

**MSCA Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
November 7, 2008
Framingham State College**

Present: Aldrich, Concannon, Coppola, Dargan, Donohue, Eve, Everitt, Falke, George, Haar, Mrvica, O'Donnell, Pavlicek, Shea, Schlosberg, Stonehouse, Turk
Guests: Ron Colbert (Fitchburg), 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.

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2008 meeting. The motion passed.

MSCA Officers' Reports:

President – C.J. O'Donnell

MSCA Committees

President O'Donnell thanked MSCA Vice President Amy Everitt for conducting the committee chair elections on October 17th while he was at the Employee Relations Committee meeting. There were no contested races and the following chairs were elected:

Day Bargaining – Dan Shartin (Worcester)
DGCE Bargaining – Sue Dargan (Framingham)
Elections – Deb Foss (MCLA)
Grievance – Maggie Vaughan (Salem)
Librarians – Nancy George (Salem)

Christina Swaidan (Westfield) expressed “interest” in chairing the AA/EO/DIV committee, but no votes were cast.

In addition, Sandy Faiman-Silva (Bridgewater) was elected Vice Chair of the Grievance Committee. No other vice chairs were elected. President O'Donnell will encourage, at least the bargaining committees, to consider electing vice chairs.

Unless the Board wishes to establish a different procedure, it is President O'Donnell's intention to mail a ballot to each member of those committees that did not elect a chair explaining that no chair was elected and that ballots must be returned to the MSCA President's office by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 3rd. These ballots will be sent by Wednesday, November 12th.

It was moved and seconded to approve the following nominations: Ken Haar (Westfield) for the Legislation Committee, Pam McKay (Worcester) for the Librarians Committee, and Carlos Fontes (Worcester) for the Legislation Committee. The motion passed.

Student Transfer Workshop

Donna Sirutis and President O'Donnell attended the workshop at UMass Amherst on October 24th; another student transfer workshop was held at UMass Boston on October 17th. A large number of state college faculty attended both sessions. President O'Donnell was pleased with the thoughtful questions/comments made at this workshop. From President O'Donnell's conversations with some of those who attended both workshops, he heard that there were similar questions and comments at the October 17th workshop.

President O'Donnell made a point to remark to the group that the policy is being put through the governance committees at the state colleges and UMass campuses, and possibly at the community colleges, so there was still time to have input before the policy is implemented.

Bridgewater Faculty and Librarian Meeting

Donna Sirutis, Dan Shartin and President O'Donnell attended a meeting of the Bridgewater faculty and librarians on October 7th to discuss bargaining-related issues. If any other chapter would like them to come to their campus, please let President O'Donnell know so a visit may be scheduled.

Doug Rubin Meeting

A small group of MTA leaders and affiliate presidents met with Doug Rubin, Governor Patrick's Chief of Staff, on October 22nd to discuss the January 1, 2009 deadline to settle a new contract or lose retroactive pay back to that date. In attendance was: David Borer, MTA Executive Director/Treasurer; Arthur Pippo, MTA Director of Higher Education; Donna Johnson, President of USA and Chair of HELC; Tom Goodkind, President of PSU-Boston; Catherine Lynde, President of FSU-Boston; and President O'Donnell.

MTA Legislative Package

The MTA Board of Directors approved the 2009 legislative package. A copy was distributed to Board members with President O'Donnell's report.

Vice President – Amy Everitt

Vice President Everitt spoke on behalf of the MSCA at the last BHE meeting. Coverage of the BHE meeting was in the most recent *MTA Today*.

The meeting/procedure for the election of committee chairs needs to be re-examined. Attendance was light and some members drove long distances to attend.

Vice President Everitt mentioned that she has a good working relationship with the former president of Salem State College, Nancy Harrington, who is a member of the BHE.

Secretary - Nancy George

No report.

Treasurer - Glenn Pavlicek

Treasurer Pavlicek distributed and reviewed his report.

Checks to local chapters for reimbursement of local dues and secretaries' salaries will be sent out around November 11, 2008. Treasurer Pavlicek noted that four campuses receive their reimbursements quarterly; these campuses will not be receiving their full-reimbursements due to their payment schedule.

Treasurer Pavlicek reviewed other dues issues.

Treasurer Pavlicek reminded chapter presidents that stipends over \$600 must be reported to the IRS and a 1099 form will be generated. Chapter presidents should speak with Treasurer Pavlicek if they are provided a stipend of \$600 or more. Treasurer Pavlicek recommended that chapters discontinue paying stipends of \$600 or more and instead offer reimbursements for travel, supplies, cell phone, etc.

Treasurer Pavlicek reviewed the Health and Welfare Trust dental benefits. There will be no changes in the benefits in July 2009 and the contract will not be re-bid in July 2009.

Treasurer Pavlicek will review the MSCA's investments and provide information on them to the Board. It was noted that 50% of the investments are in money markets and 50% are in investments.

It was moved and seconded that the MSCA reimburse PHENOM for expenses up to \$6,000. The motion passed.

MSCA Committee Reports:

Grievance – Margaret Vaughan

Not present.

Day Bargaining – Dan Shartin

Not present.

MTA Reports

Day Bargaining Unit – 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.

DGCE Bargaining Unit - Bob Whalen

No report.

Director – Ron Colbert

Director Colbert reviewed the composition, duration, and general sense of MTA Board meetings. The emphasis is on K-12 issues. At the last meeting, much time was spent on Question 1. President O'Donnell attended the meeting as the chair of the MTA Governmental Relations Committee.

It was moved and seconded that the MSCA reimburse members for parking, meals, registration, mileage, and hotel to attend the Northeast Regional Leadership Conference, up to a total of \$2,000 to be divided amongst members attending, receipts must be provided. The motion passed.

Chapter President's Reports:

Westfield

No Report.

Worcester

It was reported that a college administrator had heard that post-tenure review would not be conducted on some campuses due to budget problems. President O'Donnell said that he was not aware of such a situation and would verify with Mark Peters that all campuses are proceeding with post-tenure review this year.

Salem

The three candidates for the Provost position were on campus. It is believed that a decision has been made and that the information will be released next week.

The forms used for DGCE evaluations were defective due to a printing problem. Thus, the DGCE student evaluations for last winter, spring, and summer are not useable. Since the problem has been detected, students are hand-filling out the code numbers. The college is looking at using an outside vendor to run DGCE student evaluations next year. The college has agreed to hold harmless those faculty who taught during those sessions the failure of the college to collect such evaluations.

The college has a small interim library that approximately 40% of the collection. A new permanent library is being planned; siting for the new facility is underway. Originally faculty participation in the siting decision was minimal. This has been rectified and full faculty/librarian input has been put into the process.

Mass. Maritime

A brief summary of the resignation of two trustees was presented.

MCLA

The search for a new Vice President of Academic Affairs continues.

Mass. Art and Design

The president of Mass Art spoke to staff regarding the budget cuts made by the governor. Faculty searches will continue; administrative searches have been frozen. The college will absorb the cuts this year and there will not be a tuition/fees increase this year.

Rick McDermott organized, with the other unions on campus, a forum on Question 1. MTA President Anne Wass was a part of the forum.

Framingham

A fundraising letter was sent out recently, by an undetermined administrator, to recent graduates of the college that intentionally had the words, “blah, blah, blah,” throughout the letter. The letter, which was intended to be witty, attracted national news attention. Recipients did not think the letter was funny.

There have been a variety of problems associated with advising that have made the advising process quite difficult. These problems include: administrative software implementation problems and old registration PIN’s being distributed to advisors by the administration.

This year governance committees are populated by junior faculty and librarians due to administrators’ statements that service on governance committees is less important than scholarship. As a result, committees are floundering due to a lack of seasoned leadership.

Fitchburg

There is a chapter grievance regarding parking. A study involving old parking maps has determined that faculty parking spaces have been eliminated over time.

There are discrepancies on campus regarding the distribution of professional development money outside of the per capita pool amount. Junior faculty are receiving those funds, not senior faculty.

Sabbaticals have been suspended through 2010 due to a lack of funding. After a brief survey of other chapters, it appears that Fitchburg is the only campus that has suspended sabbaticals.

Bridgewater

There has been discussion on campus about decreasing the faculty course load to a 3-3 model to allow for additional responsibilities related to the support of student activities (global studies, community service, etc.).

The chapter by-laws are being reviewed.

Regarding the budget, existing faculty positions are being filled; new faculty positions being not being filled. Administrative positions, other than the most important searches, have been frozen. Non-contractual professional development money for faculty/librarians to attend and present at conferences is available.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy George
MSCA Secretary