

Welcome back and best wishes to everyone for a productive, prosperous, and healthy New Year.

There is much to look forward to in the coming semester and I would like to thank all of you for your support. The time, talents, and service you offer to the MSCA and to the College community are greatly appreciated.

DGCE Contract Ratification Vote

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

SB-202B

On December 1, 2006, the MSCA Board of Directors met and unanimously voted to recommend ratification of the proposed MSCA-DGCE/BHE Agreement. All DGCE unit members should have received correspondence from Pat Markunas, MSCA President outlining a summary of changes in the proposed agreement, along with ratification vote information.

Note that the correct day of the vote is:

WEDNESDAY, January 31, 2007 from 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Voting will take place at the MSCA President's Office, Sullivan Building, Room 202B, North Campus.

If you are unsure of your status as a voting unit member of DGCE, contact Mary Buckley at x6920 prior to the 31st. Our bargaining representatives Paul McGee and Marty Krugman deserve many thanks for their time and efforts!

Some highlighted changes in the proposed contract include:

Stipend increases by 3% at the beginning of the Spring semester 2007, 2008 and 2009. Graduate stipends remain at 107%.

Equivalencies for Field Work Supervision have been restored to 3 students to 1 credit ratio (each student equal to 0.33 credits).

Team-teaching: Each member will be paid a prorated portion of the stipend (as indicated in the letter of appointment) based on the highest academic rank held by any of the members who are team-teaching the course.

Appointment: Dates or periods in which schedules of courses offered are prepared will be posted and maintained on the College website.

Members cannot be appointed to a rank lower than that which he or she was appointed at during the 2005-2006 academic year.

Student Evaluations: The student evaluation form has been modified, and when fewer than 50% of the students enrolled in a course fill out the evaluation form consideration shall be given to the limited reliability the evaluations may have.

"Contract Courses": The definition has been modified and includes language that limits

enrollment in the course to a defined population.

If you have specific questions with regard to these or any other changes in the proposal, please call me at x6366, or our MTA Consultant Bob Whalen at 1-800-392-6175 during business hours on January 30, 2007 or e-mail rwhalen@massteacher.org.

University Status

Thank you to all who took the time to respond to the MSCA/Salem Chapter survey on university status. The response rate was well over 50% and the results can be viewed on the Chapter website. University status was a hot topic at the joint meeting of the MSCA Board of Directors and College Presidents on January 9, 2007 as well. Any updates around this matter will be shared as information becomes available.

Day Contract

The MSCA bargaining team has been working diligently on proposals for the next day contract. As of this date, no specific dates have been set for negotiations to begin. This was also a significant topic of conversation at the joint meeting on January 9th and there seems to be a mutual eagerness to settle a day contract as quickly as possible. As always, updates will be shared as the process evolves.

Professional Development Funds

Round two professional development money is being made available. Each unit member who submitted an approved request to the Academic Vice President prior to December 31, 2006 will receive approximately \$91.00 in additional funding. Expect to see this funding direct deposited some time in February. There is no need to submit another request to the AVP and the funds are taxable (no need to submit receipts).