

MSCA Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
January 8, 2021
Virtually using Zoom

Present: Chenault, Ciano-Boyce, Diakite, Donohue, Eve, George, Hegbloom, Hibbert, Krishnamurthy, Lam, Mitroka Batsford, O'Connell, O'Donnell, Pilkenton, Ramsden, Riel, Seceleanu, Smith, Weeks

Guests: Chris Gullen (Westfield), 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.

Updates

President – O'Donnell

President O'Donnell reported that the Massachusetts House of Representatives overrode the 11 higher education Baker vetoes by overwhelming margins.

The votes in the House are indicated below. President O'Donnell will look at the names of those who voted against the overrides and follow up Board members on those names. When this is finished, we will need to follow-up with thank you emails. The overrides were approved in large part to the more than 1,300 people (most associated with the state universities) who sent more than 2,600 emailed to representatives and senators.

7066-1400: State University funding (formula-based) passed 153-0

7100-4000: Community College funding (formula-based) passed 153-0

7109-0100: BSU additional funding passed 150-4

7115-0100: Westfield SU additional funding passed 144-6

7116-0100: Worcester SU additional funding passed 148-4

7503-0100: Bristol CC additional funding passed 146-6

7508-0100: Massasoit CC additional funding passed 146-6

7509-0101: Brewer Center for Civic Learning and Community Engagement at Mount Wachusett CC additional funding passed 132-21

7512-0100: Quinsigamond CC additional funding passed 149-4

7515-0100: Roxbury CC additional funding passed 146-7

7518-0100: Bunker Hill CC additional funding passed 144-9

The effort was spearheaded by the Action Network Alert put together by Irina Seceleanu and Aruna Krishnamurthy.

Consideration of a request to enter mid-term bargaining

It was moved and seconded to consider entering mid-term negotiations for an early retirement incentive. The motion passed.

It was moved and seconded to authorize the Day Bargaining Committee to enter mid-term negotiations for an early retirement incentive. In addition, the Day Bargaining Committee will request that management agree if there is impasse, that management not unilaterally implement the early retirement incentive. The motion passed.

Vice President – Hegbloom

\$900 Billion Stimulus Passed: [\\$22.7 Billion for Higher Education](#); You can look up how much your university should receive [here](#).

SSU Action Network: [Call out Keenan](#) and ask him to STOP the furloughs of faculty, librarians, and staff and Salem State University.

Winter Skills Kickoff & Plenary: [Saturday, January 30th from 8:30-12:30](#)

DHE FY22 Budget Request: Requested increases for data collection (performance management), student support in the Community Colleges, Early College, extension of MassGrantPlus to state universities and UMass. All other requests are for level-funding.

Parthenon Report: Working on a list of requested financial reporting tools for the state universities and community colleges as well as suggested areas for regional collaboration. The final recommendations will be presented at the February BHE meeting.

MTA Legislative Agenda: The MTA will be filing or refiling 16 pieces of legislation under 5 key categories. One of these key categories is specific to providing high-quality, debt-free public higher education. The legislation included here will be focused on:

- Cherish Act – to restore overall funding to 2001/ per student levels (adjusted for inflation); combined with an updated emphasis on the distribution of those funds related to the work of the [funding formula group](#)
- Adjunct Bill – Refile; Access to Health Insurance & State Retirement; per course pay parity; 1% contribution to SMART plan for adjuncts who work less than ½ time; Create fund and mechanism for increasing TT faculty positions & provide priority consideration to those lines for current adjunct faculty
- Debt-Free, Public Higher Education Bill
- Fair Higher Education Workplace Bill – restores the diminished tuition-remission to public higher ed employees & family members and extends this benefit to adjuncts; streamlines the process through which public higher education collective bargaining agreements are validated and funded; eliminates 60-day waiting period for GIC health benefits

National Higher Ed Group Researching University Debt: A group of higher ed activists (including our awesome colleagues at Salem State University) across the country have been meeting to discuss the importance of debt on our campuses and to begin undertaking the work of researching and analyzing that debt in order to support activism and action. If you are interested in joining this effort (or if you

have members who might want to be involved) please consider sharing this invitation (below). The next meeting will be taking place on January 13th.

Chapter Report

Salem

Salem chapter leadership provided Board members with updated information on the university president imposing furloughs on Salem State University faculty and librarians. It was noted that although January furloughs were not implemented, President Keenan continues to believe faculty/librarian furloughs and retrenchment are important for the financial health of Salem State University. In approximately two weeks, a recommendation from President Keenan and Salem State's President's Executive Committee, will be disclosed.

Discussion followed.

There was general Board agreement, during the discussion, that faculty/librarian furloughs, and especially retrenchment at Salem State University with the need to claim institutional financial exigency, would create a significant drop in student enrollment and retention that would be ruinous to the institution.

Old Business:

Proposed MSCA Zoom meetings

A variety of MSCA member meetings, including Town Hall style MSCA meetings, are being planned for the spring semester. Topics will include information on the situation at Salem State, educator burnout, and a follow-up on the summer forum series.

New Business:

President O'Donnell raised the COVID-19 vaccination issue. The Board asked President O'Donnell, and Unity and Organizing Co-Leaders Irina Seceleanu and Aruna Krishnamurthy to pursue efforts faculty have higher education employees moved up to Phase 2 of the state's vaccination plan due to the fact that college age students (20-29 years old) spread the virus more than any other age group.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy George
MSCA Secretary