

**MSCA Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
October 2, 2015
Sammer Dennis Room – MCLA**

Present:

Berg, Bullens, Craghead, Donohue, George, Hennessy, Mason, Matchak, Morales-Diaz, O'Donnell, Payne, Ramsden, Rutter, Washington

Guests:

Roberta James (MTA), Hemant Pendharkar (Worcester), 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 September 11, 2015, meeting, with editorial corrections made. The motion passed.

MSCA Officers' Reports

President's Report – C.J.O'Donnell

MSCA Committee Appointments

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

Crisis Committee:

Jen Berg (Fitchburg)

Ben Alberti (Framingham)

DGCE Bargaining Alternate:

Steve Matchak (Salem)

The motion passed.

DGCE Contract Fact-Finding:

Don Bullens and Bob Whalen reported on this. President O'Donnell reported, in executive session, regarding the action plan.

MSCA Organizing Effort:

MTA Consultants Whalen and James gave a brief update during their report.

MTA Ballot Initiative:

President O'Donnell distributed additional blank petitions. He requested that signatures be turned in to either Bob Whalen or Roberta James. He queried the Board regarding how close we were to getting 1,000 signatures.

July 1, 2015 Formulary Increases:

The formulary increases were paid on September 25th. There have been more than a handful of corrections necessary as the administrations did not thoroughly check data before they signed off on the increases. The retro is expected to be paid on October 23rd.

September 30th Right to Take up Faculty Appointment Lists:

Wednesday was the deadline for the administrations to supply to the chapter presidents a list of academic administrators who have the right to take up a faculty appointment. President O'Donnell requested that Chapter Presidents please forward copies of those letters to him. He also requested that if a chapter president receives a copy of the letter late that they contact him immediately.

Vice President – Robert Donohue

No report

Treasurer's Report – Glenn Pavlicek

In the absence of Treasurer Pavlicek, President O'Donnell distributed the monthly expense report to Board members.

Secretary – Nancy George

No report.

MSCA Committee Reports

DGCE Bargaining – Don Bullens

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.

Grievance – Hemant Pendharkar

Chair Pendharkar provided Board members a brief report on Grievance activities.

MTA Reports:

MTA – Bob Whalen and Roberta James

MTA Ballot Initiative

The MSCA has gathered approximately 550 signatures thus far for the Raise Up Massachusetts initiative. Additional signatures are needed by mid-October. Board members should submit signed petitions to Consultant Whalen or James.

MTA Organizing

MTA is working on an organizing campaign to convince agency fee payers to become union members. Bridgewater, Framingham and Westfield have been selected to be pilot institutions involved in this campaign. Part-time organizers will be hired to lead each institution's campaign. Training for some organizers was held September 21, 2015.

Thus far, Bridgewater has two and Framingham and Westfield still need to recruit organizers.

Health and Welfare Trust – Nancy George

Trustee George, who is serving as the Health and Welfare Trust Treasurer, reported that the Health and Welfare Trust recently interviewed two banks to replace Bank of America; has sought legal advice regarding tax filings (which affects the frequency of auditing); and has investigated checks that were lost in the mail.

This year the Trust will be working on identifying cash flow problems and developing solutions for the problems. In addition, the Trust will investigate ways to save money as well as make its investments more profitable.

MTA Board of Directors – CJ O'Donnell

Director O'Donnell reported that the next meeting is scheduled for October 16-17.

Chapter President Reports

Worcester

Chapter President Bullens thanked Consultants Whalen and James for attending the welcome back event held recently off campus.

Westfield

Three finalists for the presidential search have been named. The Board of Trustees unanimously approved all three candidates as finalists.

The creation of a Physician Assistance graduate program has not gone through governance yet and the administration has stated that it will only be submitted to the Graduate Education Council. The Board of Trustees, however, has already conducted a review of the program. No decision was made by the Board of Trustees on the program.

A variety of internal, faculty conflicts have occurred due to faculty members, who would benefit from the PA Program, lashing out at other faculty members who are trying to uphold the governance structure in the collective bargaining agreement.

Salem

Faculty will likely be locked out of the new parking garage. Grievances will be filed as a result.

Two dean searches are underway and another dean search will begin in the near future.

MMA

The chapter president has been designated an email moderator due to concerns that MSCA emails to faculty were being held pending approval of the administration.

The chapter president met with the new president to discuss DGCE issues as well as the three-credit release that can be requested by the chapter president.

The chapter president will be meeting regularly with the MMA president, the Director of Human Resources, and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

MCLA

The search for a new president continues. There is a new Vice President for Administration and Finance. There are two deans and many vice presidents on campus.

MassArt

The search for a new president has just begun; it is hoped that a new president will be hired before the end of the semester.

Framingham

The Vice President of Academic Affairs is a finalist for the president position at Westfield.

The chapter is having organizing events this academic year. The fall event will recognize those members who have been promoted or who were granted tenure and the spring event will recognize those members who served on committees.

MTA President Barbara Madeloni was invited to campus to speak on a variety of issues including diversity and inclusion.

There will be a "town meeting" on the graduate program on October 19th. The meeting is to provide input from faculty to administration on the program. The chapter will be encouraging faculty to attend and express their opinions.

Fitchburg

The chapter president and a group of department chairs spoke with the president regarding a possible conflict of interest regarding an administrative search.

Members of the chapter Executive Committee have been asked to read over all of the departmental policies to see if they comply with the collective bargaining agreement.

Bridgewater

Nine of the ten new faculty members have joined the union. Three former full-time agency fee payers have joined the union.

There are new chapter officers.

The chapter president is having regular meetings with key administrators on campus.

There are a number of searches going on for a variety of administrative positions. Former president, Dana Mohler-Faria, has been hired as a consultant to chair the search for a Vice President for Social Justice.

Currently, there are more than 110 non-unit professional employees, more by far than any other university.

The administration is asking department chairs for ways to comply with the 15% rule. The administration would like to offer online courses in math and composition to assist in compliance with the 15% rule. There has been significant push-back from the Mathematics Department.

The chapter president provided a brief report on DGCE issues and strategies on campus.

There are issues with the formation of some Peer Evaluation Committees on campus.

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy George
MSCA Secretary