

**MSCA Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
April 26, 2013
Westfield State University**

Present: Aldrich, Bullens, Concannon, Coppola, Donohue, Foley, George, Goodlett, Hennessy, Hoagland, O'Donnell, Rapp, Schlosberg, Stonehouse, Turk

Guests:

Ron Colbert (Fitchburg), Sandy Faiman-Silva (Bridgewater), Robert Govoni (MSCA), Donna Sirutis (MTA), Bob Whalen (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 1, 2013 meeting.

It was moved and seconded to amend the minutes of the March 29, 2013 meeting to include the following new language (in **BOLD**) under the Visiting Speakers' Time: Beth Shevlin:

Board members recommended that the MTA should consider contacting the MSCA or the universities directly for some data since data from those parties is likely to be more accurate and robust. It was also suggested that using qualitative, rather than quantitative, data would be useful. **Concerns were raised by board members over both the process and substance of the materials distributed.** It was requested that before a final draft is submitted to the MTA Board of Directors, that the MSCA have an opportunity to review any report.

The motion to amend the minutes passed.

The minutes passed as amended.

MSCA Officers' Reports

President – C.J. O'Donnell

President O'Donnell distributed and reviewed the latest Post Tenure Review results (2011/12 and 2012/13) and expenditures (2012/13). Discussion followed.

Vice President – Amy Everitt

Not present.

Secretary – Nancy George
No report.

Treasurer – Glenn Pavlicek
Not present.

MSCA Committee Reports:

Grievance – Sandra Faiman-Silva

Chair Faiman-Silva provided board members with a report on the activities of the Grievance Committee and the status of grievances. Discussion followed.

MTA Reports:

Day Unit – Donna Sirutis

Consultant Sirutis reported on a recent collective bargaining conference she and Consultant Whalen attended.

Three topics which were highlighted at the conference and Consultant Sirutis reviewed were: academic freedom, the Affordable Care Act, and assessment/accountability. Discussion followed.

DGCE Unit – Bob Whalen

Consultant Whalen reviewed the Affordable Care Act relative to the 30 hour threshold. The regulations are due to take effect January, 2014. The Affordable Care Act will have an impact on part-time MSCA members as the act states that employees working 30 hours or more a week must be provided with employer supported health insurance. Thus, this may influence how many courses part-time faculty will be offered to teach; how much time it takes to teach courses will be examined closely by university administration.

MTA Director – Ron Colbert

Director Colbert mentioned the *Reverse the Course* report, which was written by the MTA's Center for Education Policy and Practice. The report focuses on the community colleges and was approved by MCCC before being approved by the MTA Board. The report was widely supported by MCCC Executive Board members and claims to connect community colleges' poor performance with the high number of adjunct faculty members.

June 30th is Director Colbert's last day as the MSCA's MTA Director. He will be serving on the MTA Executive Committee in a position previously held by Max Page.

It was moved and seconded that the MSCA will participate in the collecting of data for reports that effect the MSCA, and requests that no report be sent to the MTA Board for

approval or be released to the public unless approved by the MSCA Board. The motion passed.

Chapter President's Reports:

Bridgewater:

There was a good return on the Moodle vs. Blackboard survey. Through the survey it was revealed that the members dislike Moodle. The university's senior administrators would like the problem fixed.

Fitchburg:

The administration has added reserved parking spaces, including those for the president's office and resident assistants.

Chapter leadership inquired about contract courses. As of this date no answer has been received regarding what organization/company is sponsoring the contract courses. MTA Consultant Bob Whalen noted that the administration is supposed to inform the chapter when a contract course is offered. President O'Donnell recommended that an information request be made to request additional information on this situation at Fitchburg.

Framingham:

An academic retreat is being planned. Managing growth will be one of the topics of the retreat.

President Flanagan is a finalist for the presidential position at Illinois State University, in Normal, IL.

MassArt:

MassArt recently appointed a new provost, Ken Strickland. He comes to MassArt from Memphis College of Art.

Due to MassArt's limited parking, some faculty are parking at the Museum of Fine Art's parking garage at MassArt's expense.

MCLA:

Part-time faculty members do not have access to professional development money at MCLA. A brief survey was taken of chapters to determine PD money availability for part-time members.

MCLA President Mary Grant would like to interview every single faculty/librarian candidate on campus.

The annual tri-union luncheon is May 9.

The director of Human Resources was fired after six months of employment at MCLA.

There was a recent bomb threat at MCLA.

MMA:

MMA faculty are sometimes granted waiver promotions. A brief survey was taken of chapters to determine if waiver promotions are granted to members at other chapters.

Salem:

No report.

Westfield:

The Westfield chapter president welcomed MSCA Board members to Westfield.

Westfield is in the planning phase of a \$100 million construction and renovation project. \$48 million will be used for the new building and phase two will cost \$50 million (deferred maintenance bond fund). The project will necessitate a 25 year long, \$408 increase in student fees.

There was a chairs' meeting recently. Administration is changing course caps without consulting department chairs. Discussion followed.

Worcester:

University administration is confused regarding anonymous complaints.

The provost is interfering with the election of department chairs.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy George
MSCA Secretary