

**MSCA Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
March 30, 2007
Worcester State College**

Present: Ambacher, Concannon, Everitt, Falke, George, Haar, Hetzel, Markunas, Mrvica, O'Donnell, Paolillo, Pavlicek, Shartin, Seider, Shea, Stonehouse

Guest: Donna Sirutis (MTA)

Approval of the Orders of the Day and the Minutes

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 March 9, 2007 meeting. The motion passed.

MSCA Officers' Reports:

President - Pat Markunas

MSCA Committee Appointments

It was moved and seconded to appoint Jean Stonehouse (Bridgewater) to the Credentials Committee. The motion passed.

Staff Changes

As reported in an earlier mailing, Jane Fiste has left President Markunas' office to take a full-time position in the Lynn City School Department. President Markunas has hired Christine Melin who will start on April 17th. In the interim, Mary Buckley from the Salem Chapter Office will work on an ad hoc basis.

The MTA Division of Higher Education is reorganizing its staff assignments in order to accommodate the affiliation of several former SEIU units at UMass Amherst and Boston. These reassignments may affect MSCA's consultants' assignments. President Markunas will keep Board members informed about this situation as she is informed about it.

Delegate Reporting Procedures and Deadlines for the 2007 MSCA Delegate Assembly and the 2007 MTA Annual Meeting

MSCA delegates must be reported to the MSCA president's office by 10:00 am on April 11th. MTA delegates, including a designation of those who wish a hotel room, must be reported to President Markunas' office by 10:00 am on April 23rd.

Governor's Task Force on Higher Education

The Task Force has met three times. President Markunas stated that the MSCA's voice needs to be heard in these meetings, regardless of the outcome of its work. President Markunas has received numerous emails from members around the state who are pleased that the MSCA has been included in these high-level discussions about reorganization and the future direction of higher education.

The first meeting was brainstorming about short-term and long-term goals for public higher education. The second meeting concerned tuition retention, fringe benefits and tuition waivers; graduate program funding and DGCE; some consideration of governance changes; and the merits of a possible strategic planning commission for higher education. The third meeting continued the discussion of governance.

PHENOM Activities

On March 23rd, members of the bargaining committee picked up materials for the April 25th lobbying day at the State House and the postcard campaign. President Markunas asked that all Board members commit themselves to gathering 50 signed postcards and returning them to the UMass Amherst office no later than April 16th. Attached was the latest information about the April 25th lobbying day. Included in the packets distributed with the postcards was PHENOM's legislative agenda for this session.

Reports on Recent Meetings

Jean Stonehouse represented the MSCA at the hearing of the joint meeting of the House and Senate Ways and Means Committees devoted to education and higher education issues. She made a brief report on the meeting. President Markunas stated that her attendance at this meeting was invaluable for the MSCA.

President Markunas attended the second hearing of the Joint Committee on Higher Education devoted to the state colleges on March 15th at the State House, Hearing Room A-2. President Markunas made a brief report on this hearing.

On March 21st President Markunas attended a dinner meeting with Aaron Spencer, Interim Chair of the BHE, at his restaurant in Newton. In attendance were Art Pippo, Dave Morwick, Joe LeBlanc, Lisa Field (AFSCME statewide president from Fitchburg State), Chancellor Pat Plummer, Interim Vice Chair of the BHE Peter Alcock and Peter Tsaffaras.

Upcoming Meetings

The Joint Committee on Higher Education will hold its next hearing on Tuesday, April 3rd in Hearing Room A-2 at the State House; President Markunas plans to attend. The two competing bills on "higher education access and excellence" will be heard, as well as some other bills concerning Fitchburg State College, Mass Art and Bristol Community College. Summaries of the two "access and excellence bills" were distributed, along with some materials about the Committee's work during this session.

The "working group" will meet next on April 10th at Worcester State College. Minutes from the first meeting of the "working group" were distributed to Board members.

Press Items of Interest

Distributed was a collection of press items related to the 2006 COP faculty salary study.

Vice President - C.J. O'Donnell

Joint Committee on Higher Education

Vice President O'Donnell attended meetings of the Joint Committee on Higher Education on March 6 and March 15. Vice President O'Donnell briefly reported on these meetings.

Secretary - Nancy George

Election of Delegates for the NEA-RA

It was moved and seconded to elect the following MSCA members to serve as the MSCA delegates to the 2007 Representative Assembly of the National Education Association that will be held June 30 to July 5, 2007, in Philadelphia, PA: Gerald Concannon (MMA), Patricia V. Markunas (Salem), Ann Mvrica (Fitchburg), Len Paolillo (MCLA), Charles Wellens (Fitchburg). The motion passed.

Treasurer - Glenn Pavlicek

FY 2008 Budget and Dues

It was moved and seconded to go into a committee of a whole. The motion passed.

Treasurer Pavlicek presented the *FY2008 MSCA Budget Proposal*.

It was moved and seconded to come out of the committee of a whole. The motion passed.

It was moved and seconded to recommend the *Fiscal 2008 Budget Proposal to the 2007 MSCA Delegate Assembly*.

It was moved and seconded to amend the budget to increase Line Item 9110 by \$500 per chapter (\$4500 total), as needed, to replace aged office equipment with new equipment, with a decrease in Line Item 9070 by \$4500. The motion failed.

It was moved and seconded to amend the budget so that the 3% adjustment contained in Line Item 9020, except for secretarial services and taxes, takes effect upon the funding of the successor agreement for the day unit. The motion passed.

The motion to recommend the FY 2008 MSCA Budget and Dues, as amended, to the 2007 MSCA Delegate Assembly passed.

Stipends and Reimbursements for MTA Annual Meeting, NEA-RA, and MTA Summer Leadership Conference

It was moved and seconded that the MSCA Board of Directors authorize the following stipends and reimbursements for MSCA delegates to the 2007 MTA Annual Meeting: a \$75 stipend for attendance at Friday's business session; a \$75 stipend for attendance at Saturday's business; reimbursement for mileage, tolls and parking; and payment for a hotel room for Friday night. The motion passed. It was noted that reimbursement for use of public transportation to attend the MTA Annual Meeting is implicit in this motion and has been the practice of the MSCA in the past.

It was moved and seconded that the MSCA Board of Directors authorize a \$1500 stipend for each of the duly elected MSCA delegates to the 2007 NEA-RA, contingent on proof of registration and voting receipts. The motion passed.

It was moved and seconded to approve moneys not to exceed \$5000 total to reimburse expenses for MSCA members to attend the MTA Summer Leadership Conference, contingent on proof of registration and receipts. The motion passed.

Health and Welfare Trust

Informational flyers on the Vision Eye Care Program are slowly being distributed to MSCA members. Information on the program is on the MTA web site.

As noted in the president's report, several UMass unions decertified the SEIU and affiliated with the MTA. This may affect the Health and Welfare Trust.

MSCA Committee Reports

Day Bargaining - C.J. O'Donnell

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

It was moved and seconded to come out of executive session. The motion passed.

MTA Reports

Day Bargaining Unit - Donna Sirutis

Consultant Sirutis reported on issues recently presented at bargaining meetings by members of the BHE that are relevant to retirement accounts and electronic access to pay statements. Consultant Sirutis has requested this information be articulated to the MSCA in a written format.

Information on the new health insurance law was distributed. Discussion followed.

DGCE Bargaining Unit - Bob Whalen

In the absence of Consultant Whalen, President Markunas stated that the new DGCE contracts are being printed and that the new salaries are in effect. The new DGCE contract has been posted on the MSCA website.

Director - Len Paolillo

MTA Board meetings will be held on March 30 and March 31.

An important item of discussion is the proposed increase in MTA dues. The proposed increase is \$9.00 per year for full-time members. In addition, there would be an additional \$30 public relations organizing campaign fee per member.

Local Chapter President's Reports

Worcester

Post Tenure Review results: 0 - 0%, 16 - 3%, 5 - 3%.

Westfield

Post Tenure Review results are not yet available.

The presidential search is still on hold.

It was requested that chapter presidents send the president of the Westfield chapter any evaluation tools or instruments used to evaluate administrators.

Salem

Post Tenure Review results: 1 - 0%, 14 - 3%, 32 - 6%.

Four finalists are coming on campus for the presidential search.

Six terminal contracts (tenure, reappointment and promotion denials) have been issued this year.

MMA

Post Tenure Review results are not yet available.

Some problems have occurred on campus regarding services to students with learning disabilities and the impact this might have on the faculty's academic freedom and the potential for lawsuits.

MCLA

Post Tenure Review results: 1 - 0%, 3 - 3%, 9 - 6%.

Problems are occurring on campus regarding renovations of a residence hall that is still being used as faculty offices. A grievance has been filed regarding the construction noise and its disruption for the faculty.

Mass Art

Not present.

Framingham

Post Tenure Review results are not yet available.

On April 27 the new president of the college will be inaugurated by Governor Patrick.

Fitchburg

Post Tenure Review results are not yet available.

Chapter President Hetzel reported on a variety of campus activities. The Fitchburg MSCA Executive Board is having regular meetings with the president of the college and finding them quite useful. In addition, the Fitchburg Chapter has a new office secretary.

Bridgewater

Post Tenure Review results are not yet available.

The university status initiative is going ahead. A campus wide committee has been formed to devise a division of new schools within the college.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy George
MSCA Secretary