

**MSCA Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
November 6, 2009
Framingham State College**

Present: Aldrich, Concannon, Coppola, Dargan, Donohue, Eve, Everitt, Falke, George, Goodlett, Haar, O'Donnell, Pavlicek, Rapp, Schlosberg, Shartin, Shea, Stonehouse, Turk

Guests: Ron Colbert (Fitchburg), Donna Sirutis (MTA), Margaret Vaughan (Salem), 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 October 2, 2009 meeting. The motion passed.

MSCA Officers' Reports:

President – C.J. O'Donnell

Day Contract Update

The MSCA still awaits the signatures of Commissioner Richard Freeland and Deputy Commissioner Peter Tsaffaras. As soon as these are received, the agreement will be duplicated and shipped directly to campuses.

Legislative Update

The bill to repeal the limitations on state college sabbatical leaves, H1170, was reported out favorably from the Joint Committee on Higher Education on October 26th. The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. We will be working with Fred Clark and MTA to see if we can get the bill reported out of Ways and Means and voted on before the formal session ends.

As of yesterday, the Optional Retirement Program bill, S1173, has not been reported out as of the Joint Committee on Public Service. When it is, it will likely be referred to Ways and Means as well.

Department Chair's Handbook

The department chair's handbook was distributed at the contract orientation meeting on October 9th. Extra copies are available from President O'Donnell.

2009 MTA Higher Education Conference

The Higher Education Leadership Council (HELCC) is sponsoring a higher education conference on December 4th and 5th at the Sheraton Framingham Hotel and Conference

Center. All MTA higher education members should have received a copy of the mailing. Attached to this report is a copy of the flyer. Members must register by November 18th.

It was moved and seconded that the MSCA reimburse up to three members per chapter attending the 2009 MTA Higher Education Conference in Framingham for meals, mileage, tolls, registration and hotel.

It was moved and seconded to amend the original motion to read: that the MSCA reimburse members attending the 2009 MTA Higher Education Conference in Framingham for meals, mileage, tolls, registration and hotel. Total expenditures shall not exceed \$2,000. The amendment passed.

The original motion, as amended, passed.

Governor Patrick's Remarks Regarding Union Concessions

On October 29th, Governor Patrick announced another round of 9C cuts in response to tax revenue projections falling to \$18.3 billion for FY10. His remarks before the Chamber of Commerce at the Worcester DCU Center were distributed to Board members.

Although the governor says that he has “asked employee unions to work with (the administration) on contract revisions,” our employer of record, the Board of Higher Education, has made no such request nor have any such conversations, with the BHE, taken place with the MTA or any of its affiliates.

Arthur Pippo, Director of MTA's Division of Higher Education, has attended two meetings with A&F and had phone conversations with the Secretary of Administration and Finance and the Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development. In every case he reminded the Secretaries that our employer is the Board of Higher Education, not the Office or Employee Relations within Administration and Finance. He also noted in all cases that he had no authority to agree to any changes or concessions pointing out that authority lies with each individual union, not the MTA.

For clarity, the MSCA (along with all other MTA-affiliated higher education unions) has not been contacted regarding either furloughs or contract revisions.

On the afternoon of November 10th, President O'Donnell will be meeting with Arthur, other MTA-affiliated union presidents from the state and community colleges, Fred Clark and his counterpart at the community colleges, Bill Hart, and Dave Danning from MTA's Research Division to discuss issues around the recent 9C cuts and their impact.

On the evening of November 10th President O'Donnell will be meeting with MTA Vice President Paul Toner regarding GIC budget for this fiscal year and possible changes that may be voted on at the next trustees meeting scheduled for November 20th.

Vice President – Amy Everitt
No report.

Secretary - Nancy George
No Report.

Treasurer - Glenn Pavlicek
MSCA Monthly Expenses
Treasurer Pavlicek distributed and reviewed the past month's expenses.

Updates
Treasurer Pavlicek informed the Board that federal and state financial forms have been filed. He also reviewed other issues in regard to dues collection. He emphasized the need to keep after college administrations regarding non-compliant faculty members. These faculty members need to pay either union dues or agency fees or not be re-hired by any of the state colleges.

MSCA Committee Reports

DGCE Bargaining – Susan Dargan
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 – Margaret Vaughan
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.

Elections – Deb Foss
In the absence of Chair Foss, committee member Anne Falke gave the report of the Elections Committee.

It was moved and seconded to approve the *Spring 2010 MSCA Election Calendar* as distributed.

It was moved and seconded to amend the original motion by changing the April 2, 2010 date to April 5, 2010 and the April 8, 2010 date to April 12, 2010. The amendment passed.

The original motion, as amended, passed.

It was moved and seconded to approve the *MSCA Election Rules for Members, Spring 2010 MSCA Officer Elections* as distributed. The motion passed.

It was moved and seconded to use the Labor Guild (Weymouth, MA) to administer the Spring 2010 MSCA Officer Election. The motion passed.

MTA Reports

DGCE Bargaining Unit – Bob Whalen

No report.

Director – Ron Colbert

The MTA Board is meeting November 6th and 7th. Included in the Board's discussion will be a discussion and vote on the MTA's proposal/intent to sell the MTA Benefits Insurance business. This would adversely affect MTASO employees through layoffs and "bumping." In addition, it is not known how this would affect customers (MTA members) who have insurance through MTA Benefits.

It was moved and seconded that the MSCA recommend the MTA delay consideration of selling off the MTAB insurance unit until more information is provided to the membership. The motion passed.

Day Bargaining Unit – Donna Sirutis

Consultant Sirutis reviewed contractual issues regarding campus contingency plans regarding the H1N1 flu. Discussion followed.

Consultant Sirutis distributed information on the establishment of the Massachusetts Employee Safety and Health Advisory Committee (Executive Order 511). Discussion followed.

PHENOM

Ken Haar

Access to Higher Education Conference

The *Access to Higher Education Conference* will be held at Framingham State on November 7th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Federal Stimulus Money and 9C Cuts

The 9C cuts were applied to public higher education budgets, and it is not clear if the Patrick administration has legally applied for a waiver. PHENOM will most likely file a federal complaint regarding this.

April Activities

A number of PHENOM activities are being planned for April 2010. No dates have been selected yet.

PHENOM Meeting

The next PHENOM meeting is December 3, 2009, 6:30 pm, Worcester State College.

Chapter President's Reports:

Worcester

The Provost search continues; a search for a dean was cancelled due to funding issues.

The ORP legislation is an important issue on campus. House Chair Robert Spellane met with faculty members on campus; he supports a favorable reporting out of the bill from the committee.

A vote of no confidence on President Ashley took place; 125 faculty/librarians voted. The vote was 74 to 56 in favor of no confidence. Chapter President Falke will be meeting with the Worcester State Board of Trustees on November 9th.

Westfield

No report.

Salem

The Chapter has grieved the creation of a point system for determining who can teach certain courses in the School of Business. The new Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences has some interesting ideas regarding course loads and sabbatical requests.

Maritime

No report.

MCLA

No report.

Mass Art

Johanna Branson will be leaving at the end of the academic year. Maureen Kelly, former chair of the Art Education Department, will be acting AVP for two years beginning September 2010.

The ORP is an important issue at Mass Art. An informal poll at the last chapter meeting determined that approximately 50% of attendees are in the ORP.

Framingham

The college is moving forward with Day division courses taught for Framingham credit to Framingham students studying abroad in Australia.

Fitchburg

The college president recently reported that due to budget cuts totally 22% over the last few years, up to 15 faculty members will be laid off. The college president has also mentioned increasing class sizes and furloughs as ways to save the college money. Three more sabbaticals were granted.

Bridgewater

More than 30 sabbaticals were granted. There has been some confusion in Academic Affairs on contractual language regarding faculty being allowed to teach in DGCE while on sabbatical. Chapter President Stonehouse has had to educate the Academic Affairs staff on this contract language.

Food service workers are negotiating their contract. The MSCA/Bridgewater Chapter has voiced its support for the food service workers.

New Business

Senate Bill 267

A brief discussion regarding Senate Bill 267 occurred. It was agreed that the Board needs someone to come to the next Board meeting to speak on Senate Bill 267.

It was moved and seconded to table the new business item, Senate Bill 267, until the December 2009 Board meeting. The motion passed.

Anti-war Resolution from MCLA Chapter

It was moved and seconded to table the new business item, Anti-war Resolution from MCLA Chapter, until the December 2009 Board meeting. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy George
MSCA Secretary