mac. I don't know who those students will be, the provost does that. Even if you're not part of that group you still may be approached on campus and asked questions like "what is the mission".
	WT: What is the mission?
11	Patrick: There are four main values... Anyway, there will be a piece in the mac weekly about accreditation and table tents will be set up. Another way you can get involved is by helping me assess the college. This is not a time right now that is unique to assessing the college, we just passed the strat plan. We want to avoid the team being told that everything is fine and then have them walk out to campus and get a different message. My questions are now, how can we let students know about this? Are there any views on the substance of criteria you want to share? You can be honest about the student support system for example, and I've been listening to students talk about how diversity and multiculturalism is expressed well on campus. I'd be happy to hear your feedback. Also what is your interest of the any discussion you think we should have as this approaches.
15	JK: Thanks for presenting, have you considered recruiting a group of students to explore this process now? P: That's a good idea, I know Rothin has told me you have a publicity chair. AB: I'm not going to be here, but my successor will be. P: It might be a good idea to select some students to come back and get involved in this thing earlier on. WT: I think it would be good to have students elect those that they want to be on the accreditation team, that way they can better represent the student opinion. P: I think that's a good idea. How difficult is it to run an election? WT: A google form, a couple weeks following our bylaws... IC: That would be... I don't know how much interest you'd get from the students. Even on committees we don't get a lot of attention P: Is there another way to solicit names to be on this group not through elections?
18	RD: there is a certain type of person who applies to committees, you can always talk to MCSG reps and the exec board next year. JZ: I think it would be better to get the ball rolling in the fall, it wouldn't honestly be that valuable at this point to approach students about this. In the fall we could have publicity. P: Fully a quarter of the students will be brand new anyways. AB: For accreditation, do they give recommendations or is a pass or a fail?
20	P: You can be accredited, you could lose it which is unlikely, or you could be tasked to prove yourself more which is an intermediate step. AB: If we are approved, will there be feedback? P: Oh yeah, its like a peer reviewed session. Like last time it happened we had to look at uniform course assessment. CW: I would encourage next fall to send us some information so we can include it in our newsletter.
21	P: I'll put that in my calendar for this august. JG: My high school did a similar thing where students were programmed with a bunch of buzzwords in case they got approached.
22	P: Macalester is fairly simple, one degree. Other schools teach things a bit further afield. When St Kates went through their accommodation they had their provost walk around campus and ask questions to the students. Point taken though, there is some level of substance which is useful. IC: We have a bit of time before our next speaker ? AH: AAC can come in quick, it seems like the test optional week is coming up quickly. We are also working on promoting professors evaluations for this semester. We were getting into allocations from last time... I'll have to get back to you all about last thursdays meeting.
26	AB: Was the forum going to be with brian rosenberg? AH: That's the plan, we still have to talk with him more though. IC: We have a laptop policy where only FAC can have it out. Just keep in mind this rule. AB: I met with people from voices on mental health last week, as you guys have heard we're developing a new position for a health coordinator. Its going to be a work study position. If you know anyone who are interested in that let me know. They're looking for someone who is willing to do it for multiple years. Publicity for the mental health zine is also coming out.
28	RD: From the RA perspective, floor meeting attendance is a hard thing to get. We get a lot of requests to do floor meetings I like that, but by doing that it makes attendance less likely. Besides sexy training we also have sustainability training, the CDC tries to get us to do something this year... As Ras we get pressured a lot for this. If there is another way... AB: Its not a solid plan yet, when we did the student survey it was the highest supported thing on the list.
30	IC: We have guests now so lets get back to this. JL: Dex, Spencer are here to approve lights camera maction. PM: m2q 22 for, 0 opp, 0 abstain
31	SN: You could reform a meeting in the beginning of the year for first years, maybe get a speaker to come in. JH: Some updates, first two are staff related. Interviews are underway to find a replacement for Terry Gorman. We have a few candidates already interviewed. Two men so far, one woman coming up. Most of you know that keith edwards is leaving this year, we've decided coco du will be the replacement. Instead of replacing her role we'll replace an assistant activities director. We also know that we have a building director leaving too. Founders day is Friday, the pub quiz is Thursday at 10. Terry gorman is the trivia caller. Pushball starts at 430 on Friday, class versus class. It should be warmer this year, keeping our fingers crossed that the ball won't pop. The event on Friday starts at 8, there is an extra special surprise at 930 too. Last year we had no one get sick at the dance, lets keep that going. Any questions?
36	WT: can we encourage anyone to apply to the open positions? JH: Of course. IC: Juniors, we're at a disadvantage so encourage your class to go to pushball.
36	SD: What is pub quiz? JH: it's a trivia night, the end of the quiz the winning team gets a prize. SD: How can you sign up? JH: Just show up. If you don't have a team you can make it there
37	SN: Jim covered most of my updates, battle of the bands happens and we have a band that won. We have pushball at 430, all of you should come and try to be a leader. I want your class teams to be organized by you and... yeah. It'll be a lot of fun. High of 24 this friday... we have snacks and stuff. Also we have snacks for pub quiz. PB has been interviewing candidates for the new board composition. AH: EPAG, there were a few things we talked about. The theater major submitted their self study, there was some skepticism. The structure of the major seemed dubious, there were questions about attendance. Geoff Gorham talked about the internationalism req, the goal was to make it a transnational req which would tweak the international req so that it would work with that. It was pulled because there was fear that it wouldn't pass the faculty last year, this year there probably going to do the same.
42	RD: What was the theater dept doing? AH: Every few years there is a review of each dept, and each dept also gives a self-study. It was a very... ambitious major plan for a dept that doesn't have a lot of faculty as is. The expected to have allocations that weren't permanent.
43	JL: Caleb is here to talk about Mac Soba again, Caleb was here last week. I move to approve Mac Soba. PM: Do you have people already interested in the org? CE: We have a list of about 14 people who have expressed interest. RD: My question pertains to funding. It seems like a social space rather than a sharing space. When we give money out for events we only give money for food if its intergral to the event. I have trouble seeing MCSG giving money for food just because it's a social event. I just want you to make sure you realize that.

	CE: I haven't heard that before, there is a mix of intentions. We want this to be a space for unaccepted people in other spaces, so we want to make it a space where that exists. The essence of the org doesn't exist around food.
	JL: I made sure to differentiate between the flexie fund and allocations. Budgeted events will be also included. Also to Peaces question, we require at least 10 sigs and they got 14-15.
	IC: The ability to reserve space on campus was also an important part of this org's charter.
	CD: m2q
	20 for, 0 opp, 0 abstain
49	JK: FAC, I talked to Roni, the chair of MGO, and she said that the additional allocation... she said it was a mistake. The actual money is only 1100 for food, she said that 1000 was ok too. I move to approve MGO \$1000.
	CW: Can you talk more about that Jennie?
	JK: She said that just 1000 is ok too. I think she wanted us to do 1000 if that made it more likely to approve it. It raised some questions for me as well.
	RD: I spoke to you about this before, additional allocations are different than budgets... if they can do 1000 then why can't they do 900? I don't want to micromanage but...
	JZ: I don't want to assume too much, but it seems like a lot of people are afraid that MCSG will slash their budget when they apply for an addallocation. I guess I don't see this as a problem, it would be better if she stood her ground.
	IC: I agree with Jolena, also whats our pool of money look like?
	JK: If we approve this and the other allocation... let me get the exact number... \$3,825.51. Depending about the bike club we'd also have a different amount in the other account. Right now we have about 5k.
	DT: We also talked about how they requested cups and plates, did you talk about that with her?
	JK: Yes, we're not funding that.
54	RD: This is something we talked about at the exec meeting. Are you sure this amount includes what as been put back from the M PRIG money?
	JM: Every semester we get a breakdown of money, MPIRG is usually taken out of that figure so the number we got in the fall was the amount going into our op budget. I put that back in this semester, I also included the extra money available for the cChest and the lecture board, the textbook reserve, compostables, and some other amounts. We also had the rollover, I added in that amount as well. Those things are in transit too because at the beginning of the year the rollover was put in the wrong fund.
	JK: LCB... so we did the math on Monday and saw that there will be about 16.5k in the LCB. We're thinking about using that money for speakers, for example MUN on campus just applied for an allocation for a speaker and we deferred them to the LCB>.
58	JZ: I'm on the LCB, this is our first year with this budget so we're still working on cooperating with orgs on campus.
	RD: I've talked to people about redoing the bylaws, I think its great that we are getting close to balancing as we've had crazy rollover in previous years. I've thought about how it could be useful to pull money out of the LCB to put into the op fund.
	JM: Part of the reason why we have so much left we have had discounts on some of our speakers. Not having as much overhead to o has helped.
00	WT: I want to m2q on the \$1000 for MGO.
	JZ: I object
	To end conversation, 7 for, 15 op, 0 abstain.
	JZ: I would like to approve the entire amount, 1100. They probably need the extra amount for the fact that its kosher and we have the money for it. Its an opportunity to put a better face on the addallocation process. I move to amend.
	IC: This is now a discussion about amending the bill.
	CP: I agree with Jolena, I don't think we should knock off 100\$ because of an off hand comment.
	RD: I think it is bad that orgs think they need to reduce their requests to get it passed. There's a lot of people trying for money and I don't think that this is a good way to go about changing our image.
04	AH: I don't want to set the precedent that people will put more and get less... that people can negotiate what they receive.
	SN: They had this event last year so they probably realize they don't need the same as last year.
	PM: That's part of the reason why people have to meet with the chairs, to clarify things.
	JG: I don't think its wrong to set a precedent that MCSG gives people what they ask for. This is a very popular event for thi s org.
06	CD: Theres flexie fund available if they needed a bit more money.
	CP: I get the rationale behind minimizing the request, I feel uncomfortable that this off hand statement is what is determining an official action.
	IC: I'm going to exhaust the speakers list.
	DT: For this and other budgeting processes, I don't think we should base our decisions on assumptions.
	JL: I want to m2q
	Amending the amount: 8 for, 13 against, 0 abstain
	IC: We will resume discussion of the original allocation.
08	PM: m2q
	Approving 1000\$: 19 for, 2 op, 0 abstain
	JK: Next, more budgeting madness. We are currently collecting RSVPs for the budgeting workshop. We have currently 36 student orgs signed up. We have 120 in total. Encourage your friends to come to this, we need a rep to come so we can look at their budget. There is a whiteboard in the office with all the dates.
	KF: Will there be any betting we can do on this madness?
	JK: I will buy you a smoothie at the grill if you predict who has the best budget.
11	AB: We made some more plans of the sex assault forum, we're having it on Tuesday. We're having some panelists talk about poli cy, prevention, and process. We also want to make time for questions and goals for the future. To help discussion we're sending out a form two weeks before the forum to students to see what they see as the biggest issues. Any qu estions?
	SM: Every write down April 7th at 4:45pm, that's the date.
	IC: Next is new business with...
	AB: Our newsletter is coming out this week too.
	CW: I want to talk about soph rep take a break with cake. We had about 50 people show up and we got a bunch of feedback. We r eviewed that and know I'll talk about it. It was good to get together as a class in a not formal way. We brought all the feedback on to a google form and took responsibility for a few of those comments.
	SLK: Students liked having this class event and hearing what we're doing. They want to have another class event towards the e nd of the year as people are going abroad. We're thinkg about a "jump into junior year" event with exciting activities. Theres been some comments with the mac weekly, classmates stressed transparency. We're thinking about making a on e page on the weekly so people can not hear misinformation. Another thing is students raised concerns about not being able to get into dorms when they live off campus. We're thinking about total access, a google form in facilit ies for why access is needed would be useful.
	JH: Its not a problem to get approved but access might be the problem.
18	RD: I'll send you a screenshot of people complaining about access
	JM: Our office works with access for orgs. We're working closely with WMCN and the mac weekly about getting better access for members.
	SN: It's a general problem not just for DJs.
	WT: I cant speak to any technical issues, last year it was really easy to get approved for access. I got card access for an e ntire year by asking terry gorman.
	JL: Can you share more about mac weekly issues?
	SLK: I'm waiting for the mac weekly to comment.
	JM: We resolved the issue this morning.
21	CW: Seth mentioned the one page, related to that we're looking to collect a sheet about kagins and policy changes. If anyone wants to help let me know. We can use this to make a template which would be a neat way to formalize information, we will have a centralized way to get info out.
	DT: First years also had a meeting. We had some overlapping topics, we should meet up and compare feedback. Juniors can come too.
	SLK: The rest of the class will share too.
	PM: We also got suggestions about printers, the north dorms have a while to walk in order to print. In dupre there are two pr inters, we were thinking about moving one to the computer lounge on the other side of campus. Bullet points of what we were talking about could be posted to FB.
	JG: We can share that responsibility with the whole committee.
	WT: There is a room in 30 mac which would be a great printing room.
24	SM: There was feedback to have more outreach to more diverse groups on campus. A way to make MCSG more diverse is to make out reach more common with smaller orgs.
	JK: This is Henry with machbike, they have put in a capital requests for 6 mountain bikes, locks, and helmets. We met on Sunda y and we move to recommend the full amount of \$4931.64.
	IC: Henry, tell us about this thing.
	H: This mountain bike program is a joint venture with the outing club, a pretty clear need we've found is mountain biking. Lo ts of students are unable to bike because of that. We want to emphasize how this is a joint venture, its pretty cool. The outing club would handle the request and the bike club would store them. People have also talked about weekend trips and there are a lot of oppetunitys for people to use the bikes.

29	JK: what happens when a bike is broke by a student?
	H: There is a fair amount of wear and tear to be expected. This is a level of grace period, we are looking to the outing club s model of accountability for students. Making sure checkups are done is important, things out of alignment can be held accountable financially to students. Our shop can handle not serious stuff.
	JG: This is awesome, the closest trails are pretty close by.
	CW: Could you talk about transporting the bikes?
	H: They fit in college vans.
31	RB: How much space do you have?
	H: Its an issue, we're looking about storing bikes in other locations. Bikes in the shop now are not being used. We're also h aving a spring cleaning this Saturday. Come on down if you're interested. Each bike is slightly above entry level.
	JK: The IGC basement...
32	IC: there is a closet in the Mac weekly office that is pretty big.
	JL: There is also an org space room next to your shop that you can use.
	JK: can I m2q? I m2q
	22 for, 0 opp, 0 abstain
34	IC: We have everything done on the agenda. Joan wanted to talk.
	JM: A heads up, campus activities has Alison Greenley leaving so we're delegating her responsibilities to Suresh. He will now deal with a lot of orientation things, exec staff and more. Suresh will supervise the new position that will be opened up. He will also do general programming around campus. We wanted to make the position more specialized, we will be wor king on getting a grad assistant there too. We just posted the position today and are looking for student participation in this process. We'll be getting people in, ask us anything that you come up with. Suresh will also be advisin g a lot of orgs like WMCN and mac weekly. We're trying to reorganize and plug up some holes in activities. That's all right now.
	CP: First year class night, we did it in a similar fashion as the soph night. We had about 75-80 people in attendance or so. It was fun. We're planning on meeting soon and get all the feedback together so we can bring i t up in the LB later.
39	CW: I work in the CDC, when we have an event we make a task sheet. I was wondering... if MCSG had a task sheet. If we could rec ord all the feedback on a task sheet people can assume the role of taking care of this feedback. It's a more formalized way of getting informal work done.
	IC: We'll move on to announcements as there is nothing else to do.

Meeting ends 20:47