

MCSG Meeting Minutes

9/29/2015

Attendance Blaise Yokoyama, Jim Hoppe, Joan Maze, Dan Yee, Harrisonford Fauni, Suveer Daswani, Gordy Moore, Johannes Davies, Nikhita Jain, Jensen Vu, Chris Pieper, Cami Garcia-Flahaut, Taneeya Rele, Rachel Banen, Marco Hernandez, Jolena Zabel, Aarohi Narain, Saakshi Daswani, Andrea Grimaldi, Merrit Stüven, Peace Matsimuda, Jack McCarthy, Cole Ware, Carl Liu, Ian Calaway, Colin Casey, Alina Luke

7:01 Ian We've got a full meeting, I think. Cole
I want to talk a bit about student rep responsibilities. Last semester, BOO07-what class reps might be expected to do in a given semester, so I wanted to briefly go over that

Cole 4 things
1- requirement to do some sort of networking with your class- organized activity with your class to make sure they know who you are
2- communicate regularly- each month with your class
3- Have a class meeting at the beginning of the semester- can meet just once, can always do more. Set goals, plan events, etc.
4- at the end of the year, pass on some sort of institutional memory to your successors- things you've worked on, success, feedback, etc.

Jensen How do we give this information to the students?
My class has crafted an email, then sent to class lists- Jim approves it. You can try it with facebook, we might try with video clips

Cole

Rachel What are other past examples of networking events with constituents?
We did take a break with cake in a lounge last year- informal, meet us, say hello, talk. Also had prompts on the wall with different issues, so people could put post it notes up and respond. Networking, learning about what people care about

COle

Harrisonford Who funded the cake?
MCSG would pay for that, you would ask for it

Cole I just talked to admissions today- we can use Macalester Orange fb account, can post officially to class groups. About the class events, I would suggest to use MCSG name. We were talking about doing one in the next few weeks

Jensen Last Tuesday, Thao spoke to us about the Vietnamese Culture Association, today we'll be voting on the charter

7:07 Suveer Motion to approve and ratify the charter

Ian Discussion
Based on your feedback, I made two changes- first, role of the treasurer- from fundraising to responsible for making requests for additional allocations. Second, election will be held once at the end of the academic year and members will be notified two weeks beforehand.

Thao If elections happen at the end of the year, what about people who are studying abroad

Harrisonford

Thao People will still know about the campaigns, can vote online

Ian That's how it's handled, generally.

Suveer Move to question

Ian Charter passed - 23 approve, no opposed, none abstaining
Omnibus bill- I'm not going to motion to approve the omnibus this week. There have been a lot of good comments, there's still a lot to talk about. After splitting it, it looks so much better. Much more manageable. Big reason we're pushing it until next week is that there were two bills that were passed last year that made changes to the bylaws but aren't included yet in the bylaws- EPC and SAAC. I don't think we're making changes, but it's best that we hold off, encourage more comments, and then vote next week.

7:11 Ian A few things to discuss this week- quorum on student assemblies, etc.

- The question with regard to quorum- last year was the first time we had a student assembly- rules were vague, how many people need to show up to create a resolution that has a student voice attached to it? What if 50 people show up and pass something and become the voice of everyone? Should the number be a percentage? 10% show up, 10% show up and vote? What should that be and how should we write it?
- Caroline
- I'm a little wary of imposing a quorum requirement or one that is 10%- it's unrealistic to expect 200 students to stay for the entire duration of something like that. Student assembly was great last year but still barely broke 100. I'm receptive to the concern that if there are only 50 people there, how can we say that it's representative of the student body, but there are only 25 of us here and we speak for the student body. I don't think we should hold the student assembly to a much higher standard
- Sam
- This may be a time where we create -- I'm' tired of people saying that MCSG makes decisions without the voice of campus. I think it would change the perception of MCSG as a whole if we did have a quorum
- Andrea
- I think the question of legitimacy - we have legitimacy because we were elected. I think what's important with a student assembly is that oftentimes it's the loudest voice that could be heard then, and . We need to find a balance of hearing the louder voices
- Jolena
- I would potentially be interested in having some sort of system set up where mcsg is accountable for reaching quorum - so you'd have to have 20% of the student population to sign the petition in order to hold the assembly. TO have a resolution on it is 15%, then to vote is 10%. If each of us brought 7, we'd reach it.
- Ian
- Putting the weight of the quorum on MCSG, then that might better legitimize it.
- I don't think the purpose of a quorum is to silence student voices, but to encourage students to participate, and I don't think 10% is too much to ask especially when making potentially major decisions for the student body.
- Chris
- I am curious about if an independent group of students petitions and has an assembly but is slightly short of a quorum- what happens? Also, what if people are there at the beginning of the meeting, but at the end there aren't enough? Logistical questions- my fear is that if we do have a hard threshold, it will make it so that students can't do what they're supposed to do- I'm wondering if we can't have the same goals of a minimum quorum requirement without having a hard threshold. I'm wary of a 10% requirement because I think there would be rare instances when we can get that many people at one time
- Sam
- If quorum is not met, it would be turned into a student forum. They can't pass resolutions- it would work well. Not elected to represent the students, so they can't be representative. But it would generate buzz/discussion about it. Point about people leaving during it- if an issue isn't important enough to stay through it- if they don't care enough to stay there, they shouldn't be counted towards quorum. We'll vote next time- just another minute or two
- Ian
- Is there any way that if quorum isn't reached a resolution can be put forth and not voted on?
- Merrit
- We could put in a clause that says a resolution would be brought before the LB
- Caroline
- Could someone remind everyone of the difference between a forum and assembly?
- Cole
- Forum- campus wide discussion, assembly has business that is binding to the campus- might say forum has to precede assembly. Assembly can conduct business that is binding.
- Jim
- Any other comments about the rest of the document
- Ian
- Another thing to think about is minimum requirement per class
- Carl
- There are already things we knew needed to be changed about my position, I made several comments on my section- how do I make sure those are implemented
- Gordy
- I saw your comments and they weren't direct changes- more discussion- you and I can meet before next week
- Ian
- Guest here- more discussion for next week
- 7:26 Jolena
- Community chest request

Molly Molly, she/her/hers, junior, favorite balloon animal is wiener dog
I'm a media/cultural studies and int' studies major, Kevin hollidge and I were in a class called from counterculture to digital culture. About rise in 60s counter culture. Things that rose from that time- sustainability, radical forms of living/architecture. Vietnam protests- how those principles have influenced where we are today- lots of technology, innovations since then. That class was made to partner with the Walker Art Center- this fall doing an exhibition called hidden modernism. Artifacts from 60s. We learned about the time period, wrote essays that will act as a guide in the exhibit, going to be in a library there. In class we were doing presentations, one of the girls presentations was a hippie community- geodesic domes. Founders were Joan She was my preschool teacher- called her up- first 60s hippie commune- skyped with her and her husband. They had originally set out to form their own civilization in northern africa, but decided that was lofty, bought this plot of land in Colorado. Kevin and I have been working this summer for Gene, the husband to visit and do things with Mac and the Walker. Schedule is on the request you received, but on THursday night there will be a showing of a documentary done by someone who is also coming to the twin cities. There's going to be discussion afterwards. Then Friday Gene will visit the us history from 1945 class, then starting 230 , a mini film festival in JBD- two local twin cities filmmakers visiting- one about Dinkytown chain food restaurant. And Radical Roots- not totally done with film, but about beginning of food co op movement in 60s. Gene is an environmental activist filmmaker- two 20 minute films, one about the derailment of trains and what they do to the environment, one on coal & environmental degradation- Friday 230-6:30. Panel discussion with all the filmmakers- about sustainability beginning in the 60s. On Saturday, Gene and Joan will be giving a workshop on low budget and guerrilla filmmaking. Appeals to history, environmental science, media cultural studies, art history

Dan This looks wonderful. Some things we want to know- what departments are contributing and how will those payments be made?

Molly We have money from MCST, art history dept, history
Reimburse media and cultural studies. We just bought the plane ticket on Sunday.

Suveer Unique initiative- only concern is the Walker Art Center- will that be open to all students. Will there be transportation for students?
The Walker event will be an admissions cost, I know some classes are already requiring students to go. Walker might be giving discounts. I'll look into getting transportation discounts for students

Molly

Blaise Where/when will the workshop be?
Was up in the air for a long time, only finalized it a week and a half ago. 1-3 on Saturday, no location yet. Also definitely have JBD for Friday night. Two weeks before we're going to show each film as well

molly Specifically asking because PB has JBD on Saturday that time, we'd be willing to release the space to you

Blaise That would be great, we were thinking like 20 students for the workshop, but if we got more that would be great. Not sure how realistic those numbers are.

Molly

Blaise WHatever best fits your idea- if you want JBD, it's available to you

Caroline Thank you for coming. 300 dollars for food- food at panels or for Gene

Molly Food was for Gene, that's what my professor suggested- does that seem high?

Caroline Seems very high

Molly I think having food at different events would be a good idea, we could allocate the money for that.

Dan Where would the breakdown of the thousand dollars go?

Molly History dept was planning on paying for the plane ticket. Haven't thought a lot about it. You can say what you think would be best

Dan Do you already have contracts for Gene and local directors?

Molly No, we'll sit down

Rachel What are you doing for advertising?

Molly Working on posters right now, professors who are in the departments are aware of it- haven't received final schedule- going to send that to them tonight. Posters, fb group, profs, word of mouth

Aarohi One concern with content of event- relies on prior knowledge of history/media- what about people without that knowledge, international students, etc?

Molly Good point- on posters, give clear idea of what it is, give basic summary wherever we advertise of what Drop City is. Does that seem sufficient? Going to have a geodesic dome on the lawn in front of CC for a day or two, give people more information

Andrea \$500 for workshop- what is that for?

Molly To pay Gene and Joan

Ian Motion to approve the community chest request

Peace How does this go with contracts & the amount?

Joan Have to figure out the total amount for the contracts- figure out how to get the money that other groups are contributing into one account

Jolena Don't worry about logistics much right now

Caroline For food, I'd recommend giving \$50 a day with regard to food

Ian Makes the most sense to say if money is going somewhere specific. Read through community chest, what they usually approve

Jolena Other departments have already moved on some purchasing things- harder to divvy it up now

Sam Is food just for Gene?

Molly yes, just for Gene. We could rework the food to do \$50 per day for Gene, then food for screening

Caroline Motion to Amend recommended amount to \$850

Cole Molly, were you thinking of keeping the money the same amount- splitting so some went to gene, but some would go to food for the screening?

Ian We're talking in circles. What Jolena said before- we're paying a lump sum and Molly can pay whatever she wants. I'm going to move to question on the amendment to change the amount from \$1000 to \$850

Amendment- 11 - 13 didn't pass

Discussion on CC request for 1000

Cole Move to question

Ian Approve CC request for \$1000

Motion passes-

7:58 Ian Judicial Council Nominations

Rothin Rothin, he/him/his, senior, favorite balloon animal is poodle

Hannah Hannah, senior, she/her/hers, snake/worm

Aramis Aramis, junior, he/him/his, alien with big black eyes.

Jim My job is to nominate candidates for judicial council. Look for students with experience, good understanding, good representatives of this body. Make sure they can be objective, don't have conflicts. In this case, A & H have previously served on JC, Rothin has served as exec and on MCSG, aramis was also on LB

Rachel I motion to approve these nominees for the judicial council

Aramis serving on the JC requires you to have an objective interpretation/knowledge and understanding of the bylaws, and I think we have that footing pretty set with our combined experience. Our own experience from either election procedures. All three of us understand the constitution/bylaws. I think we'll all be a great fit & great team.

I've never served on the exec board or the LB. I'm a student athlete, been on swim & water polo teams, do other service activities. Jim mentioned that he looks for students with knowledge of the bylaws/constitution and I had none, but two years ago we had an active year, so I had a crash course. I know the structure and contents of the bylaws and constitution, but I don't fall prey to the that's what we've done before frame of mind. There are things that have been overlooked because that's just how you do it. We've worked hard to set precedents and not just go with previous precedents.

Hannah

I was on the LB 3 times before, so I have a pretty intimate knowledge of the bylaws and how they've changed over the past 3 years. And it'll be great to work with a team that's already done this before. Sophomore year was a tough one because there was so much and not many people had experienced before.

Rothin

It was really hard to not have someone who was more aware in the past. It's a benefit to have two folks who have been through it.

Hannah

Sam

Could you tell us about your judicial philosophy?

If you think there's room for interpretation- original intent, how it would read to the average person, compatible with goals of MCSG, etc- if it's not cut and dry, what approach will you take?

Aramis

I think the fact that there's three of us makes the judicial philosophy a lot smoother

We've found with the bylaws/constitution, it's hard to find concrete evidence for what the intent was when something was written. It's a murkier question than that- I'll just try to use my best judgment in what I think is the most fair reading in that situation.

Rothin

Hannah

It varies a lot depending what comes before us- election procedures, an organization- it's not one layer- way more multifaceted.

Hannah, you mentioned that you felt that precedents can be set rather than looking back at precedents. How do you make sure that while you're setting precedents, you're setting them fairly?

Johannes

I'd like to think of myself as objective- I don't know that I want to trailblaze and set all these new precedents- I don't want to rely on precedents just because they're precedents. I think it's important that we keep a fresh perspective- don't just accept a precedent because it's a precedent.

Hannah

Sam

The bylaws were revised 2 years ago-

Aramis

Do you think the decisions the JC makes should be public?

Depends who would be affected. But I think there is power in having decisions be public. Unless there's a conflict in which someone would be harmed.

Aramis

I don't think students at Mac should feel limited in their involvement in student government on campus for fear of their reputation. We need to honor and respect the ways that students can feel comfortable participating.

Hannah

There's always ambiguity in how the exec board or LB should approach the JC. We might be bound to maintain some confidentiality in some situations (like probation) but otherwise, should be open

Rothin

Last meeting, there was concern about your previous participation on the LB/exec board and its impact on your ability to be unbiased

Chris

Aramis

Counts for more experience- we understand how things work on the LB

That's a legitimate concern. I think it makes a lot of sense in theory, but I haven't seen a lot of situations in which there might be a political motive to write a bylaw or a bylaw of that sort could come to the review. Within how MCSG functions and how the bylaws change, we don't have partisan politics in the traditional American sense. Also Jim is sort of in charge of us. I'd like to think that if there's a situation in which the LB felt uncomfortable with me ruling on something, and that came through Jim, I would recuse myself.

Rothin

Harrisonford

If you recuse yourself, how would that work?

Rothin

If there's a tie, it goes back to the way it was

When that did happen, we worked to look at all sides, read the bylaws like ten times. If Rothin were here, what would he do? I might also have to recuse myself. Part of the reason we think we can do this is we think we can take an objective stance.

Hannah

Peace

Move to question

approved

8:20 Blaise Saturday we had screening of A Pigeon Sat on a Branch Reflecting on Existence and Zombies vs Humans

Attendance wasn't as high ~20, but alternative audience

Humans vs zombies went very well. People got really into it

We had planned to have apple picking this coming saturday, rescheduled to be October 17th instead. This Saturday the 3rd is the Mean Girls event- in Kagin. Also for Family Fest- Friday Petting zoo, Inside Out screening on the tenth

Sam How do I sign up for apple picking

Blaise Tickets will be at info desk probably the week before

8:22 Ian Income Inequality Commission

Originally planned on 4, switched it to 5- one shared between two juniors

Eujin Kim, Esha Datta,
Nickolas Michalesko, Francesco Nutricato, Annalivia Robinson, Anna Finneanganofa

Jolena Filled out applications- why they're interested, what they bring to it, how they saw the IIC

Peace Move to question

approved

Sam What is the status of staff & faculty nominees?

Jim & I are talking, a few names being tossed around based on student nominations. We'll reach out to them soon. Before that I'll meet with the students

Ian SSRC is doing a survey- deadline for questions is a week from today, October 6. Send them to me. A couple things- be brief, be particular & thoughtful. Students have a short attention span when it comes to surveys. What will actually serve them well? We'll pull together a good survey, Jim, Robin, the IRB will review it before sending it out.

8:27 Jolena I talked about putting together a short survey pertaining to sustainability- should I put a few questions into this survey or put it out myself?

Gordy I think students tend to be surveyed out, I would visualize the mCSG survey including a section on sustainability

Jolena Put yours in hers- more people will review it, having additionally eyes would be good

Rachel It depends what you're trying to get out of your survey- if you have a specific thing that you need answers to, then doing your own survey might be good

Saakshi I think in terms of questions in the big student survey it would be a great spot to ask students what they want to see happening on campus

jack FAC- Fresh Concepts decided not to appeal. You still have to approve our recommendation because it was over \$500

Dan Fresh Concepts wanted to bring United Citizens Brigade- has big comedy names as alumni. Fresh Concepts in recent years has brought an improv troupe to put on a show for families during family fest. Last year they brought Lady Friend. This year we gave them 2485. This year they wanted an extra \$3,050. We only have \$28,000 to work with this year. The FAC recommended to fund them \$0. Because it's a great opportunity we still want to work with them to get money from other places.

Caroline Is the reason they decided not to appeal because they found another source of funding?

Dan No

Jack What plans do you have to help them fund?

Jolena I feel strongly that it would be a good event to have on campus, I think there are other places on campus to get funding.

Blaise We talked about them reaching out to other departments, other student orgs involved in general comedy things

Dan They decided to bring in a different group because Family Fest is so soon

Suveer The exec body suggested that other groups could collaborate. But none of them has that big of a budget

Maddie The main thing is that we didn't find out that we weren't going to get the additional allocations until 24 hours or so ago. We don't have time because we weren't told sooner

Dan The additional allocation was submitted on the 23rd, we responded saying they wouldn't get the allocation on the 24th

Ian Motion to approve Fresh Concepts for \$0

Jolena Thank you for coming in, I wanted to acknowledge you, thanks for coming in.

Jack Interested in getting this group to come in at some point in the future

Blaise That's a question about budgets- this year we don't have as much

Sam I'm surprised that this was denied- it seems to make sense financially

Cole We need to talk about our budgeting philosophy for this semester since we feel like we don't have that much money. But Sam is right, additional allocations happen- do we punish large requests because they're large, even if they have a large impact on campus. This is going to be a good question for us

Harrisonford We need to think about how justifiable the amount is- you approve money based on previous years' success. I don't know that there is good basis for this sudden jump in additional allocations

Dan We encourage all orgs to use their budget before asking for additional allocation. Move to question.

\$0 approved

Original AAC coffee & donuts request- FAC is recommending half of requested- for just this semester- \$312

AAC has been putting this on for the past 2 years, last year it wasn't budgeted for . They recommended us for \$312, but we will put it on next semester, so it will just be another additional allocation request later

Caroline

Chris Midterm coffee & donuts request was already accepted

Dan Motion to approve for \$312

Peace Move to question

fails

Chris If we're going to fund it next semester as well, I think it's inefficient- amend to full amount

Johannes Reasoning behind halving it- we have a more limited pot of money- things change and it would be quick to do it next time- why not wait and see just to be sure we have the money.

Dan We want to have the AAC see how much it ends up costing- take things step by step and see how much it takes.

Saakshi Important to take time as it goes- make decisions slowly

Chris I think coffee and donuts is worth it- if it's pretty much guaranteed to happen next semester, I think it's inefficiencies like this that people are referring to when they talk about government inefficiencies

Ian It's important that we hold ourselves to the same standards as everyone- I think it's important not to say of course we can do this cause it's going to happen. But I don't want MCSG to feel like it's able to jump to that conclusion

Approve amendment to change to full amount \$612

Does not pass

Back to the original amount \$312

Suveer Was the AAC allocated money for midterm donuts?

Dan yes

Suveer Move to question

passes

22-1-1

Dan approved midterm coffee/donuts

approved mac

Already allocated 1,544

Suveer

Advisor lunch this afternoon, hosted by campus activities & operations

Caroline

Midterm coffee & donuts soon, just got first textbook reserve

9:00 end