

**MSCA Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
December 2, 2016
Fitchburg State University**

Present: Berg, Bullens, Colligan, Dodge, Donohue, George, Gonsalves (for Gubbins), Hegbloom, Hennessy, Mason, McAloon, Ramsden, Rutter

Guests: Roberta James (MTA), Hemant Pendharkar (Worcester)

Approval of the Orders of the Day:

It was moved and seconded to approve the orders of the day.

The motion passed.

Approval of the Minutes:

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2016, meeting, with editorial corrections.

The motion passed.

President's Report – C.J. O'Donnell

Not present.

Vice President – Robert Donohue

Vice President Donohue provided Board members with a brief report regarding the MSCA website down time in late November. This was caused by late payment to Network Solutions for the domain name. The issue was resolved quickly by Vice President Donohue.

Part-time faculty members recently ran into difficulty with OBRA. A former employee was told he/she could not take money out of his/her account. This is not true. The problem has been resolved.

Treasurer's Report – Glenn Pavlicek

Not present.

A question was asked regarding the overtime issue of Treasurer Pavlicek's assistant.

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.

Secretary's Report – Nancy George
No report.

MSCA Committee Reports:

Bargaining – Berg

Vice Chair Berg stated that although it was hoped to present the Board with the draft proposal today, it is not yet ready. It is assumed that it will be ready for a Board meeting in January.

Librarians Committee – Shakalis

In Chair Shakalis' absence, former Chair George told Board members that librarian-specific proposed language has been submitted by the committee to the Day Bargaining Committee.

Grievance – Pendharkar

Chair Pendharkar provided Board members with a brief report on the status of state-wide grievances, arbitrations, and mediations. Discussion followed.

MTA Reports:

DGCE – Ted Lewis

Not present.

Day – Roberta James

No report.

Health & Welfare Trust – Nancy George

No report as the Trust is meeting is today at MTA Auburn.

Board of Directors – Keith Washington

Not present.

Board of Directors – CJ O'Donnell

Not present.

Chapter President Reports:

Worcester

As of January there will be a new dean of the School of Human and Social Sciences.

The chapter is trying to resolve the issue of librarians being deemed essential employees.

A question was asked by the chapter present regarding secretarial services of academic affairs assisting governance committees. Most campuses have the assistance of academic affairs secretarial services.

There is currently no clear policy distinguishing between a concentration and a minor. This will go through governance.

Westfield

A grievance has been filed over a member of the university Board of Trustees being placed on the provost search committee. The president removed the trustee from the committee and the grievance was dropped. The current interim provost has been in the position for 3.5 years.

The Academic Planning Committee has been charged to make a recommendation on the organizational structure of the university by December 30, 2016.

After the presidential election, there was an explosion of hate crimes on campus. University administration is not handling the situation well.

Salem

The parking problem continues.

The provost sent a memo to chairs saying there's an obligation of faculty to attend campus activities until May 31 and that teaching in DGCE (Summer Session I) would be deemed as a conflict. A grievance was filed.

There has been discussion on campus regarding cross-listed classes. Day faculty teaching a cross-listed class during the day has the class counted as part of his/her day load. If the same class is held in the evening, the faculty member may choose to teach it as a DGCE class. It was noted that the time of day does not have anything to do with whether a class is designated Day or DGCE. It is the funding to run the course that makes the designation.

MMA

The potential removal of tenure of a faculty member was resolved.

Eight people signed up for the early retirement incentive.

A holiday party for the chapter will be held December 19.

A student told his/her advisor he/she wanted to sign up for the easy professors. The MMA president heard about this request. As a result, now, professors' names are no longer associated with course rosters during pre-registration. Discussion followed.

MassArt

Students would like only ethnically diverse faculty members to teach courses that relate to issues regarding race, diversity, ethnicity, etc. However, faculty feel that to do this would violate their academic freedom. Discussion followed.

MCLA

The college administration did not provide adequate leadership to the campus community after the presidential election. The message sent by the college president was bland. This led to an additional campus, general discussion regarding the university president's performance as an administrator.

Framingham

Sabbaticals were approved by the Board of Trustees. Former faculty and MSCA Board member, Sue Dargan, assisted with this.

Chapter President Donohue spoke with the provost about the Academic Partnership situation at Fitchburg. The provost assured Chapter President Donohue that this would not happen at Framingham.

The campus is proceeding with work on the strategic plan.

Director Rutter stated that there is a need to support faculty doing public, intellectual work. Institutions need to formulate a response pattern to support faculty. This is very important as a result of the presidential election. In addition, the union needs to take a stand regarding faculty targeting. MTA Consultant James sent members present an email from the NEA regarding these issues. Discussion followed.

Fitchburg

There has been continued conversations about Academic Partnerships on campus and the financial health of the institution.

Bridgewater

The chapter president was recently asked for guidance on how to terminate faculty members. The chapter president refused to respond.

New Business:

Ethnic Minority Conference

It was moved and seconded to reimburse a Worcester State MSCA member \$214.63 to attend the Ethnic Minority Conference (note: the member lives more than 50 miles away, so the hotel is included). The motion passed.

Academic Partnerships

It was moved and seconded that the MSCA Board formally opposes the proposed agreement between Fitchburg State University and Academic Partnerships. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that the MSCA Board of Directors requests the MSCA President distribute the one-page information sheet to Chapter President for distribution to MSCA members. The motion passed unanimously.

Protecting MSCA members in their role as public intellectuals

There was discussion regarding local campus issues related to the presidential election. These included letters by university presidents, hate incidents on campuses, and events on campuses in response to the election.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy George
MSCA Secretary