

Fw: DGCE Bargaining session 8/21, and report

August 22, 2020 at 5:53 PM

From Graziana Ramsden

To Christopher Gullen

Graziana Ramsden, PhD (*she pronouns*)
Professor, Modern Languages
Sponsor, Alpha Chi Mass Beta Chapter
Grievance Officer, MCLA Faculty Association
MSCA Director

Book an appointment

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From: Graziana Ramsden
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 4:29 PM
To: Seceleanu, Irina <iseceleanu@bridgew.edu>; Aruna Krishnamurthy <akrishnamurthy@fitchburgstate.edu>; Donohue Robert <rdonohue@framingham.edu>; Kathryn Riel <kriel@massart.edu>; James Moriarty <J.Moriarty@mcla.edu>; thibbert@maritime.edu <thibbert@maritime.edu>; tiffany.chenault@salemstate.edu <tiffany.chenault@salemstate.edu>; ccianoboyce@westfield.ma.edu <ccianoboyce@westfield.ma.edu>; Sam O'Connell <soconnell7@worcester.edu>
Cc: James, Roberta <RJJames@massteacher.org>; president@mscaunion.org <president@mscaunion.org>
Subject: DGCE Bargaining session 8/21, and report

Dear Chapter Presidents,

please forward the information below to your DGCE faculty. Thank you.

Dear Members,

Heartfelt apologies for the delay with which this message reaches you. This summer has been challenging for me - and for all, I believe.

Please find the Bargaining Report below. But first some information about the next Bargaining Session.

Next DGCE Bargaining Session: August 21 1-5 pm.
To be considered for a seat as a Silent Representative: [click here to register](#)

Bargaining Report, from July 23 2020:

Both teams agreed on Ground Rules, and on electronic signatures.

Management asked the union to present our proposals first. We issued a reminder that DGCE courses and programs must be subject to shared governance in the day contract; Management stated that they would respond to us on this item. We also asked for a definition of 'cost items;' Management replied that that definition is up the individual presidents. The Commonwealth Administration and Finance Office has not issued any financial parameters for these negotiations.

For brevity, I will not detail our proposals, which you can find [here](#). Management asked multiple questions about our Monitoring of Electronic Communication proposal - in which we request that the faculty be the gatekeeper for administrative access, among other things - and Class Size - which is dangerously large at some institutions. The Stipend for Course Cancellation also sprung multiple questions as every university appears to have its own manner of offering and cancelling courses. All these proposals will be discussed again at the next session, as we reached no understanding or agreement.

Management presented two proposals to us:

1. [PFML](#), asking members to share the cost;

2. an updated Appendix D-2(b) "distance learning observation form" because, management claims, the current form is outdated and doesn't include options needed to observe asynchronous courses, such as content structure and modality, as well number of students enrolled and number of times class has been taught.

Since the Appendix D-2(b) presented passive-voice language that created more confusion than direction, the union requested that the form is re-submitted to us in an active voice so we can properly consider the changes. Management agreed to do so for next bargaining session. The PFML is currently the subject of bargaining at another table, but we expect to appear again on the agenda for future sessions.

In solidarity,

The DGCE Bargaining Team
Graziana Ramsden (MCLA), Chair
Irina Seceleanu (Bridgewater), Vice Chair
Rala Diakite (Fitchburg)
Robert Donohue (Framingham)
Ben Ryterband (Mass Art)
Todd Hibbert (Mass Maritime)
Nicholas Aieta (Westfield)
Julie Frechette (Worcester)
C.J. O'Donnell (MSCA President, ex officio)
Roberta James (MTA)