

**MSCA Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
February 4, 2011
Framingham State University**

Present: Coppola, Donohue, Everitt, Falke, George, Goodlett, Haar, Hennessy, O'Donnell, Pavlicek, Rapp, 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. The motion passed.

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2010 meeting. The motion passed.

MSCA Officers' Reports:

President – C.J. O'Donnell

MTA All President's Meeting

The MTA All President's Meeting was held January 8, 2011, in Natick. The morning discussion focused on municipalities joining GIC for health care benefits. The afternoon discussion focused on MTA's position on using MCAS scores, specifically the sequential improvement of each student's scores, as a part of teacher's evaluation. Discussion followed.

Assessment Task Force

On January 20, 2011, the Assessment Task Force met at Middlesex Community College in Lowell. MSCA Board members Amy Everitt and Robert Donohue attended. The meeting was attended by a mix of higher education members. Part of the meeting featured group work focusing on a series of questions relating to assessment.

Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP) was discussed during the Assessment Task Force meeting. NEASC is using LEAP as a model, and it was recommended that we become familiar with LEAP. LEAP's focus is on liberal arts education, learning outcomes, and is broad and general in scope. President O'Donnell was successful in convincing the members of the task force to recommend that faculty be asked their opinion of Massachusetts becoming a LEAP state rather than making a recommendation that Massachusetts become a LEAP state. There was a general discussion regarding the Vision Project and the relationship of learning outcomes and institutional funding.

BHE Meeting

A BHE meeting was held on February 1, 2011 at Northern Essex Community College. There was discussion of the Vision Project at the meeting. See:

<http://www.mass.edu/currentinit/visionproject.asp>

Department Chairs Meeting

A meeting for department chairs will be held on Friday, February 25, 2011, 9:30 a.m. -3:00 p.m., at Framingham State University, Campus Center, Forum Room. President O'Donnell's office will distribute information to the chairs on this meeting.

House 1 Budget

It was moved and seconded that the MSCA Board of Directors support the BHE's proposed FY 2012 budget as a fair budget given the fiscal state of the Commonwealth. The motion passed.

Discussion regarding the budget and HELC's lack or taking a position on it followed.

Legislative Issues

The ORP bill was modified and attempts are being made to make it finalized. The bill for health insurance and pensions for part-time faculty has been filed. President O'Donnell will forward legislation to board members as it becomes available.

Vice President – Amy Everitt

North Shore Chamber of Commerce Meeting

Vice President Amy Everitt attended this recent meeting. Commissioner of Higher Education Richard Freeland was the keynote speaker. His presentation focused on workforce development.

Legislative Issues

Representative John Keenan and Senator Kevin Berry have filed the sabbatical repeal bill.

Secretary - Nancy George

Secretary George reminded board members that the NEA/RA will be held June 30 to July 5, 2011, in Chicago, IL. The nomination form is available in the MSCA Perspective and nominations are due to Secretary George on March 11, 2011.

Treasurer - Glenn Pavlicek

Dues and agency fee may now be paid online through the MSCA web page.

Treasurer Pavlicek distributed and reviewed the *Dues Rates for 2010-2011 Adjusted*, a listing of non-compliant faculty hired in Fall 2010, and the monthly expenses report. He discussed his work collecting dues from DGCE MSCA members and his need to obtain Appendix Q's in the near future.

It was moved and seconded that the MSCA set aside \$5,000 for the reimbursement of MSCA members attending the 2011 NCHE conference in Boston, Massachusetts. Reimbursement of up to \$750 will be allowed for registration, lodging (at the conference rate), meals, mileage, tolls and parking and appropriate receipts are required. Eligibility for reimbursement will require current NCHE membership. The motion passed.

MSCA Committee Reports

DGCE Bargaining – Susan Dargan

Not present.

Grievance – Sandra Faiman-Silva

Not present.

MTA Reports

DGCE Bargaining Unit – Bob Whalen

The arbitration that was canceled due to weather will be rescheduled. Consultant Whalen provided board members with an overview of the case.

Day Bargaining Unit – Donna Sirutis

Massachusetts Democrat Caucuses begin tomorrow. There is no Republican issues convention this year. The web address for the Massachusetts Democrat Caucus is <http://massdems.org/>.

Consultant Sirutis distributed a listing of State Senate Districts for State Universities. She discussed the structure and purpose of MTA's LPAT teams which will work with specific senate districts where the state universities are located. It is hoped that when legislative issues come up these teams will be able to work with their teams' senator to get legislation passed. An MTA coordinator will be hired. Discussion followed.

Director – Ron Colbert

The MTA Board is meeting today and tomorrow. Issues to be discussed include municipal health care, state revenues, teacher evaluations, the legislative package, pension reform, and coalition building. Director Colbert anticipates MTA dues increasing. Kerry Costello is an interim NEA Director. MSCA member, The MTA higher education director position is still unfilled.

PHENOM

Ken Haar

Ken Haar distributed and reviewed PHENOM's legislative agenda from January 2011. Included was information on the following items: revenue bill filed, strategy meeting February 8; community college presidents' Legislative Committee endorses "Great State of Mind Fund – Finish Line Grant;" finish line grant filed by Rep. Sean Garballey; PHENOM activists talk about the state of higher education on Springfield's Channel 22's In Focus show.

Chapter President's Reports:

Bridgewater

There have been problems with lower-level clerks adversely affecting the timely payment of part-time faculty.

Employees with physical disabilities are faced with numerous campus challenges when trying to get reasonable work-place accommodations for their disabilities.

Fitchburg

The dean of undergraduate studies position appears to be in limbo. There have been ongoing discussions regarding this position.

There is to be a major renovation of the Hammond Building. The board of trustees approved doubling the university's debt. There has been very little communication with faculty and librarians regarding this project. A \$300 student fee has been instituted to pay for the project. The first of the three phases will cost \$16.8 million.

Two faculty members were recently threatened with removal from classrooms. There are concerns with the administration's aggressiveness nature in this area. The chapter president provided board members with examples. Discussion followed.

Framingham

There was a successful mediation on campus. The chapter president provided board members with details of the case. The chapter president thanked Grievance Committee Chair Sandra Faiman-Silva, MSCA President C. J. O'Donnell and MTA Consultant Donna Sirutis for their assistance in this case.

State Representative Tom Sannicandro is now House Chair of the Joint Committee on Higher Education. Representative Sannicandro is a Framingham State University graduate; his children also attend Framingham State University.

Framingham is dealing with accreditation issues for AACSB.

There have been issues with evaluators needing to be reminded regarding contractual deadlines and details in the evaluation procedure.

Mass Art

The presidential search is down to three candidates. The candidates will be coming to campus in two weeks. The former chair of the Art Education Department is the acting Academic Vice President.

There are possible problems at Mass Art regarding independent studies, credit for supervising teaching assistants, and credit overloads. Discussion followed.

Mass Maritime

Not present.

MCLA

There was a meeting with the college's Vice President and President regarding the need for a faculty center. It appears that progress is being made.

Salem

The snow storms have been a challenge for administrators making the decision whether to close the campus.

The university is moving forward with a \$25 million capital campaign. The administration would like faculty to assist with the campaign.

The NEASC site visit is April 3.

Program review reports are due in the next few weeks.

The Business School has money for business research APRs. As a result of inequalities regarding the distribution of this money, criteria for these APRs is being developed.

Westfield

The Academic Vice President resigned suddenly and returned to the faculty. Liz Preston is the acting Vice President for the next 18 months. The acting Dean of Faculty is Andy Bonacci.

Worcester

The presidential search continues. There were over 50 applicants for the position. Phone interviews will be held next week followed by in-person interviews which will take place on four consecutive days.

The chapter president brought up a case that she suspects is a gross violation of the unit work clause in the contract.

The institution is in the initial stages of NEASC. The draft report is due by mid-fall 2011.

New Business

Chegg.com

A company, Chegg.com, has requested institutions provide them with a variety of information relating to grade distributions by faculty member and course. Fitchburg and Westfield have provided the information. Discussion followed. It was recommended that the institutions adhere to the law and charge the company the cost associated with providing the information.

COP Meeting

The COP has requested to meet with the MSCA Board of Directors. The meeting might be held in March or April.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy George
MSCA Secretary