

# MCSG Meeting Minutes

10/13/2015

- 7:00
- Ian      Want to thank you all for filling out the MCSG survey. Lots of insightful comments, I think it will go a long way in helping us with this review. Short agenda, let's get started
- Caroline      One thing that's outlined in the bylaws is that student reps on campus committees must come to the LB during one of the meetings, give us an update. This is the first person, from EPAG.
- Cory      I'm Cory, I use he/him/his, senior, math & econ, critical theory. I'm here to tell you a little about EPAG, what they're working on, mission. What is EPAG? Everything at the college that's academic related or any policy that's implemented or changed goes through that committee. Every department goes through a review every ten years, bring in outside people- external & internal review. Approve all guidelines that are used for evaluating academic programs. Also the subcommittee of the faculty that focus on governance and voting rights.
- A couple different initiatives going now. First is a continuation of the non tenure track policies that have been on campus for a while and aren't necessarily the best. Focusing on two areas- changing the names of faculty positions- someone who's been here for a decade as a visiting professor or visiting assistant professor- not necessarily the best feeling when you've been at the school for 10 years- coming up with a different set of titles. Next is department reviews-work with departments on internal reviews, with external reviewers who come to campus for a few days- meet with these reviewers, prepare questions for them- equal say to the department being reviewed. Program requirements specifically- last year changed from US multiculturalism to US identities. This year turned to internationalism requirement. Primary reason for the change is that pretty broad and hard to evaluate- trying to respond to faculty task force that came out with a set of learning objectives for all international courses- going to tweak that and bring it for a vote. Internationalism is two pronged- focusing on a culture outside of the US, less sort of cross-continental or cross-country- less success in achieving learning outcomes in how cultures interact with each other. Trying to improve that while keeping classes that count now allowing them to count later. We've found that faculty are willing to change their courses slightly to meet new learning objectives.

Other things that we've briefly discussed are they don't oversee new faculty searches but that's something that comes up. I was shocked to see how important and stressed faculty diversity is- last year they hired 12 new faculty- 5 were people of color, 1 was not from the US. Big focus on hiring people of color, have programs to fast track people of color to getting tenure. Will be helping to hire new dean of faculty diversity & development. Another thing is concentrations policy. Concentrations now - state has been described as a blooming field of poppies - what that pretty much means is that any faculty member who wants to organize a concentration and pull together their own and other professors' time and figure out what the goal of the concentration is, classes that count, who's gonna be in charge- that's left to faculty these days. The problem is always money. There's a concentrations budget that was allocated when concentrations first started, was originally a financially neutral amount, not any more. Lots of issues with overtime costs, lots of issues with evaluating concentrations, overall goals. Some have an integrated experience, so equivalent of a senior sem in CGH, has kind of a capstone, others don't have that (like legal studies). Want to ultimately take it in two directions- I'm here to grasp your opinion. Two options both center on standardizing overall curriculum for concentrations. First is qualitative approach- like a tree with a few large branches- that's our first one (ernesto capello in history) phrased it that way because each concentration would have essentially the same number of courses required, a kind of culminative seminar or capstone- evaluative curriculum approach. Second is quantitative approach- let it run wild- would allow for more concentrations- any professor who wants to organize a concentration program can do it on their own time.

- Caroline Another main difference is resources- there's a set budget- quantitative would be less restrictions but less overall resources- more quantity and less restrictions on each concentration, whereas the first one would have the potential to expand the concentration, more opportunities.
- Cory With more concentrations you have more potential to follow professors in what research they do. I know in critical theory there are a few professors and people really get into those classes. there's a potential for that to get forced out. A question of lots of concentrations with a little support or a few concentrations with a lot of support. I know it's a weird thing to think about, something that has caused a lot of strife within faculty. Wanted to see what you think.
- Ian I've had this told to me a few times, but can you describe the difference between a concentration and a minor?
- Cory Concentrations are interdisciplinary, minor is in a department. Other difference is budgetary- interdisciplinary so it doesn't fall within a department. All concentrations are run through the IGC.
- Chris Would this qualitative approach involve expanding the 8 that are currently offered? would we have to make it smaller?
- Cory No number right now, my gut says that any concentration currently in existence would be able to adjust things and keep it going. Also may end up losing legal studies. May not be true- that's been an unspoken thing.
- Caroline If they adapt to it I think it would be okay, but it would depend on the will of the people involved in the concentration
- Cole Curious if there's a way to take characteristics from both of these options. I like doing a small number of things well and funding is a big thing there but my concern is the limitations the qualitative approach could impose on the structure of a concentration. Could we give them more leeway but focus on a smaller number?
- Cory I know value added terminology is not great- just going off EPAG's terminology. I don't think any concentrations would be deemed more or less valuable because of popularity- more that would be a way of controlling it by forcing involved faculty to commit more of their time

- Harrisonford How does the budgeting process work for departments to have concentrations? Are they each individually allocated a specific amount of budget for a concentration?
- Cory So there's a budget for all concentrations and at the moment that budget stays constant so more concentration means less per concentration. can't divulge how much it is. It's in theory entirely separate from the department. International studies does not support CGH financially in theory. Classes just count from IS or CGH but IS doesn't do things for CGH
- Caroline There is a set budget but a lot of times there is a financial burden on depts when creating a concentration that's not direct- might force a department to host a class even if they don't necessarily want to. For the quant approach it would really spread out resources.
- Aarohi What's the status- is the distribution of resources equitable currently? CGH has highest number of concentrators vs African Studies.
- Caroline We have to keep some confidentiality when it comes to finances. Can't answer specifically
- Cory We can find out if we can give you that info.
- Jack Concern about how concentrations would come and go - qual sounds good, value added sounds good, but quant would retain their value added components- would existing concentrations have priority if interest in those waned?
- Cory Still an ongoing discussion- if they followed the guidelines it would remain an existing concentration. You fill out a form, get x number of faculty. With quant guidelines would be significantly slimmer. With qual you'd have to have guidelines to have a senior sem, work with internship office. I don't think you'd lose concentrations that are willing to adapt. I can't imagine the faculty approving getting rid of their concentrations.
- Cami Implementation for current people in concentrations- if it's switched, how would that affect people who have already planned out their schedules with regard to that.
- Cory Those specifics haven't been figured out because we're still in the theoretical phase. That will determine how we create the policy to be proposed to faculty.
- Cory Something will probably be voted on at the end of the spring semester, probably wouldn't take hold until the 2018, end of 2017. It would be public knowledge before then, wouldn't affect juniors and seniors.
- Peace Does the qualitative approach imply a limit or cap- specific number of concentrations and that's it? And do we have a way to know how much demand there is for more concentrations?
- Cory There is demand for more concentrations- idea of value added is it wouldn't need a cap because it would force faculty to commit their personal time to these concentrations. AND the concentrations in existence currently faculty really are devoted to them. And it would be those situations that would continue to rise up as opposed to wanting to start a conc. with super lax requirements
- Johannes What is the current objective of concentrations? If it's to be an interdisciplinary minor wouldn't adding a value added requirement change what it is?
- Caroline Faculty is split on this and the reason we're bringing it up is so that we're informed by student opinions- and what you think a concentration should be. Do you think it should have more options and be less restricted or more supported?
- Ian I know you want us to informally vote on each one. I want to mention that we're basing our opinions on a very small amount of information. Don't want EPAG to say student government supports this when we have very little information.

Cole I don't feel comfortable voting- I'm going to abstain

Ian 7 qualitative  
6 quantitative  
8 abstentions

Cory Let me know if you have any other questions

Suveer Reps from Students Today Leaders Forever- here last Tuesday

Anna 2018 she her hers

Hannah Hannah ze zir zirs, cacti

Suveer Put STLTF on the table for discussion

Harrisonford Would you mind recapping what the org is about?

Anna Primarily service based- major component- spring break service trips. Take group of students off campus for 9 days, different city every day, reflection and service activities throughout the school year

Andrea The last time you were here we had some questions about how it's different from the CEC or if you're in conversation with them

Anna We met with Consuela last week, talked generally. We would take advantage of CEC - service opps, help plan- want students to bring activities to us, don't want to be as issue focused as the CEC. Want to work with students who don't know what issues they're interested in.

Hannah Primarily a student org, in our vision it's primarily about building community on campus while also engaging in other communities. All different years and majors and social circles. Reflection as a big part of building community, take what we learn outside and bringing it back to macalester

Anna Especially in building individual feelings of leadership- part of our mission statement. Especially people who don't really consider themselves leaders

Cole Thank for you work on this- I'm pretty familiar with the CEC. Spring break component is pretty unique, but I'm less clear on the rest of the year and the things that don't have to do with that spring break trip. More concrete idea of what that would be?  
What types of service would you be doing during the year?

Anna Want to do a variety of different issues- stuff in the Twin Cities that would be complementary to the service trip- reflect on how that is in the Twin Cities vs other parts of the country

Dan Thanks for coming in- what would you be asking for in terms of funding? In terms of spring break trip especially- ballpark

Anna Talked about the travel fund, so that. As far as MCSG funds it would be transportation around the cities, CEC said they'd be interested in helping with that. Service trip we want students to pay for it. Other money would be for providing scholarships for the trip.

Blaise I'm curious if either of you have really explored some of the opportunities that the CEC offers- a lot of things that you say are unique to your org I've experienced within the CEC- not issue based volunteer work, leadership, etc. Lots of people who aren't issue based people have gone to the CEC and asked about that and have found that kind of space in what's already offered in the CEC. So I'm curious are you aware of some of the things that are available

Hannah We're learning about that but the main part would be the spring break service trip and leading up to that- people from the cec have expressed an interest and a need for. And the other service opportunities would be related to the spring break trip. They'd be parts of the larger org being able to compare with communities around us in addition to other communities

- Anna It's not just going to the CEC and having them find something for you, but we want students making those contacts and doing this on their own
- Suveer Want to bring to the table concerns members of the LB have expressed. First is the fact that this org shares a great number of ideas and goals with the CEC, what else is unique? Leadership based seminars, workshops, etc on campus to differentiate it from the CEC maybe. If only focused on the spring break trip would meetings be open to students only who are going on the spring break trip? Also, leadership can be a general term, what exactly are you looking at when you talk about leadership? We do have leadership opportunities on campus.
- Cole I definitely think that the spring break trip is a value added kind of thing. More specifically concerns about things during the rest of the year. Talked about people finding something to do within the community? Can you talk about what that would look like? That's where I see the most overlap
- Anna We want what we're doing in the community to be the precursor to what we're doing on these trips. Have discussions about twin cities vs. elsewhere
- Hannah We understand that not everyone will be able to go on a trip or afford it, so even for the students who aren't able to go we want to be able to bring those experiences back to campus. We want to be centered at macalester so bring those experiences back and talk about how we can apply the things we've learned to service projects in the cities.
- Anna I'm curious if either of you have really explored some of the opportunities that the CEC offers- a lot of things that you say are unique to your org I've experienced within the CEC- not issue based volunteer work, leadership, etc. Lots of people who aren't issue based people have gone to the CEC and asked about that and have found that kind of space in what's already offered in the CEC. So I'm curious are you aware of some of the things that are available
- Jolena Habitat for Humanity- chartered org centered primarily around a trip
- Johannes Overlap between reflection of service and LOC
- Anna LOC application process, have to apply before you start school - this is for people who maybe didn't know that they were interested before.
- Hannah Speaking from my own experience I'm not the typical leader- I feel like- we want to be a more open space for everyone regardless of personality
- Andrea It looks like they've talked to CEC and they're supportive, so we should keep that in mind
- Ian It's also important to think about- CEC doesn't know exactly how orgs run
- Move to question
- 11 in favor
- 10 opposed
- 0 abstaining
- Passes
- 7:48 Blaise Petting zoo went super well, maybe will expand it in future years. might look to new kinds of petting zoos. Ownership will change hands in the next year

Inside Out did not show because we couldn't find the disc for the movie, mailing services put it in the pb mailbox which no one knew existed. Rescheduled for this coming saturday, 8pm. Apple picking is also this saturday. Reservations will be available at info desk starting tomorrow morning- 40 slots, probably will go quickly. Looking to get involved in campus center haunted house- Oct 30, PB halloween themed thing because we won't be able to send people to Valley Scare. Difficult to accommodate people's schedules. How long we can send them there and how much it costs. Budgets- looking pretty good- budget report next week

- Suveer Rising Minds at Mac- prospective org
- Emma Emma Soglin senior she her hers ivy
- Gabrielle Gabrielle she her hers berries
- Suveer met with rising minds this am- voted to recommend it tonight
- Emma Has had a presence on campus for past 6 years- we are the hosts/coordinators of j term Guatemala trip. So this is the first time we've made an effort to become more visible on campus, become a chartered org. Rising minds is an org in guatemala- sustainable development initiative- youth development, sustainable construction, health. We want to bring more visibility but also ways to connect so that it has a bigger impact. How can we talk about sustainable development in an applicable way? How can we have more people learn about development initiatives in latin america- also happening in the twin cities, not just an international thing. Bring these initiatives back to the twin cities- internationally focused also on a local scale
- Gabrielle Up until now we've been under the wing of mac development group, but what we want to do on campus is bring guest speakers to talk about development, documentaries about guatemalan history, guatemalan culture, dinner with Guatemalan food, educate student body about what we do. After january there's a project where we bring what we learned to the Twin Cities, work with the cec to bring this to the community, organizations in the twin cities.
- Emma Though we have a set group going on the trip, we want other people at our meetings. What does sustainable development mean, have forums and discussions that are open across campus, across departments, have lots of people involved in these conversations
- Chris One thing I've been hearing about- I know a lot of students are interested but can't participate because of financial reasons.
- Emma We are aware of it- we've had access to mac travel grant every year, and this year we're lucky because we have a third member and her entire job on our board is to help with fundraising . If we do become an org it will be here, but ideally we'll get to the point with fundraising where it is feasible to fundraise all of your fee.
- Suveer This is the introduction, they'll come back next tuesday to be voted on
- Aarohi Have you spoken to people on campus who do sustainability? the IGC, sustainability office?
- Gabrielle We've talked to IGC, CEC. Haven't really talked about sustainability really.
- Emma We had a meeting with people from CEC and IGC this summer who all had lots of different ideas of ways we could gain visibility on campus. Sustainability office is a good idea
- Jack You say sustainable development- when you say sustainability you mean broader economic and social sustainability?
- Gabrielle Participatory development, identifying needs that are there, not bringing our own biases.
- Emma It's sustainable because it comes from a point of participation from both parties.

8:00 Suveer Ballroom Dance @ Mac  
Akilah Senior, she her hers, prickly pear cactus  
Co Chair of ballroom dance at mac, have already started having meetings. Had so far around 35 people per week. Ballroom dance encompasses a lot of different styles of dance. Main budgeting would be for instructor- 45 minute advanced and 45 minute beginning. Goal to get people introduced to ballroom, connect them to dance community in the twin cities. Going to a showcase/event in two weeks.

Merrit Since there is a physical activity class - beginning/advanced social dance- how is your org different from that?

Akilah Same instructor- a group of people from those classes decided to found the org- once you take two semesters there's nowhere else to go. Before we were going to the U of M. People could also go to only the dances they really like. A place for people to try out and see if they're interested in taking the class. Also provide a platform for people to take their dancing to the next level. The advanced class goes over things that aren't gone over in either of the classes. Won't compete.

Ian I was in the office when ballroom dance at mac came in - more and more people kept coming in and they were very excited, it seemed like there was a number of people who were already very invested

Dan Thoughts on other orgs- overlap or collaboration

Akilah Been in touch with other orgs, hoping to work with them, have dances maybe weekly

Suveer They have leadership from all four years- it's good for smooth and efficient leadership transitions

Akilah Put in charter that one of the three co chairs must not be a senior

Suveer As part of the charter process we request that the leader teaches MCSG some dance moves

8:08 Ian Jim has things to say about the self study

Jim I'll pass around a draft of the schedule- want to solidify it tonight  
We need to decide when members of the different committees meet with the review team  
We want to see if we can get a core group of folks to attend the meeting  
AAC/SSRC time works  
Meetings in CC206

Taneeya Mac Players - Fall musical requested 1000, want to approve for 900- for rights and script. Props they can use what they already have. Play was written by a Mac alum. Motion to approve mac players for \$900

Chris They said that they don't need the money?

Dan These props were the ones the writer made themselves- more an authentic value. But they can make them themselves, they said the \$100 is not necessary. Could also negotiate the price for the rights to include the props.

Taneeya Also they were planning to rent it, so couldn't keep them

Jack Move to question  
21-0-0

8:18

- Caroline Lots has happened. Library contacted me about open textbooks- it's an online source- you don't have to buy rights to them- profs write books and share them. A lot of universities have been using this and mac just got on the train. the library was really excited about this, so they contacted me so we felt like an event supporting it was a good idea, aligned with mission statement of textbook reserve. Next Monday 12-1- asked that MCSG cosponsor it, asked that we send people to the event. The email was cute, they said I know the people liek the library but it's kind of boring. We want MCSG to give us "street cred" - Monday 12-1, there will be lunch. Next week is open access week. Another thing is they've asked other schools what the main source of success in getting faculty to buy into the open textbook policy and that was getting students on board with it and talking to student government
- Harrisonford Do you sign up for the lunch or do you just go there?
- Ian You can say point of information if you want to ask a factual question.
- Aarohi Point of information- how is it advertised?
- Caroline Lib is taking care of expenses/advertising. Tell three friends  
English language support center in MAX center- meetings with administration, starting a trial run in november, asking students if they would participate to start a pilot. We're putting together a proposal that would outline logistics, how we'd evaluate it. Idea is bringing student voices in, max center seems on board with this one on one format. Ideally it would be taken into the max center, not have to be regulated by mcsg. Writing tutors seem on board with it. Not sure if students would be interested. I think if we get ten students it would be amazing.  
One last thing- I talked with the registrar's' office about credits for science labs- there's been many discussions about credits for science- it's difficult because it's a financial decision, could restrict students, could be biased, would have to be on an individual basis- whether professor or department wants to sign up. Basically we don't necessarily have a solution- might be something we don't end up doing this year because we hit a dead end there and we're working on a lot of other things  
This sunday- midterm coffee & donuts
- Chris First ever midterm coffee and donuts- SUnDay- 1-3pm Harmon room
- Blaise Chris approached me earlier about PB helping fund that. Voted on that today- that's happening
- Chris We only fund coffee and donuts
- Blaise Apple juice and clementines
- Dan Update on weekly total- we now have \$14,563.76 in our pot of money. Small nudge in the spring
- JOan Typically more people are studying away and the amount is smaller (100 vs 121)
- Jim \$10,000 boost for the spring  
Back to review- for staff and faculty, wanted to include people who know about MCSG- Terri Fishel, Steve Jorgenson, Kendrick Brown, who else?
- Dan Cedric McClure
- Jensen Reslife
- Nikhita SOC meeting today- we met with two orgs- ballroom and rising minds, went over charter- were also given orgs that we're to correspond with. We send them emails, will attend their next meeting. Thought that would be a way to get closer to orgs and have a good relationship with them, know what they're doing, who they can approach if they do have concerns. Also spoke about SOC video we're going to put out



Jensen Just want to remind people - SOLO about leadership styles- I think you should sign up for it- also a good way to connect with org leaders

Chris Sophomore event- happening next tuesday 5:30 to 7- smores for sophomores

Ian COle brought this up- Green Dot training on the 22nd- as leaders on campus it's good for us all to be trained. I'm signing up for allies training. Recommend everyone sign up for green dot and ally training

Harrisonford Point of information- location date

Blaise oct 22 harmon room 9-4 1 hour lunch

Peace Move to adjourn