

MCSG Meeting Minutes

9/15/2015

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- Attendees Blaise Yokoyama, Carl Liu, Peace Madimutsa, Dan Yee, Harrisonford Fauni, Thao Hoang, Suveer Daswani, Rachel Banen, Andrea Grimaldi, Nikhita Jain, Taneeya Rele, Cami Garcia-Flahaut, Caroline Duncombe, Jensen Vu, Johannes Davies, Sam Doten, Jolena Zabel, Aarohi Narain, Cole Ware, Merrit Stüven, Jack McCarthy, Saakshi Daswani, Colin Casey, Alina Luke, Marco Hernandez, Joan Maze, Luke Bower, Jim Hoppe, Chris Pieper, Ian Calaway
- Luke Welcome to new members
- Jim Parliamentary procedure exercise
There need to be two people who want to talk about something- has to be seconded
Amendments- write out an amendment, then it needs a second
If you still have 10 people on the speaker's list, it's shifted over
New speaker's list to talk about the amendment
Amendment to the amendment- new speaker's list
Don't go beyond two amendments at the same time
Friendly amendment- if the sponsor agrees, there's no need for a discussion
Once something is on the floor being discussed, it's no longer the property of the person who suggested it, so all amendments have to be voted on.
- Ian Approach- "is there any opposition?" to determine whether something is friendly
- Jim Friendly as long as there is no opposition
- Jim Calling to question- end the debate
If something has been debated to death and everyone knows what their opinion is, then call to question
Ian asks if there is any opposition, no objections then it goes to a vote. Once the question is called, you have to vote
Speaker will take a vote; it takes 2/3 to vote to stop debate. Useful, but use it with respect.
- Ian You can move to question if you've been debating for a while and you think discussion is up but there are other placards up. Another way to do it is say I'm planning on moving to question, but don't actually move to question if people don't seem open to that. Don't want to discourage moving to question because it's useful in speeding things up.

Jim Speaker can say hearing no opposition, I'm going to move to question

Practice

motion to pass the candy

LUke Abstentions only happen if there's a conflict of interest

Sam Candy going to everyone is great but motion to amend to pass out candy to seniors

Jim If you are going to make an amendment that would totally change the nature of the amendment, it's better to just defeat the amendment

Amendments should be concise

Point of order- if you think the rules aren't being followed

Suspend the rules- to do something like add to the agenda, go over time, etc

Point of information- a specific question- I didn't hear you, etc.

Officially check with group if you need to leave

7:29 Ian Retreat recap- went great

Carl & Rachel introduce

Jack What happened with the bus and the trailer

Jim Had conversations about it

Jolena Remember the community guidelines

Blaise Mafia was fun, MCSG should hang out and play games, bonding is great

Cami A word for remembering the community guidelines, keeping things civil

Luke Saying two shoes is a reminder to look at a secure place

Ian When we have guests, be aware of inside jokes

Carl Turck 132 snapchat is thecarliu

4:32 Suveer Introduced MacProgressives last Tuesday. Today is quick discussion about the charter.

Chris We're hoping to be a progressive political organization on campus, collaborate with other orgs to work on progressive issues. At meetings hoping to discuss political issues in the US and internationally. Also hoping to collaborate with other orgs and some things that might be taken up by other orgs. NOT affiliated with any outside political party, want to be a group where members can bring their own ideas to the table and not influenced by an outside body. What sets it apart from the other orgs is the fact that it's political in nature but independent/grassroots, hoping to collaborate with other orgs on campus.

Suveer Motion to approve and ratify charter

Harrisonford Last week I asked about coordinator specifications

Chris Didn't want to make it too specific, want them to work together, but one will be primarily responsible for fund management, one for week to week meetings, two for spearheading campaigns- reaching out to other orgs, also unique projects. Want all 4 coords to work together

Jolena Great way to create new space on campus in being independent, appreciate the focus

Suveer Move to question
22 in favor
0 opposed
2 abstaining

7:39 Ian A few more campus committee approvals
Tess van Schepen for TAG
Jinath and Cole for Classroom & Learning Facilities Advisory Committee

Luke Move to question
23 in favor
0 opposed
1 abstaining

7:40 Blaise PB update. Saturday film screening- Pigeon Sat on a Branch
Saturday- collab with mac @ night for humans vs zombies- twist on tag
Following Saturday- apple picking at afton orchard
Same Sat. collab w/ mac@night Mean Girls night
Past weekend- trip to Midtown Global Market, screening of Avengers Age of Ultron

Sam Is there an online place to find all PB events?

Blaise Publicity on class pages, currently working on revamping social media, getting a reliable source of information for events for the next month or semester. Hoping to have that up in two weeks or so. Likely to be just things on FB page for now

7:44 Ian Omnibus Bill-

A reaffirmation of MCSG bylaws. There are a lot of redundancies within bylaws. One big idea- separate out some of the sections: student orgs, student media, chartering processes, budgeting. Remove those 4, make a student org and media policy. Additionally ECB bylaws will be separated into their own policy, election code will be taken out and put in its own policy now. A lot of inconsistencies, trying to remove them. I'd like all of you to be able to comment and give me feedback. Only make comments, I'll email and respond. Office hours tomorrow 3-4:30. Any questions?

Ian Removing campaigning period from election code. You can campaign whenever you want, essentially. Considering removing spending limit- it's important that you see how people use their resources.

7:49 Suveer SOC- Thao Hong
Vietnamese Culture Organization- a main aim is to promote Vietnamese culture

Thao Promote Vietnamese culture and history to Mac community, understand more about Vietnam
Space for Vietnamese students to connect, get to know each other
Programs- culinary night, volunteer programs, invite guest speakers to speak about Vietnam & vietnamese culture. We hope to cooperate with other cultural organizations at mac and vietnamese associations in the twin cities to organize programs

Jolena There's often a perception that certain cultural orgs are only for people from that culture. Be aware of that, think about how to expand your audience if you're interested in that

Thao Not only related to Vietnamese students, but everyone at Macalester. Interested members right now include both Vietnamese and non Vietnamese students

Dan Curious about the part that said members would have to fill out the form

Thao Just to sign up

Cole There isn't a specification of when elections for officers would occur- is that standard?

Thao We're planning to do it at the end of the year, but I can add that to the charter

Harrisonford What kind of fundraisers would you have?

Thao The fundraising part will only be done if we don't receive enough funding. We don't know what kinds of fundraisers yet

7:55 Jim Judicial council nominations- you can approve them all or individually. This year, Hannah Currens- served two years ago, Aramis Mendez, served last year. Rothin Datta is new- formerly on exec- that pattern of past exec lends understanding & awareness of bylaws, has worked well in the past. These three are a good representation of the student body. The judicial council is the final determination of disputes within MCSG. They are called into action- respond to requests, not an activist court.

Jolena While I appreciate someone with expertise/experience on MCSG is valuable, I see it as a conflict of interest, especially since MCSG still has roots in his leadership. I think it would be difficult to separate past decisions/opinions from current issues. I wouldn't feel comfortable setting that precedent.

Ian Jolena brings up a good point. It has been something we've done in the past. It's worth looking at whether that's something we want to continue. There are benefits and drawbacks.

Jack Point of inquiry- I wasn't aware of the existence of this council- what have been some issues?

Jim First ten years, 3 times, last two years seven times. They are called upon to settle disputes. In general they expect existing procedures and practices to be gone through first. We had someone bring a complaint because they felt they didn't get enough funding and were treated unfairly. One complaint challenged president's authority to make a decision. Past couple years all have been regarding elections. There was a referendum

They get called in when there's a disagreement that goes past whatever process is in place- job is to interpret the constitution and bylaws

Sam Reiterate what Jolena was saying- I think it's important that our nominees are people we can go to. A perception of a conflict of interest is a conflict of interest in many ways. I would feel less comfortable if Rothin were brought onto the judicial council

Harrisonford I was wondering how they were chosen. Any measurement of their judgment? Will they be impartial?

Jim Beneficial to have previous experience and understanding of constitution & bylaws. Talked about the importance of them being unbiased. We do have a precedence of members of the JC recusing themselves if they feel too connected

Peace How do we deal with it if people don't feel comfortable with one of the members?

Jim Call for a split, vote on each individually, could also have them come next week

Ian We could amend it, we could table it till next meeting if we want students to come in and discuss their positions

Johannes How were returning members' decisions in the past received?

Jim Any time you're talking about a controversial issue, it's tough. I look at the process rather than whether their decision was popular. I wouldn't have nominated them if I thought that they weren't good enough

Luke General consensus- only problem people have with these nominees is Rothin- recommend splitting and voting on two, inviting Rothin to speak with us this week

Peace Motion to table the discussion

Jolena Not against the person Rothin or him as a leader. It's about the judicial fairness- checks and balances

Suveer I think it would be nicer to invite Rothin and the other two

Jim I assumed we were introducing this tonight, was planning on inviting next week

Rachel Point of inquiry- because Hannah and Aramis have experience, what makes Rothin special? What's the difference?

Jim The judicial council has been called upon more in the past two years- it was a struggle when they didn't have MCSG experience, the decision making process was a little more tenuous.

Rachel Is there not another candidate that was on the JC previously who could replace Rothin?

Jim I don't think so- I talked to three other people, who all ultimately decided not to

Ian I hope that the JC will be called on less after we clarify election code, specifically regarding the campaign period.

Move to question on tabling

In favor- 25

Opposed/abstaining- 0

8:10 Jolena SSRC- meeting on Sunday

Survey of student body for information, often at end of first semester, second semester, not often utilized well. This year getting it out soon. Committees should be thinking about what issues and topics are important, what questions you want to ask. I'll bring it up next meeting, get back to us then.

Suveer Focus on a specific topic or general concerns?

Jolena General MCSG survey of student body- anything goes.

Ian Have a conversation within committees about the survey- block of questions that focuses on your committee's issues

Caroline Emails or other ways to make it more used/
Cole Be conservative in number of questions- advocating for a relatively short survey

8:13 Dan FAC- money in accounts
Student activity fee- 2,011 enrolled students- operating fund \$159874.50, PB 63456, Capital fund 20110
Add'l allocations
Every week we'll tell you the decision made the previous week

Luke Differences between the different funds
Dan PB - give the money to Blaise
Capital fund- money to be used for tangible items that last longer than 2+ years
Operating fund- every other expense you have- consumable or services
Meant to be used by student orgs for events open to the entire campus
Additional allocations go to orgs when there's stuff leftover

8:16 Suveer SOC- had our first full meeting.
Cami Went over what Suveer & Suresh presented at Solo
Talked about orgsync, looked at Suveer's spreadsheet of orgs & their statuses. Rachel is new
SOC open house- ~20 orgs were represented, could help solve orgsync problems. Step towards making this an ORGanized year.

8:18 Caroline AAC- Midterm coffee and donuts- usually only during finals, Chris will take lead on it. Harmon room

Ian Past feedback has been have healthy options in addition to donuts

Dan How set are you on having midterm c&d?

Jolena Bagels

Dan one or two day event?

Chris midterms 1 day finals 2 day

Blaise PB can also help out with that

Caroline Changing textbook reserve funding- will propose it by the end of october

8:21 Ian WMCN update- Thursdays 6pm- volunteers to be on the first radio show
I'll make an agenda for what we're discussing during the show, meet 5:30 to run it through

Talk to each other over the radio about mcsq things,

Blaise Does anyone know the deal with speakers and music and WMCN in cafe mac

Ian Our first year the building manager set it up over the intercom over dinner.

Joan It was done in the past, there were some issues- content is not always something to be broadcast through the whole building- there have been complaints in the past, music has been disruptive. Maybe in the Loch. Having any type of music broadcasting throughout the system can be disruptive- goes into offices, etc.

Ian It has been just over MJO stage speakers

Joan MJO is through the closet- it's difficult to do

Blaise Would there be an issue if there were just people talking?

Jolena Not super equitable if we only play ourselves. Also, maybe look into playing things at mealtimes.

Suveer Live MCSG show, make Ian the new Garrison Keillor

Jack Having it just in the Loch would be ideal- in cafe mac it distracts from conversations people want to have. We shouldn't force it on people. In the Loch people can go downstairs and check it out. People could get annoyed with MCSG

Luke Question for the survey- should there be radio/music being played during dinner

8:30 End discussion