

MCSG minutes 10/21

Attendees

Konnor F	Rothin D	Jennie K	Steph M	Sean D	Jenny G
Cole W	Nandita E	Aman I	Sana N	Michelle K	Heather J
Abaki B	Biftu T	Diego T	Alexx H	Akila C	Chris P
Caroline D	Rick B	Ari H	Peace M		

>meeting begins 19:05<

:05 KF: We'd like to extend welcome to Sean our new member. Also we have President Rosenberg here today to speak to us.

RD: He comes to a meeting once a year so heres your chance to ask any questions you want.

PR: I'm glad to be here and I'll happily take questions.

:06 AB: I have a question about the strategic plan and how feedback is processed. How does the board take student feedback into account?

PR: So far we've received a lot of feedback from all sorts of people and we try to keep those notes in the strat plan. The committee comes together periodically and they have these notes as one of their highest objectives.

RB: What feedback have you gotten so far?

:08 PR: Not a whole lot of different stuff, we've had consistent feedback in regards to vocation, diversity, and the absence of sustainability in the plan. Its difficult sometime to gauge the meaning of absences... what does that mean when we don't get feedback in one area. We have to rely on usually our own best judgment in order to bring this to closure. Its often not super gripping for people so I understand how giving feedback can be sparse.

:11 RD: How is the strat plan rolled out and how can students get involved?

PR: Its important to distinguish between the strategic and tactical level when it comes to this implementation. Strat is a page of conclusion, pretty much set in how its going to happen. I'm not sure if there will be a rollout as you say, we're not sure how that's going to work. SPC doesn't have the authority to make a course or curriculum change, or a change in finance or student life. Everything else besides those will guide the discussion and decision making. Our plan is to have priorities for our future actions. I'm not a fan in this regard, I think it puts too much pressure on a level of autonomy in the future. They either are too general or too specific to get real stuff done. The other reason is they assume too much. We made the last strat plan in 2000, we had no idea that the crash of 2008 was coming. The best outcome is an institution that can deal w/ new things we didn't expect as they come up. Its tempting to put a lot of weight on priorities, I put more on structure.

:16 AH: On to the mock border wall project, how we're you involved with that decision?

PR: I'm surprised it took so long to bring this up. I try to be honest, we didn't handle that situation all that well. Honestly my personal involvement was limited. I get blame and credit for a lot of stuff I don't do, that's part of my job. I expressed concern for the placement of the wall because my sons college did something similar a while back and it caused a lot of division on campus. Its happened before here too. The other college didn't take as much into account as we did and they suffered as a result. As a result of my own personal history I divorced myself from the topic. Honestly I don't think the compromise that was reached was very good. In regards to what happened afterwards, we're pretty lenient for those who peacefully protest, so those who moved the wall were not punished. It wasn't about the images that were displayed, it was about a concern that with all this stuff that happened over the summer we didn't want to divide campus.

:21 DT: How can we create something that prevents this in the future?

PR: A good next step would be to hold a forum, we're always for communication.

SN: I have a question about the smoking ban, how will student feedback be taken into account?
:24 PR: Again I'm not very involved with that process. I know that it is being implemented in stages but I don't know what those stages will look like. For example we can only ban smoking on our campus, not city sidewalks. There are places all over campus that one can smoke.

:25 JH: There are four students on the smoking ban committee. What is this feedback you want us to hear?

SN: Well a lot of people oppose it. Will there be a compromise with that?

JH: Of course, but the end result of the compromise cannot be simply "don't do it"

JM: There are quite a number of students involved, but a lot of them stopped attending meetings.

PR: We have to go through reeducation every year for new students, this has been happening for a long time.

:28 NE: I have a question about the ranking system, how can the school work on getting higher in the system?

PR: I don't think that college ranking systems are the best way to value a school. In my opinion the places are there to stay. The system is flawed in a lot of ways. Basically the more money you spend on trying to get higher up on the scale the more you do. What the system is saying is that they reward inefficiency. We can spend more money to work our way up, but that means less financial aid and less on campus programs. There are a few schools that try to raise their ranking, but I think they have their priorities mixed up. It's a waste of energy.

:32 AH: I have another question related to the strat plan about SAT test optional. What level is this being taken seriously?

PR: I'm serious about it. I think the standardized testing system is unfair and it is a poor predictor of college success. Its also biased towards economically advantaged students. We have better ways of measuring success. Schools that implemented this idea first wanted to raise the avg. test scores by not including the lower ones, which made me skeptical. However looking at the positive benefits to test optional has made me change my mind.

:35 AH: How can we get involve with this process?

PR: A forum would be great if you guys want to set that up.

RD: We're happy to get involved. I think most of us agree with what you are saying.

PR: I try to take into account multiple perspectives, sometimes student involvement helps the process and sometimes not. I don't think its needed in order to definitively choose who is accepted and who is not. The ACT I think is a bit better at overall comprehension than the SAT.

:38 CP: What are some other ways to increase student diversity?

PR: We work with a lot of programs that target students of color. We have to be prepared to try other things too. Not all of the students in these programs are "diverse" in every sense of the word but the programs do a lot of good. The long term plan is more outreach. Outreach to more neighborhoods and cities beyond our selection now. So far I've heard good responses from the board about this. It's a good thing to get going right away.

:42 AB: Are there any discussions being held about targeted groups that are traditionally underrepresented? Such as native americans or other students of color.

PR: Of course, we don't lump all these groups together under "diversity". Historically NA students have been hard to get to enroll. We have a very large population of native americans in the upper Midwest but strategies need to be unique to get out to these groups. This is mostly admissions concern however so I'm not super involved.

:44 CW: What is the college's response to changing classroom environments?

PR: It has become much more decentralized and variable. Its hard to create an overall move in a certain direction. A big thing we need to have in mind is tech and how it has an impact in classes. I've

learned that in order to get faculty to use new methods incentive is always better than fiat or compliance. Some members of our faculty use tech very well as well as alternate styles of teaching. Therefore its my plan to incentivize the faculty in order to promote change. The approach at the moment is a bit irregular. It would be nice to have a more coherent one but we don't.

:47 SN: Café mac is a big topic of conversation for many students, has the college been talking about that?

PR: Frankly, the building is too small. The backstory to its construction is that it was meant to be a lot bigger, the problem was funding. So it got shrunk to cut costs and as a result its not everything we wanted. Its designed at the moment to accommodate 1750 students. In the future we need to anticipate campus size changes. We need to figure out another option. A long term solution is redoing residence halls and the CC. We've had conversations about knocking down Kirk, but have gotten a lot of negative reactions to that. Instead a connection between the two would be great, but that takes time. I do realize the problem though.

:51 AC: W/ the growth of the college in mind, how are the community involved in decisions on campus?

PR: We don't have a 3rd year rez requirement, so many students choose to live off campus. We want the relationship to be good. 50 years ago we created the High Winds fund to interact with the surrounding area and work w/ the people who have concerns. We use it now for all kinds of things. We give out grants, buy properties. We own a few local businesses nearby. We always try to keep up communication with the community. We work with them but things aren't always peachy. Neighbors can be irate and students rowdy. Its always an ongoing project. We try to bring more to the table than we take away as there will always be conflict.

:55 CP: Class enrollment this year was especially large, whats the plan for next years class?

PR: We're at capacity currently. In fact next years class will probably be smaller. The trick is admitted the right amount while being able to predict the amount of students that will accept enrollment. We've got big classes for many years in the past. For three of the past four years we've been getting closer to our target number. The problem is we can't get any bigger at the moment.

:59 KF: Alright, looks like that's about it. President Rosenberg thanks for coming, we appreciate it.

PR: Thank you.

KF: Alright lets keep moving.

BT: We have mac and cheese back again with an updated charter. I move to ratify this new charter.

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SN: What are the changes?

M&C: We took in a lot of your feedback, and we added a bunch of new stuff. One thing is we want people to be rotated so the same ones won't be able to keep coming. We've also been discussing our potential amount for events.

BT: Whats the biggest change you've made?

:01 M&C: We have more opportunities to cook elsewhere on campus. Also we made changes to make the group more open so we can service more people.

RD: What does your budget look like? We don't want to fund an eat for free scenario as I'm sure you know.

:03 M&C: Right now we have 25 people per event. We want people talking about cooking, not just making food. We've thought of ways to make our events more accessible.

AB: I have a question for JK, in the bylaws it states only \$100 or %10 of an orgs budget can go towards food.

JK: I'll take a look... Also mention that the RSVP list is for participation in the process, not a meal ticket. There needs to be a way of enforcing that rule however.

:05 M&C: Yeah, people will either be part of the org or involved in the food prep. We'll stress to those who want to attend that participation is mandatory.

DT: Do you guys still have no adviser?

M&C: We found a person to be our adviser, the problem was we don't know may advisers interested in cooking. We also didn't want to limit ourselves to just inside Mac.

:08 DT: Why this law?

M&C: we want to have food to be split up fairly.

JG: I went a dinner recently that charged those who didn't show up.

JM: I know there is a lot of concern about the success of the budget, so how... whats the plan B? Are there other things this org can do if the cooking aspect falls through?

M&C: absolutely, we're looking at outreach to businesses and starting a food blog. Hunting for good places to go eat in the city would be a big goal. We going to have a guy come in soon from the cheese shop to talk about cheese. A lot of information about food in the community appears all the time.

:12 AB: I don't think food should be given to MCSG, it makes us look corrupt. Also what are you going to do with leftover ingredients?

M&C: It depends, it would be great to have some storage in the Kagin kitchen. MCSG getting the food can be taken out. We could also leave leftovers at the C house? Right now we don't know.

:15 AC: Have you considered food banks and soup kitchens?

JK: The bylaws state \$100 a year for food or %10 of budget... But what is a consumable? The FAC will provide subsidies for recurring events.

:16 RB: consumables should be discussed later. Accountability is important but you need a definite way to approach this. It seems to be that the biggest problem is the cooking aspect. You can't use the food component and still get by. It'll be tougher to get money but other orgs do it.

:18 JM: I like this conversation but make sure to separate the constitution and the logistics. We should give them a chance to try. Telling orgs how things should be done is not our job, we shouldn't have to look beyond policies.

:20 RD: I apologize if you guys are feeling a lot of aggression, that's not our intention. Also I disagree with Joan, the food component is a huge thing that we need to address, especially if this sets a precedent. It will impact how others view our role. This org is all about the food. My question is what the process for amending the charter would be. If food needs to be taken out we can discuss plan B.

:22 M&C: We have officers for what Joan is talking about. Also you get to approve each event individually, not as a whole. We don't have the ability to cut and run with the money you give out.

RD: A big thing is setting a precedent. We don't want to account for something that would be bad for that.

:25 DT: It might be better to come back with another charter. Are we allowed to vote no and let them return later?

JH: The timeframe for new charters has expired.

DT: The org is including a lot more cultural aspects, I haven't seen that exist on campus yet.

M&C: We didn't know where to put that, but we're trying to make more cultural connections. Can we table this charter?

...

:29 BT: I motion to table my motion.

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JM: Everybody read the charter and give them explicit instructions on what to change.

Motion to table passes, 21 for 1 against 0 abstain

:31 RD: Lets take some time to discuss our reservations for this charter.

HJ: I think the problem is that food consumption is the center of this group, but the other ideas they have seem great. Panels, meeting ideas, etc., they all seem like really unique ideas.

RD: I'm convinced that they'll do all these things. Personally I want to eliminate all food centered events. Funding dinners is not what we do, no matter how indirectly.

DT: I agree. I encourage you guys to keep reaching out.

:34 CP: I don't see a problem with chartering the org except when it comes to them asking us for money for food.

CW: I understand the need to set a precedent, but we should give these guys a change. They've put a lot of work in to make this work.

:36 CD: Perhaps people can chip in for the events.

DT: I think if we approve the charter that the food question will be lurking in the background.

:37 SN: Lets keep time in mind. I would recommend that you guys use the mac soup charter as a template.

JG: I disagree, mac soup have a special arrangement.

:38 KF: If that's all the comments lets move on. Thanks for coming mac and cheese. Now on to committee updates, first the SSRC.

AB: some old business, the survey is coming along great. Also the ability to submit online feedback is getting processed.

DT: How was the cider event?

AB: It went pretty well, we got 80 likes if that's any indication.

SN: Ok, now the PB. Last weeks "what if" event went great. We had valleyscare as well which was fantastic. Now we have the collab form online, that should help. PB needs to a budget presentation soon but I make a motion to suspend the bylaws in order to postpone this presentation for next week since so many people in the board have been missing recently.

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:42 RD: Suspending the bylaws is for actions that go against it, not to actually change the laws. An amendment would be a permanent change.

JH: You should withdraw the bylaw motion and make one instead to postpone.

SN: Ok, I withdraw my motion and make a new one to request the PB budget meeting to be pushed to next week.

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Motion for PB meeting passes 21 for 2 op 0 abstain

:44 RD: We should always be wary of pushing back deadlines. Bylaws have it the way it is for a reason. Think about the implications for suspending bylaws.

SN: I've considered that aspect, we've got a budget for later in the year. Its just we have extenuating circumstances.

DT: I agree with rothin.

:46 JK: Ok, the FAC now knows how to creat orgos. Currently our money is \$69,309.32. Most of it will be spent on books. The MCG operating fund stands at \$100,450.94. I'll start giving these reports once a month.

:48 JH: We're not shopping for them so remember to use P cards.

AH: The AAC established an email template and a google form for the textbook reserve. Rick and I have been talking about programs.

JH: Updates

:54 JM: Updates

>meeting ends 21:00<