

**MSCA Board of Directors Meeting  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
February 1, 2008  
Framingham State College**

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

**Guests:** Deb Foss (MCLA), Donna Sirutis (MTA), Cheryl Stanley (Westfield)

**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 December 7, 2007 meeting. Two editorial changes were noted. The motion passed.

**Special Item: Approval of Initial Proposal to Commence Negotiations for 2008-2011**

*Presented by: C.J. O'Donnell and Donna Sirutis*

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.

It was moved and seconded to bring out of executive session the motion and resulting roll call vote regarding the approval of the initial proposal to commence negotiations for 2008-2011. The motion passed.

It was moved and seconded to approve the initial proposal to commence negotiations for 2008-2011. The motion passed in a roll call vote.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Bridgewater:**

Pavlicek – yes  
Stonehouse – yes

**MCLA:**

Spezeski – yes

**Fitchburg:**

Mrvica – yes  
Turk – yes

**MMA:**

O'Donnell – yes

**Framingham:**

Ambacher – yes  
Dargan – yes

**Salem:**

Everitt – yes  
George – yes

**Mass. Art:**

Coppola – yes  
Schlosberg – yes

**Westfield:**

Haar – yes  
Shea – yes

**Worcester:**

Falke – yes  
Shartin – yes

**MSCA Officers' Reports:**

*President - Pat Markunas*

*Legislative Issues/FY 2009 State Budget*

*State Employee Health Insurance Premiums.* Governor Patrick has proposed that state employee health insurance premiums be increased by \$51 million. President Markunas thanked all members who contacted the governor's office to oppose these increases. The action now shifts to the Legislature where the MSCA needs to mobilize strong opposition to stop these increases from being included in next year's budget. Distributed was a letter about this issue that President Markunas sent to the Boston Globe that was not published.

*Health Benefits for Part-time Faculty Members.* The MSCA's MTA lobbyist, Jack Flannagan, reports that this bill (SB 1587) has received favorable reports from both the Joint Committee on Public Service and the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing. The bill is on its way to Senate Ways & Means, chaired by Senator Steven Panagiotakos, who is on record in opposition to the bill. Nonetheless, this bill remains a high priority for the MSCA, MTA, and MCCC, and President Markunas stated we will work on its passage this semester.

All broadcast emails sent to the membership about health insurance will deal with both issues.

*Higher Education Operating Budgets.* Distributed was information about the FY 2009 proposed budget as it relates to public higher education from MTA lobbyist Arline Isaacson and MTA Director of Research David Danning.

*PHENOM Kick-off Event.* Distributed was a flyer with publicity about PHENOM's spring campaign related to legislative and budget items.

*Article 87/Reorganization of Certain Education Agencies.* President Markunas attended this hearing, held on 1/29/08. The legislative support expressed for the bill was overwhelming, as was all of the testimony offered. No one spoke in opposition.

*Board of Higher Education/Council of Presidents/Actions Related to Bargaining*

Distributed was a letter that was sent by all members of the Higher Education Leadership Council (HELCC) to Governor Patrick, requesting a meeting with him to discuss the upcoming round of negotiations. As far as President Markunas knows, no response has been received.

It was President Markunas' understanding that the State College Council of Presidents has also requested a meeting with the governor on this and other topics. Distributed were data on "failed searches" collected by the presidents to support their request for additional collective bargaining moneys to address "recruitment and retention" issues among the bargaining unit.

The latest COP faculty salary study is scheduled to be presented at the BHE subcommittee on fiscal affairs meeting on Friday, February 22. The next meeting of the full Board of Higher Education is scheduled for Friday, February 29, 10:00 am, which conflicts with the next MSCA Board meeting.

BHE Chairman Fred Clark has organized the Friends of Public Higher Education, which will hold an annual meeting to recognize persons who have advocated for public higher education. The first dinner will be held on Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, at the Intercontinental Hotel in Boston. Details were distributed.

State College Day at the State House has been scheduled for Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. COP Executive Officer Ken Lemanski would very much like our support of and participation in this event. More senior members of the Board will recall that in some years, the MSCA's participation was welcome, and other years, the MSCA was not informed about the event. President Markunas hoped that we would participate this year. The annual luncheon for the Tsongas Scholars will be scheduled for the same day.

*2008 MTA Friend of Education Award*

It was moved and seconded that the MSCA nominate Ed Sullivan, outgoing MTA Executive Secretary-Treasurer, for the 2008 MTA Friend of Education Award. The motion passed.

*MSCA Archives/Salem State College Library Closure*

President Markunas met with SSC President Pat Meservey on 1/31/08 concerning this and other issues. The MSCA Archives are still in the library. Alternative commercial archival sites are being considered for the MSCA Archives. No report as of yet has been received from the engineers regarding the structural integrity of the library.

*Correspondence*

Distributed was a letter that was sent to department chairs concerning their role in the post-tenure review process, now in its third year of implementation.

Distributed was a letter to David Danning, Director of the MTA Research Division, about the MSCA's recent successes with the faculty/librarian database in contract enforcement and recovery of salary moneys for members.

*Vice President - C.J. O'Donnell*

*Bargaining Coalition Group*

Vice President O'Donnell has been participating in discussions with the Bargaining Coalition Group. A variety of bargaining strategies were discussed.

*Salary Calculations*

Due to errors made by state college human resources departments, new salary calculations are incorrect for those faculty/librarians with 10, 20, 30, and 40 years of service at the following institutions: Bridgewater, Mass Art, MCLA, MMA, Westfield, and Worcester. The human resources departments at the institutions with the errors are correcting the errors.

*Secretary - Nancy George*

Passed.

*Treasurer - Glenn Pavlicek*

Treasurer Pavlicek distributed his report.

*Other Items*

The calendar year has been closed out with the completion/distribution of IRS reports. The MSCA Treasurer's office now has access to the MTA online membership database. This makes it easier to keep track of dues payments and other issues.

**Special Items: Proposed Changes to the MSCA Constitution**

It was moved on behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee on Governance Issues to accept the changes to Article II. Object. Section 2. Constitutional Relationships. New final sentence (changes in bold):

**“If any provision of this Constitution is held unenforceable, then all remaining provisions of this Constitution shall remain in full force and effect.”**

The motion passed.

It was moved on behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee on Governance Issues to accept the changes to Article III. Members. Section 1. Membership of Chapters. First sentence only (changes in bold):

“The members of the faculty and the librarians **who are included in the bargaining units represented by the Massachusetts Teachers Association** at any public college or public university in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts shall, upon the granting of a charter by the MSCA Board of Directors, comprise a Chapter of the MSCA.”

The motion passed.

It was moved on behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee on Governance Issues to accept the changes to Article III. Members. Section 2. Membership of Individuals. First sentence only (changes in bold):

“Any person who is eligible for membership in a Chapter of the MSCA **and who is a member of a bargaining unit represented by the Massachusetts Teachers Association** is eligible thereby for membership in the MSCA.”

The motion passed.

It was moved on behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee on Governance Issues to accept the changes to Article VI. Board of Directors. New Section 4 (changes in bold).

“**Section 4. Quorum. A quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of 50% plus one of the members of the Board (excluding vacancies by including the MSCA statewide officers who are not otherwise Board members).**”

The motion passed.

**MSCA Committee Reports:**

*Elections Committee – Deb Foss*

It was moved and seconded to adopt the MSCA Elections Committee Report as to the certified candidates for the 2008 MSCA Officers Election. The motion passed. The certified candidates are as follows:

Christopher J. O’Donnell – President  
Amy Everitt – Vice President

Nancy George – Secretary  
Glenn Pavlicek - Treasurer

It was moved and seconded to reconsider MSCA Election Rule Number 14. The motion passed.

It was moved and seconded to amend Election Rule Number 14 so that the wording in the first sentence reads (new language in bold, deletions in [ ]):

“A candidate forum at each campus **may** [shall] be arranged by the Nominations and Elections Supervisor **at the request of and** in consultation with **the** Chapter President[s].”

The motion passed.

It was moved and seconded to establish 2/8/08, end of business day, as the last day to request and schedule a candidate forum for the 2008 MSCA Officers Election. The motion passed.

**MTA Reports:**

*Day Bargaining Unit - Donna Sirutis*

Consultant Sirutis distributed handouts to Board members on potential health insurance premium changes, procedures for amending chapter constitutions, and the *MTA/NEA Model Bylaws for Local Associations*.

Consultant Sirutis urged chapter presidents to begin the process of updating their chapters' constitutions. She offered her assistance to chapter presidents in this process, in particular to meet with each one individually to review the constitutions. In addition, Consultant Sirutis reviewed other issues covered in her handouts. Discussion followed.

*DGCE Bargaining Unit - Bob Whalen*

Not present.

*Director - Len Paolillo*

Not present.

**Chapter President's Reports:**

*Bridgewater* – passed.

*Fitchburg* – An endowed chair has been established at the college due to a gift of \$1.5 million. A recycling program is beginning at the college. Chapter President Mrvica distributed a handout on administrative evaluations, which will be considered at the next meeting.

*Framingham* – passed.

*Mass Art* – passed.

*MCLA* – a brief report was made.

*MMA* – passed.

*Salem* – Still no engineering report regarding the structural integrity of the library. Many administrative positions are open due to retirements.

*Westfield* – passed.

*Worcester* – Campus police are carrying guns even though the college has not yet passed a policy on this issue.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy George  
MSCA Secretary