

**MSCA Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
May 31, 2013
Massachusetts College of Art and Design**

Present: Bullens, Concannon, Coppola, Donohue, Eve, Foley, George, Goodlett, Hennessy, Hoagland, O'Donnell, Pavlicek, Rapp, Schlosberg, Stonehouse

Guests:

Sandy Faiman-Silva (Bridgewater), Jenny Fielding (Fitchburg), Rachel Resnik (Mass Art), 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 April 26, 2013 meeting. The motion passed.

MSCA Officers' Reports

President – C.J. O'Donnell

ORP

The MTA is drafting a letter to the federal legislators regarding ORP. The letter should go out later this summer.

Salary Increases

President O'Donnell will be working on the formulary increase calculations in the next couple of weeks and submit the figures to the DHE.

There is some confusion at the DHE regarding the timing of pay increases and the passing of the state budget. The DHE representative, Care Corner-Dolloff was under the impression that increases would not be paid until the state budget was passed. COP counsel, Jim Cox, denied this to be the case. President O'Donnell will investigate this issue further; the increases might not be paid on time due to this situation.

MTA Annual Meeting

President O'Donnell presented a motion to have the MTA oppose legislation filed by the governor that would adversely affect health care coverage for existing MSCA members. The delegates amended the motion to direct MTA to work to improve the legislation.

MTA Consultant

The MSCA's MTA Consultant, Donna Sirutis, is retiring in June. MSCA leadership has emphasized the need for a new consultant immediately after her retirement.

It was moved and seconded that lacking a consultant in the day unit, the MSCA will withhold MTA dues until the vacancy is filled. The motion passed.

Vice President – Amy Everitt
Not present.

Secretary – Nancy George
No report.

Treasurer – Glenn Pavlicek
Chapter Dues
Treasurer Pavlicek requested that chapter presidents notify him if chapter dues change.

Health and Welfare Trust
The dental insurance contract was renewed at a 0% increase. The Health and Welfare Trust investigated the feasibility of increasing the maximum benefits to \$1500; however, this was found to be prohibitively expensive.

MSCA Committee Reports:

Grievance – Sandra Faiman-Silva
Chair Faiman-Silva stressed the need for the MSCA to have a MTA consultant assigned to the MSCA immediately after Consultant Sirutis retires. Discussion followed.

MTA Reports:

Day Unit – Donna Sirutis
Consultant stated that legislators should be supporting the House rather than the Senate budget numbers for higher education.

A documentary on factory towns produced by former MCLA Chapter President Maynard Seider was distributed. Consultant Sirutis recommended that the DVD be placed in the state university libraries.

Consultant Sirutis distributed and reviews a series of handouts and indices related to the MSCA Day Contract. Discussion followed.

Consultant Sirutis distributed and reviewed a handout on Weingarten Rights. She recommended that the handouts be copied and distributed to members. Discussion followed.

Last, Consultant Sirutis distributed and reviewed an informational article from *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* on the medical marijuana act and employers. Discussion followed.

DGCE Unit – Bob Whalen
Affordable Care Act

Consultant Whalen reviewed the Affordable Care Act. The regulations are due to take effect January, 2014. The Affordable Care Act will have an impact on part-time MSCA members as the act states that employees working 30 hours or more a week must be provided with employer supported health insurance. Thus, this may influence how many courses part-time faculty will be offered to teach; how much time it takes to teach courses will be examined closely by university administration.

CORI Checks, Mandated Reporter, Criminal Charges

If faculty members are going into high schools to work with students they need to have CORI checks done on them.

If a student is under the age of 18, and if there is a suspicion of abuse, the faculty member is legally a mandated reporter.

Last, if an MSCA member is charged with a criminal offense in relationship to university responsibilities, notify the MSCA's MTA consultant immediately. Do not speak with the member about the charge. MTA will assign a criminal lawyer to the member.

Chapter President's Reports:

Worcester

It was reported that the administration is trying to force a faculty member who is planning to retire to have the retirement take effect on a date specified by the administration. This situation was corrected so that the faculty member could retire on the date most advantageous to his/her pension benefits.

Faculty summer work is being compensated at a rate of \$25 per hour. After a brief poll among other chapters, it was obvious that the other universities pay faculty at much higher rates for summer work.

A recent newspaper article stated that the university is up 91% in administrative support and down 2% in faculty support.

Westfield

The enrollment for Fall 2013 has increased by 300 students. There is no place to put the students and not enough faculty to teach them.

After a long period of financial comfort, the university has experienced a \$2.5 million reduction in its budget.

The DHE has analyzed the university's new strategic plan in relationship to the goals of the Vision Project. A reduction of state support for building projects was alluded to if the strategic plan was not aligned with the Vision Project.

Salem

The PTR results were poor. Chapter President Everitt attended meetings with the provost and members who received less than a 6% increase. These meetings did not go well, with the provost exuding an uncooperative and demeaning attitude towards senior faculty/librarians. Chapter President Everitt is now meeting with the president of the university on PTR cases.

The new wellness center is nearing completion. It should be opening in late Fall 2013. There will be a \$250 fee for faculty/librarians/staff to use the new facility.

Librarians will be moving into the new library this summer. The library will be open to the public by the beginning of the fall semester.

The biology labs in Mier Hall are being renovated. The faculty below and near the renovations had to vacate their offices due to the renovations.

MMA

No report.

MCLA

Chapter President Rapp highly recommended the documentary, produced by Maynard Seider, to Board members.

There are declining enrollment and poor graduation rates at MCLA.

Elizabeth Coleman was awarded an honorary degree at commencement. During her tenure at Bennington College, Elizabeth Coleman eliminated tenure. MSCA members were not happy with her selection as an honorary degree recipient.

Mass Art

Chapter President Sam Schlosberg introduced the new chapter president, Rachel Resnik, and new chapter director, Nancy Cusack. The Board thanked Chapter President Schlosberg for his many years of hard work in the MSCA.

Framingham

President Tim Flanagan has accepted a job at Illinois State University. There will be an interim president this summer, and at the end of the summer there will be a presidential search.

Framingham is working on its NEASC report. The report has allowed faculty/librarians to acquire data and information that typically would not be available. From this data it was found that the university needs an additional 23 full-time faculty. A major theme of the NEASC report is about managing growth. Although the university has managed some aspects of increased student enrollment well (with the addition of new dining halls), it has not managed this growth well on the academic side of the house.

Fitchburg

The investigation regarding contract courses continues.

President Antonucci announced that Fitchburg State University will participate in the retirement incentive program as announced by the DHE. (President O'Donnell that this needs to be negotiated before it can be implemented.)

A local paper has requested that Chapter President Goodlett write an article for the occasion of the 10th anniversary of President Antonucci's employment at the university.

Chapter President Goodlett introduced the incoming chapter president, Jenny Fielding. The Board thanked Sean for his work on the Board.

Bridgewater

There is a need for a written handout or informational piece for members regarding maternity leave.

The survey on faculty evaluations is out.

There is a search for a new Dean of the College of Business.

Old Business:

MSCA Action Plan

President O'Donnell will write up some information on what happened at the MTA Annual Meeting.

New Business:

MTA Consultant Donna Sirutis – Retirement

MassArt Chapter President Sam Schlosberg presented retiring MTA Consultant Donna

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Sirutis with a beautiful book titled, *Trees: National Champions*, by MassArt photography faculty member Barbara Bosworth. In addition, Nancy Cusack presented Donna with an invitation to visit her art gallery and pick out a piece of artwork at no cost. A delicious strawberry shortcake cake from President C.J. O'Donnell was enjoyed by Donna and Board members after the presentation. It was noted that Donna's skills, knowledge, hard work, and presence will be greatly missed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy George
MSCA Secretary