

**MSCA Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
December 7, 2007
Framingham State College**

Present: Ambacher, Concannon, Coppola, Dargan, Everitt, Falke, Haar, George, Markunas, Mrvica, O'Donnell, Pavlicek, Schlosberg, Seider, Shartin, Shea, Stonehouse, Turk

Guests: Frederick W. Clark, Jr. (Board of Higher Education), William Spezeski (MCLA)

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 November 2, 2007 meeting. The motion passed.

MSCA Officers' Reports:

President - Pat Markunas

MTA Action on Initiative Petition

MTA has undertaken an all-staff effort to challenge signatures on the initiative petition to repeal the state's income tax. Donna Sirutis and Bob Whalen were absent in order to attend an emergency staff meeting on December 7, 2007, concerning this issue. Materials were distributed to Board members so that volunteers can be gathered for this effort.

MSCA Board Change

President Markunas welcomed William Spezeski, who will be taking over the responsibilities of chapter president at MCLA on December 21st. Maynard Seider will step down as chapter president and enjoy a well-deserved sabbatical leave of absence in the spring. President Markunas thanked President Seider for his many years of service on the Board.

MTA Interim Executive Director-Treasurer Appointed

Tim Fitzgerald, a former MTA staff member now close to retirement from NEA, will be appointed to serve as the interim MTA Executive Director-Treasurer, effective February 1, 2008.

Board of Higher Education

The next BHE meeting will be held on December 14th at Worcester State College.

Distributed was a copy of a *Boston Globe* editorial about the efforts of the state college presidents to create a state university system.

Legislative Issues

As reported earlier, the governor filed the funding request for our contract as part of a supplemental budget bill. Calls are still needed to urge the House leadership to act on this bill during the current informal session. If action is not taken now, the funding bill will have to be refiled in January 2008.

MSCA Archives/Salem State College Library Closure

President Markunas met with MSCA Secretary Nancy George and MSCA Archivist Susan Edwards last month to discuss a strategy around the MSCA archives, which are housed in the least structurally sound part of the Salem State College Library. President Markunas also discussed this issue with SSC president Patricia Meservey, who informed her that as soon as the building is deemed safe enough to enter, the College will remove its own archives from the Library and have them professionally stored for an as-yet-to-be-determined length of time. The best estimate for this removal is January.

Chris Melin researched several professional record storage companies (Iron Mountain being the best known one and the company that stores MTA's records). By consensus, the Board agreed to the removal; the storage fees of approximately \$1000 will come out of the Office Maintenance Account (9010).

Readiness Project: Subcommittee on UMass and Public Higher Education

President Markunas attended two of the three public meetings that were held by this subcommittee during the last week of November. The subcommittee meets again on December 17th.

Revised Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Partial Use of Sick Leave by Faculty

Distributed was a revised copy of this memorandum, executed December 5, 2007. It takes the place of the previous memorandum, executed on October 19, 2007, which should be destroyed.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

President Markunas reviewed a number of meetings and events that Board members might be interested in attending during the month of December.

Future Items for the MSCA Board of Directors Agenda

President Markunas has received items to be considered at future BOD meetings and hopes to be able to accommodate these at the February meetings.

Vice President - C.J. O'Donnell

MTA Activities

On November 30, 2007, the MTA Higher Education Leadership Council, held a Bargaining Summit. Vice President O'Donnell attended this event along with MTA consultants Bob Whalen and Donna Sirutis. Vice President O'Donnell reviewed with the Board the discussions and initiatives that were generated.

Secretary - Nancy George

Secretary George provided the Board with a brief report of her activities as secretary.

Treasurer - Glenn Pavlicek

MSCA Monthly Expenses

Treasurer Pavlicek distributed and reviewed the current MSCA Monthly Expenses statement.

Local Support Payments

MCLA, Mass Art, and Fitchburg are still due to receive local support payments. It was requested that chapters submit the appropriate form to Treasurer Palicek so that the money may be distributed.

Travel Expenses

New 2007-2008 Expense Vouchers were distributed to Board members. The IRA mileage rate is going up to 50.5 cents per mile.

IRS Visit

An IRS official paid the MSCA Treasurer's office a visit this past month. The official demanded an income tax form (990) from 1996 and unpaid payroll taxes. Treasurer Pavlicek provided the IRS official with a copy of the tax form and a check to cover the payroll taxes. The MSCA's former bank, Bank North, made multiple errors in submitting taxes to the IRS, which resulted in the unpaid payroll taxes. Treasurer Pavlicek will work with Bank North to rectify the problem and receive compensation for the check given to the IRS for the payroll taxes. Bank North no longer handles the MSCA's tax payments; instead, Treasurer Pavlicek manages the MSCA's taxes directly on the IRS and DOR websites.

Non-Profit Status/Incorporation of Chapters

All chapters should check to see if they are incorporated. If chapters are incorporated and have annual income less than \$25,000, they now need to file an on-line report annually with the IRS listing their officers and address. Treasurer Pavlicek will consult on this matter with the MTA and the Salem Chapter Treasurer, Paul McGee, CPA.

MTA Retired Dues

Retired faculty members who teach part time are considered active members of the MSCA and need to pay the appropriate MSCA/MTA/NEA dues. MTA dues for retired MTA members do not cover active member dues. Treasurer Pavlicek would like to see the MTA refunding those retirees who have paid MTA retired dues, but are now active members (and thus paying active dues). Treasurer Pavlicek will follow up on this with MTA Director Len Paolillo.

Other Dues Issues

MSCA members who make less than \$500 per semester are being assessed dues that represent a large percentage of their income. Discussion followed. It was recommended that this issue be brought up at a future Board meeting.

Health and Welfare Trust

The Health and Welfare Trust is sending out new booklets/brochures for the dental and vision plans. These will be sent to members' home addresses.

Special Items: Proposed Changes to the MSCA Constitution and the MSCA Officers' Responsibilities

It was moved on behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee on Governance Issues to accept the changes to “Duties of the MSCA President.”

It was moved and seconded to amend the “Duties of the MSCA President” as follows:

The MSCA President develops, with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors, and is the chief advocate for actions to improve the welfare of the MSCA membership.

The MSCA President is responsible for the execution of all actions of the Board of Directors and Delegate Assembly, except for those delegated to another official.

The motion passed.

The original motion passed as amended. [See Attachment #1, “Duties of the MSCA President.”]

It was moved on behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee on Governance Issues to accept the changes to “Duties of the MSCA Treasurer.”

It was moved and seconded to amend the “Duties of the MSCA Treasurer” as follows:

The MSCA Treasurer will provide a report on the MSCA’s investments to the Board of Directors on a semi-annual basis.

The motion passed.

The original motion passed as amended. [See Attachment #2, “Duties of the MSCA Treasurer.”]

MSCA Committee Reports:

Day Bargaining Committee – C. J. O'Donnell, Chairperson

Bargaining Chair C. J. O'Donnell provided the Board with an overview of bargaining activities and the status of the contract extension costing. The Bargaining Committee will begin meeting in January.

MTA Reports:

No reports were given because of the absence of the consultants and MTA Director Paolillo.

Chapter President's Reports:

Worcester

Worcester State College administration wishes to arm the campus police. Faculty members at the college have filed legal action against the college's Board of Trustees regarding possible violation of the Open Meeting Law to vote on the issue of arming the campus police.

The president of the college continues to receive increases in salary and fringe benefits.

Westfield

At Westfield, members of the Promotions Committee are provided with photocopies of key pieces of promotion packages. The complete promotion packages are kept secure on campus. It was requested that a survey of chapters be made regarding promotion materials.

Do the promotion materials contain a summary/narrative?

MMA - contractual information only

Framingham - no summary

Fitchburg - summary/introduction

Bridgewater - summary

Salem - optional summary

MCLA - optional summary

Mass Art - narrative

Can the promotion materials leave the VPAA's office?

MMA - yes

Framingham - no

Worcester - no

Fitchburg - no

Bridgewater - no

Salem - no

MCLA - no

Mass Art - no

The presidential search continues. A number of issues and concerns were brought up regarding the search and the candidates.

Salem

The library is still closed. The Salem Chapter members of the Board made a general review of the situation.

MMA

So that students end their classes by 3:15 pm, allowing for their participation in non-academic activities during the afternoon hours, the time between classes had been shortened to five minutes several years ago. Faculty now wish to reconsider this change, as it has caused class time to be shortened.

MCLA

Chapter President Seider thanked Board members for all of their support over the years. He also stated that MCLA appreciates the support of the Association.

Mass Art

Former Mass Art president, Jack Nolan, recently died.

Framingham

The college is investigating the feasibility of arming campus police.

The president of the college has developed a number of initiatives on campus. New committees working on these initiatives are intruding on governance committees, in particular the Curriculum Committee.

Fitchburg

The campus is having a difficult time with IT resolving connectivity/email/Blackboard problems in a timely fashion. Discussion followed.

The vice president is attending new faculty members' classes, without providing a written classroom observation form. It was requested that ERC consider this situation.

The problem with sabbaticals has been resolved.

Bridgewater

Chapter President Stonehouse reviewed Bridgewater activities.

Special Item: Meeting with BHE Chair Frederick W. Clark, Jr.

After introductions and a welcome from President Markunas, Chairman Clark briefly discussed his activities and goals as BHE Chair.

Discussion and questions from Board members following on a variety of topics including bargaining, state university status, the Council of Presidents, and the Board of Higher Education.

New Business:

It was moved and seconded to set aside \$5,000 to fund travel and/or expenses to the March Higher Education Conference in Washington, D.C., provided, however, that no single member will receive more than \$1,000 with submission of receipts for expenses related to the conference and proof of conference registration. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy George
MSCA Secretary