

MTA Executive Committee/Board Report
MSCA Delegate Assembly 2020

Maria Hegbloom, MTA Executive Committee Member – Region H

MTA Higher Education Conference (Springfield) was held on January 10th. A number of MSCA members attended. There were some mixed reviews from higher education leadership council, but my engagement with MSCA members found the conference to be useful and well done. Higher Education Leadership Council passed a motion that stated that HELC will organize the Higher Ed conference in the future. A subcommittee has been formed to begin that planning.

New Director of Government Relations – Erik Nakajima; Well-versed in

New Business Item – A renewed focus on the Professional Development Needs of Higher Education – working to be more responsive to higher ed needs for Summer Conference, but also more generally by the MTA. Members could share ideas with their local leadership.

New Business Item – In relation to the Cherish Act, this NBI directs the union to construct a funding formula for the distribution of funds to higher ed that would be based on a per/student (not per/institution) rate and would be defined through need (something closer to the K-12 model). A committee has been formed and has started work on this.

Early College – Still early, but MTA is moving more toward developing a position in relation to this issue. NBI at the annual meeting this year that would direct the MTA to conduct research into the programs that have already started across the state, to look into best practices from the national scene, as a means to begin developing a more coherent and shared response to this initiative.

CEPP (Center for Education Policy & Practice): Is working on developing alternatives to MTELS in the teacher licensure regulations.

MTA Health & Safety Committee – This committee is beginning to do a lot of work to organize members and build campaigns around workplace safety. This is particularly important as Massachusetts has newly adopted OSHA laws that influence art & science departments in particular; and are likely to matter much more as campuses seek to reopen after the COVID-19 Crisis