**Coalition Building Workgroup**

August 15, 2024

5:00pm on TEAMS

1. **Guest Speaker:** Macalester Undergraduate Workers Union (MUWU): Eliot, Roxy and Joseph joined the group to talk about organizing an undergrad union at Macalester College. The group is organizing the undergrad workers. Macalester College hired a separate attorney (Felhaber Larson) to deal with them. They are dealing with bad working conditions, bad supervisors, bad pay, etc. For example, at Café Mac they deal with mice in the dining hall and get paid minimum wage. Macalester College is trying to market themselves as progressive, but they are not, as they pay minimum wage. Macalester College likely is sitting on a large endowment ($849 million in 2023) and not using it.

As they are negotiating, the Macalester administration has been saying the right stuff, however, when language is exchanged, they show their true colors. The group doesn’t feel like administration is negotiating in good faith. The group has also talked to Grinnell College undergrads that has organized an undergrad union for advice. They are currently using a non-labor lawyer, David L. Shulman from Shulman Buske Reams PLLC.

MUWU is officially asking for a $2000-5000 donation. We could also possibly lend legal advice pro bono. Claudia and Chris provided their emails for contact information. Claudia will contact Joseph Polyak with the decision on the donation. E-mails for contact: [Roxy042611@gmail.com](mailto:Roxy042611@gmail.com) [macalester.union@gmail.com](mailto:macalester.union@gmail.com) [joeypolyak@yahoo.com](mailto:joeypolyak@yahoo.com)

**M/S/P** (Prideaux/Hochstein) to donate $1500 to MUWU. Motion passes by consensus. Depending on what other support we can provide, we may elect to add $500 of support later this year. We will move this forward to Todd Maki to get paid tomorrow. As a group we are exploring if we can share some of our space and provide pro bono legal support from our own attorneys in the unit. We will reach out to Alex Bajwa to gauge the interest among our MAPE members. We also discussed reaching out to MAPE’ers who are Macalester alumni.

1. **Starbucks Action:** There is a flyer event at a unionized Starbucks (corner of Snelling and Stanford) this weekend. To participate, order a drink under #Union Strong and wear red. More info at <https://sbworkersunited.org/red-for-bread-sequel/> Unionized Starbucks are now in St. Anthony, Roseville, and 50th and Cedar (Minneapolis). Fridley Starbucks is working on unionizing. Caludia will email the BOD and ask to participate in this tomorrow.

Claudia proposed two times for the weekend gatherings to do an action—4pm**-**5pm Saturday or 10am-11am on Sunday. Britton advised us to stay away from the heavy drive-thru Starbucks. The Minneapolis one might be the best one to promote as it does NOT have a heavy drive-thru presence. More to come on this—there will be outreach.

1. **Next meeting:** Thursday, September 19th at 5:00pm on-line.