

MSCA Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
April 3, 2020
Virtually using Zoom

Present: Bullens, Chenault, Craghead, Diakite, Donohue, Eve, George, Gubbins, Gullen, Hegbloom, Hennessy, Krishnamurthy, Love, Mason, O’Connell, O’Donnell, Pilkenton, Ramsden, Seceleanu, Washington

Guests: Jaime Wilson (MassArt), Roberta James (MTA)

Approval of the Orders of the Day:

It was moved and seconded to approve the orders of the day. The motion passed.

Approval of Minutes: March 6, 2020:

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the March 6, 2020, Board Meeting. The motion passed.

MSCA Officer Reports:

President – O’Donnell

2020 Delegate Assembly – Date and location

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Delegate Assembly will need to be held virtually using Zoom. MSCA Webmaster, Chris Gullen, will set up the meeting.

It was moved and seconded to hold the 2020 Delegate Assembly via Zoom, with entrance password protected and monitored. The session will be recorded solely for the purpose of creating a transcript. The motion passed.

Election of delegates to 2020 Delegate Assembly

President O’Donnell reminded chapter presidents that elections for Delegate Assembly delegates need to be held by secret ballot. He needs the list of delegates by 4:00 p.m. April 10, 2020. MMA Chapter President Craghead provided chapter presidents with information on easy-to-use, online election software.

Election of delegates to 2020 MTA Annual Meeting

President O’Donnell stated that he needs the names of the delegates for the 2020 MTA Annual Meeting by April 17, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting will be held virtually. If a chapter has more members interested in attending than seats available, an election must be held and the result, including a list of alternates by seating order, need to be provided.

Since the meeting will be held virtually, there will be no reimbursements for “attendance.”

Vice President – Hegbloom

Report will be sent via email.

Treasurer – Love

It was moved and seconded to accept the proposed income worksheet as distributed. The motion passed.

It was moved and seconded to recommend the proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget as distributed.

It was moved and seconded to amend the proposed budget recommendation by decreasing account 9030 by \$9,000, decreasing the reimbursement amount for PHENOM in account 9060 to \$0, and decreasing account 9080 by \$18,000.

It was moved and seconded to amend the amendment by decreasing the reimbursement amount for PHENOM in account 9060 to \$6,000.

The motion to amend the amendment passed.

The motion to amend the proposed budget recommendation passed.

It was moved and seconded to amend the proposed budget recommendation by increasing the stipend for the Webmaster in account 9020 to \$8,000. The motion passed.

The motion to passé the proposed budget recommendation, as amended, passed.

The monthly expense report distributed via email and discussed.

It was noted that since January, 2020, the MSCA has lost money in its investment portfolio due to the COVID-19 economic downturn. Treasurer Love stated that the money is not invested in equities and stocks, but rather in mutual funds.

It was moved and seconded to increase the stipend for the Webmaster from \$3,500 to \$8,000 for FY 2020, and decrease the 9080 account by \$4,500. The motion passed.

Secretary – George

It was moved and seconded to approve the following nominations for the NEA-RA:

Don Bullens (Worcester)
Jon Cash (Bridgewater)
Christopher O'Donnell (MMA)
Len Paolillo (Bridgewater)
Sandra Rahman (Bridgewater)

The motion passed.

It was moved and seconded to approve these additional nominations for the NEA-RA:

Elaine Craghead (MMA)
Raila Diakite (Fitchburg)
Chris Gullen (Westfield)
Maria Hegbloom (Bridgewater)
Aruna Krishnamurthy (Fitchburg)
Irina Seceleanu (Bridgewater)
Jaime Wilson (MassArt)

The motion passed.

Chapter Reports

MassArt

Chapter President Mason reported that he has been keeping President O'Donnell posted announcements on the COVID-19 situation released by the administration.

Fitchburg

A campus building is being prepared to be used as a morgue. Most campus buildings are closed.

All campus business and instruction is being done virtually. Adjuncts and students in need of a computer have been given a laptop. Some students, who would be otherwise homeless, are being housed on campus.

Currently, Fall 2020 enrollment is down about 20 students, which is similar to Fall 2019 enrollment. A budget decrease is not anticipated.

Worcester

The university president is planning a graduation ceremony in August.

The pass/fail policy was approved by governance. Summer classes will be held online.

Chapter meetings will be held virtually. MSCA Webmaster Gullen offered to assist the chapter president with this.

Westfield

A pass/fail policy was approved by governance. Students will receive a grade and then be able to decide if they want the grade or changed to pass/fail.

The provost is stepping down on May 31 and the president's last day is August 31. The president has already left campus.

Information on COVID-19 issues that has been presented by campus administration is disjointed and disorganized.

Salem

Governance committees continue to meet virtually.

Governance approved a pass/no pass option for undergraduate students.

More than 20 grievances have been filed.

Graduation will be delayed; a new date has not been set yet.

The president's chief of staff, Nate Bryant, is stepping down to become the president of North Shore Community College. The chief diversity officer has resigned.

The most recent Board of Trustees meeting saw a significant number of faculty "attending" due to the virtual format. There is another Board of Trustees meeting next week.

The chapter is holding meetings virtually.

MMA

Add/drop deadline has been extended.

The administration has a pass/fail proposal that will be going through governance. An emergency AUC meeting will be held to discuss this.

A search for a new dean is occurring. There are two finalists from the 64 applicants.

MCLA

The pass/fail policy was passed yesterday by the All-University Committee.

The chapter is meeting virtually and planning online chapter elections.

Framingham

A pass/fail policy went through governance.

The campus will be proceeding with multiple searches for deans.

The administration wants to email SIR-II reports to faculty because they had not yet been distributed.

No additional money has been offered to part-time day faculty to put courses online.

Bridgewater

A pass/no pass policy is making its way through governance.

It appears the university will be \$13,000,000 in debt due to COVID-19 issues. Very little help is anticipated from the state. It is hoped that the operating budget will not be cut and that federal assistance will eliminate this shortfall.

MSCA Committee Reports

Day Bargaining – Hegbloom

Chair Hegbloom provided Board members with a brief update.

DGCE Bargaining – Ramsden

Chair Ramsden provided Board members with a brief report. The survey is being worked on as well as a possible proposal.

Elections – Mabrouk

No report.

Grievance – Donohue

Chair Donohue provided Board members with a brief report. Meetings will be held virtually in the future.

Librarians – George

Chair George reported that in the recent past, even with COVID-19 mandates, some librarians were still working in their libraries. Discussion followed.

Chair George reported that although an extension was provided by management to allow the spending down of vacation time to 375 hours until the end of August, it appears that COVID-19 will last throughout the summer and that the deadline extension may not be sufficient to allow the use of the excess vacation leave. Chair George recommends an extension to August, 31, 2021.

MTA Reports:

Consultant – James

Consultant James recommended that members check up on each other to ensure safety and wellness.

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Health and Welfare Trust – George

The Trust did not meet on March 27, due to COVID-19. The audit and tax forms 5500 and 990 are completed. Negotiations with MetLife are going on, this will set the rate for next fiscal year.

Board of Directors – Hegbloom, O'Donnell, Washington

The MTA Executive Committee voted to hold the 2020 Annual Meeting on May 2 virtually and will likely focus on elections and the budget. The MTA Board will be voting on this next week.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy George
MSCA Secretary