

**MSCA Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
February 1, 2013
Framingham State University**

Present: Bullens, Concannon, Coppola, Dargan, Donohue, Eve, Everitt, Foley, George, Goodlett, Hennessy, Hoagland, O'Donnell, Pavlicek, Rapp, Schlosberg, Stonehouse, Turk

Guests:

Ron Colbert (Fitchburg), Joey Hansen (MTA), Sean King (MTA), Donna Sirutis (MTA), Tim Sullivan (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 December 7, 2012 meeting. The motion passed.

Visiting Speakers' Time:

Joey Hansen – MTA Director of Higher Education, Sean King – MTA Governmental Relations Specialist, Tim Sullivan – MTA Vice President

Following introductions, MTA Vice President Sullivan provided the MSCA Board of Directors with an overview of the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Commission and its Final Report. As is stated on the Mass.gov web, Administration and Finance (<http://www.mass.gov/anf/docs/anf/opeb-commission/>):

“The pension reform bill signed November 2011 established a Retiree Health Care Commission. The goal of the Commission is to investigate and study retiree healthcare and other non-pension benefits. This review of retiree health care benefits offers an opportunity to reduce the cost of these benefits in the future to both preserve the benefit for public employees and to prevent budget cuts in other areas as health care costs continue to escalate. The Commission will consider the range of benefits that are or should be provided as well as the current and anticipated future cost of providing them; consider and may make recommendations on how best to divide the costs between the commonwealth and employees; study the operation and structure of the group insurance commission or any other aspects of employee healthcare the commission deems appropriate; file a report of its recommendations and proposed legislation, if any, no later than November 30, 2012.”

MTA Vice President Sullivan reported that a representative of the AFL-CIO was appointed to the “labor seat;” other labor representatives were also on the Commission including former MTA President Anne Wass who was named co-chair.

The final report recommends a reduction of health care benefits for current employees upon retirement which, it is claimed, will result in a savings for the state. The state claims that the retiree health care liability is \$20 billion and maintaining retiree health care benefits at the current level is unsustainable.

MTA leadership emphasized that they tried to protect retirees, those close to retirement, and long term employees. They stated that some Commission members proposed language that was much worse than that of the final report.

Concerns have been raised by vocational tech educators and higher education regarding the reduction in benefits upon retirement given the fact that both groups begin their careers as educators later than most K-12 educators and municipal employees.

The MTA Board support legislation that would implement the Commission's recommendations. It is anticipated that legislation will be filed by the governor that will mirror this report's recommendations. The motion would allow the MTA Board to readdress the issue if the legislation filed is more detrimental to MTA members.

Joey Hansen stated that they are in the process of compiling demographic data for MTA higher education members. MTA will provide unit data to the MSCA once it is available.

Discussion and a question/answer session followed. During this time. Among the concerns raised by MSCA Board members were the lack of communication in advance of a final report, the fact that demographic data on higher ed employees was not available, and the fact that the affect on higher ed employees is more detrimental than on K-12 and municipal employees.

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 forth the following motion passed in executive session.

“The MSCA Board authorizes the MSCA officers to enter into an agreement with a lobbyist who will represent the MSCA on any proposed health care legislation.”

The motion passed.

MSCA Officers' Reports:

President – C.J. O'Donnell

2012-2014 Committee Appointments

President O'Donnell received two nominations for committee appointments for the 2012-2014 term.

It was moved and seconded to approve the following committee nominations:

Nancy Cusak (Mass Art) – Legislation Committee
Keith Washington (Mass Art) – AA/EO/DIV Committee

The motion passed.

Board of Higher Education

President O'Donnell attended the recent Board of Higher Education meeting. He utilized the time at the meeting to network with those attending.

Meeting with Commissioner Freeland

President O'Donnell is due to attend a meeting with Commissioner Freeland next week. He will be joined by MTA's Joey Hansen and Joe LeBlanc. The meeting has been scheduled to open the lines of communication between the MSCA/MTA and Department of Higher Education.

Worcester Chapter Leadership

Dan Shartin recently stepped down as president of the Worcester Chapter. The new president of the Worcester Chapter is Don Bullens. Jim Foley will serve as the MSCA Board Director from the Worcester Chapter.

Department Chairs Workshop

A department chairs workshop will be held April 19, 2013. A "save the date" notice will be sent to chairs

2012-2014 Day Collective Bargaining Agreement

Two copies of the agreement have been initials, the signature pages are with Care Corner-Dolloff at the DHE.

Vice President – Amy Everitt

Vice President Everitt represented President O'Donnell on a conference call with MTA and higher education affiliate leaders regarding the health care issue.

Secretary - Nancy George

No report.

Treasurer – Glenn Pavlicek

MSCA Monthly Expenses

Treasurer Pavlicek distributed the MSCA Monthly Expenses for 2012-13.

Non-Compliant List

Treasurer Pavlicek sent out the non-compliant list to the state universities. Salem was the only university that hired non-compliant members.

It was suggested by Treasurer Pavlicek that the Board consider writing off dues/fees owed from former from many years ago and issue them W-2s for the amount owed. Treasurer Pavlicek will look into this and let the Board know what he finds out.

Treasurer's Office Database

The treasurer's office database is an in-house produced program written in Visual Basic 6 (VB6) and was developed by a former employee. Treasurer Pavlicek reported that VB6 will not be supported for Windows 7 or later Microsoft operating systems, thus the program will need to be updated. Treasurer Pavlicek will investigate options for the update.

PHENOM Vouchering

Treasurer Pavlicek reported that there have been difficulties vouchering PHENOM requests due to a lack of receipts or other questionable expenses. He will continue to monitor this. Discussion followed.

MSCA Committee Reports

No reports.

MTA Reports

MTA Director – Ron Colbert

MTA Grant for Community Relations

MTA has grant money of \$20,000 available for each MTA region for community relations/outreach. An email from MTA Executive Committee member for the higher ed region, Max Page, will be sent out regarding this opportunity.

MTA Dues

There MTA Board voted to recommend a \$6.00 increase in MTA dues, which will need to be approved by the delegates at the Annual Meeting. Director Colbert reported that he voted against this motion to increase dues.

Day Bargaining Unit –Donna Sirutis

Consultant Sirutis distributed and reviewed a thought provoking handout on the future of education, MOOC's, and online courses. Discussion followed.

It was suggested by Consultant Sirutis that we set a date/time to meet with the Council of Presidents. President O'Donnell has been speaking with COP Executive Officer Vincent Pedone regarding possible dates.

Chapter President's Reports:

Bridgewater

Bridgewater faculty and librarians are having some issues with Bridgewater's deans.

There have been discussions regarding criteria for emeritus status.

Fitchburg

The projections for enrollment were 150-200 students short. As a result there is a \$1.5 million shortfall of funds. More information regarding this will be available in the future.

Framingham

There have been discussions on campus regarding online courses and the possibility of offering an entire undergraduate degree online. Faculty who wish to teach online courses would need to have courses approved by an external organization called Quality Matters.

President O'Donnell emphasized the need for this to go through governance before the university acts on any of these online education possibilities.

Mass. Art

Not present.

MMA

Not present.

MCLA

Faculty and librarians continue to discuss the Vision Project. Discussion followed. It was noted by Vice President Everitt that in the governor's budget recommendation there is \$12.5 million for Vision Project grants to institute Vision Project goals and objectives.

Salem

Consultants examined the university's education programs and recommended that the School of Education be separated from the School of Human Services and become a separate School. A new dean and associate dean of the School of Education would be hired. One of the consultants has been given a three-year contract to assist the university and the School of Education in this process.

Department chairs have been told that associate deans will be attending department meetings and have been told to run these meetings. Faculty are fighting this.

Provost Kristin Esterberg has co-authored book, *Divided Conversations: Identities, Leadership, and Change in Public Higher Education*, Vanderbilt University Press (February 15, 2013).

Westfield

President Dobelle recently sent out an email noting the need to increase enrollment by 800 students over the next few years.

Worcester

There is now a pedestrian fee for students.

The APC has tabled a proposal regarding a syllabus template.

MSCA Board Minutes
February 1, 2013

The Worcester Chapter president will no longer speak at commencement due to administration's displeasure with politically-themed speeches. The faculty speaker will now be the most senior faculty member at the institution.

There have been problems getting campus committees filled.

The meeting adjourned at 2:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy George
MSCA Secretary