

**MSCA Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
June 4, 2004
Bridgewater State College**

Present: Ambacher, Art, Concannon, George, Hetzel, Hogan, Markunas, Minasian, O'Donnell, Paolillo, Price, Schlosberg, Seider, Stonehouse, Tetrault, Twiss

Guests: Sandra Faiman-Silva (Bridgewater State College), Anne Falke (Worcester State College), Donna Sirutis (MTA), Robert Whalen (MTA)

Approval of the Orders of the Day and the Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

It was moved and seconded to approve the orders of the day. The motion passed.

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the April 30, 2004, meeting with the following correction:

On page 2, the heading, "*MTA Day Bargaining*," should read, "*MTA Consultants' Reports*:"

The motion passed.

President's Report:

MSCA Committee Appointments:

President Markunas reminded chapter presidents that all MSCA Committee appointments expire on October 1, 2004. MSCA Committees will be convened for the purpose of electing the Chair on October 8, 2004, in a fashion similar to that used in 2002. Notice of committee vacancies will be published in the September issue of the *MSCA Perspective*. Further information will be provided at the September Board meeting.

In accordance with the provisions of Article II, Section C.2, President Markunas appointed the following MSCA members to the Employee Relations Committee until October 1, 2004:

Patricia V. Markunas, Frank S. Minasian, Christopher J. O'Donnell.

MSCA Board Meeting Schedule for 2004-2005:

President Markunas reviewed the 2004-2005 MSCA Board Meeting Schedule. Due to renovations and parking difficulties, scheduling meetings has been difficult. The scheduling of the 2005 Delegate Assembly at Framingham is tentative, pending McCarthy Center's renovation schedule. The backup location for the assembly will be Worcester State.

It was noted that an attempt is being made to hold at meetings occasionally at locations other than Framingham and Worcester. M. Seider requested that a future meeting be held at MCLA.

It was moved and seconded to approve the MSCA Board Meeting Schedule for 2004-2004. The motion passed.

2004 MSCA Officers Elections:

President Markunas stated she had some serious concerns about the administration of the 2004 MSCA Officers Elections, internally and externally. External problems were with AAA. She would like the MSCA to recommit itself to the support of the election process as outlined in the MSCA Constitution, fair and equitable treatment of candidates, communications among the Elections Committee and with the Board and all candidates, and organizational support for campaign activities in a timely and equitable manner. She urged chapter presidents to give serious consideration to the appointment of members to the Elections Committee.

In an attempt to clarify the election process, President Markunas distributed with her report a (draft) chart of election procedures, *Elections and General Voter Eligibility*.

Discussion followed regarding election procedures, President Markunas' election procedures chart, and the *Unofficial Standing Rules and Policies by Custom for MSCA Board Meetings as Compiled by Pat Markunas, June 2004*.

It was moved and seconded that when decisions need to be made between Board meetings, during semester breaks, over the summer months, or on an emergency basis, that they will be made at special meetings, without exception. The motion passed.

There was continued discussion regarding the 2004 MSCA Officers Election. AAA handled the ballot count poorly, which almost resulted in a large ballot counting error in the contested election for the office of secretary. In addition, the AAA costs increased substantially in comparison to all previous elections, even though they claim to have become more efficient and cost effective in their election procedures. Correspondence with AAA has not been positive regarding their election procedures, especially those that resulted in the near error. Sandra Faiman-Silva (Bridgewater State College), Chair of the Elections Committee, described the situation as well.

It was suggested that in the future, the MSCA seriously consider hiring another organization to administer the MSCA Officers Election.

It was moved and seconded that the letter drafted by President Markunas and Treasurer Gail Price be sent to the AAA on behalf of the MSCA Board.

It was moved and seconded to amend the original motion to the following: a new letter be written by President Markunas which organizes the letter into two distinct sections: 1.) the excess charges for the election administration and 2.) the error made during the ballot count. The second and last paragraphs of the draft letter should be removed and the following phrases should be added to the letter: this bill is unacceptable and we request a meeting about this issue. Earlier correspondence should be included with the new letter. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved and seconded to amend the original motion to the following: the letter should be sent to the president of the AAA and cc'd to AAA District Vice President Jalkut. The motion passed unanimously.

The motion, as amended, passed unanimously.

Fall Conference on Academic Freedom, Privacy and General Liability Issues:

A conference for MSCA members is planned for the fall 2004 semester titled *Academic Freedom, Privacy and General Liability Issues*, at the Natick Crowne Plaza.

It was moved and seconded to allocate up to \$2,000 from budget line 9080 for the fall conference. The motion passed.

MassPIRG New Voters Project:

The Board discussed the MassPIRG New Voters Project.

Request from the Chickering Group for Payroll Deduction:

The Board discussed the request from the Chickering Group for Payroll Deduction.

DGCE Issues:

Printing of the 2003-2006 CBA. Three bids were received for printing 1500 copies of the new DGCE contract with a spiral binder. (Note: only 1200 copies will be printed). The SSC Copy Center, staffed by AFSCME employees, was by far the lowest bidder at \$3400. Chapter presidents will be emailed an estimated shipping date.

Implementation of the Spring 2004 Pay Increase. The pay increase has been implemented at MMA and Worcester. The pay increase has not been implemented at Bridgewater or Westfield. It is not known if the pay increase has been implemented at MCLA, Mass Art, Framingham, Fitchburg, or Salem.

MSCA Resolution on MTA Contract Courses. President Markunas recently met with Ed Sullivan, Cathy Boudreau, and Anne Wass to discuss MTA Contract Courses. President Markunas stated that two things would be helpful – we need more details regarding MTA Contract Courses, and we would like President Boudreau and MTA Staff Member Kathy Skinner to meet with the Board at its September 10, 2004 meeting.

Board of Higher Education:

There will be a demonstration by MSCA members at the BHE meeting at Framingham State on June 15, 2004. President Markunas has been granted permission to address the Board at this meeting and will work with MTA Communications on press releases for it. She is also working closely with Brad Art and Ben Jacques on materials for the *MSCA Perspective*.

Follow-up on the MSCA Delegate Assembly:

The MSCA still has not been able to present Jeffrey Ryan his award. It was suggested that he be given the award at the MTA student conference on October 30, 2004. If that fails to be a possible venue for presenting him his award, the award will be mailed to him.

MTA Leadership Conference at Williamstown:

Higher Education Day will be Wednesday, August 11, 2004 in Williamstown.

Vice President's Report:

Vice President Minasian discussed the serious situation present at our state colleges regarding chemical safety. There is a need for each college to have a Chemical Hygiene Plan and the only college that actually has one is Mass Art (note: MMA is currently working on developing a Chemical Hygiene Plan). Until Chemical Hygiene Plans are in place, our faculty, staff, and students are at physical and legal risk.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer distributed her report.

It was moved and seconded to decline sponsorship of the HELC Cocktail Reception at Williamstown. The motion passed.

There was lengthy discussion regarding membership numbers.

It was noted that those DGCE members who do not pay MSCA dues should be fired and should not be in the DGCE faculty pool. Taking non-compliant members to small claims court would not be financially beneficial for the MSCA as court/attorney fees would be more expensive than the amounts owed. In addition, many cases are over six years old. However, sending members' names to credit bureaus may be an effective way to get members to pay owed dues.

Treasurer Price will continue to work on the *MSCA Member Count*. The *MSCA Non-Compliance Report* will be sent via email, each Friday, to Chapter Presidents, the MSCA President, and MSCA Vice-President.

Secretary's Report:

The secretary requested that the task force appointed by President Markunas to examine electronic means of communication (George, Price, Minasian) begin discussing these issues, especially e-mail communication, in preparation for the October 2004 Committee Appointments.

MSCA Committee Reports:

Elections Committee:

Sandra Faiman-Silva was present to answer questions on her report as presented in April and at the Delegate Assembly. Board members stated that the entire election process should have started much earlier than it did and that scheduling the campus forums should have occurred at the beginning of spring semester.

Ad Hoc Committee on Librarian Concerns:

Nancy George requested a copy of the BHE Peer Institutions listing. President Markunas said that this information should be available after the June 15th BHE meeting.

Chair George discussed state budget and library-funding strategies that the COP is working on. Educational Resource Materials (ERM) will not be their focus; instead, they will try to get supplemental funding for library resources. It was also noted that the BHE, specifically the Chancellor, put a hold on any capital funding for library improvements. A task force will study if libraries are necessary in this electronic age before any money is allocated for libraries.

Salary Database Committee:

The chair passed.

MSCA Day Bargaining Committee:

There is a need to strategize and plan events and protests that demonstrate our difficulties in securing a contract and salary increases. These need to be done quickly so that in September 2004 we have activities planned for the entire academic year.

DGCE Bargaining Committee:

The chair passed.

Grievance Committee:

It was moved and seconded to go into executive session. The motion passed.

It was moved and seconded to leave executive session. The motion passed.

Local Chapter President's Reports:*Massachusetts Maritime Academy:*

CJ O'Donnell distributed the *Mass Maritime Academy: A Plan for a Special Mission College*, and briefly discussed it. Information regarding this plan has not been widely distributed to faculty members and the announcement seems to coincide with graduation and the end of spring semester. It is puzzling how the trustees approved this plan, as there was little evidence of approval at open board meetings. CJ O'Donnell is calling a faculty meeting the last day of classes to discuss this plan. The Chancellor of the BHE will be presenting the plan at the June 15, 2004 BHE meeting.

It was moved and seconded that the MSCA Board reaffirms its support for MMA as a state college within that group of colleges, statutorily constituted, that are governed and regulated by local Boards of Trustees and the Board of Higher Education. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy George
MSCA Secretary