

**MSCA Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of the Special Meeting
April 2, 2021
Virtually using Zoom**

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

Guests: Chris Gullen (Westfield), Roberta James (MTA), Sarah Mabrouk (Framingham), Catherine Santiago (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 5, 2021 and March 9, 2021:

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2021 MSCA Board meeting. The motion passed.

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2021 MSCA Board meeting. The motion passed.

Visiting Speakers:

none

MSCA Reports

Day Bargaining – Hegbloom

Initial Proposal

The next Day Bargaining meeting is April 21, 2021.

Chair Hegbloom provided Board members with a general overview of the bargaining process, draft proposal, and strategies. It was agreed to consider draft initial proposal at the April 23, 2021 Board meeting.

DGCE Bargaining – Seceleanu

The last DGCE Bargaining session lasted four hours and was attended by 71 silent representatives. Chair Seceleanu thanked the Board for getting so many silent reps to attend the meeting. Disparities regarding pay and equivalencies are two focuses of the committee.

April 2, 2021

The next meeting will be held on Monday; 42 silent representatives have signed up to attend this meeting.

Bargaining Action Leader – Gullen

Leader Gullen has created a large database that provides information members who have attended a bargaining session as a silent representative. There have been 296 participants since summer 2020. Forms have been created for silent representatives to register. Leader Gullen has been investigating ways to make the registration process easier. It was requested that Leader Gullen forward participants' off-campus email addresses to the Treasurer's office to be added to the member database.

Organizing and Unity Leader – Seceleanu & Krishnamurthy

An additional unemployment workshop for part-time faculty is being planned to be held in May. A brief description of other activities was provided to Board members.

Elections – Mabrouk

Chair Mabrouk provided Board members with a detailed overview of the committee's activities. In addition, an extensive Election's Committee report was provided to Board members via email.

Grievance – Donohue

The committee is up to date with grievances and mediations. Management is not settling at Step 2, but instead pushing grievances to Step 3 and resolving before mediation.

Legislation – Riel

Chair Riel has a list of non-campus email addresses. Higher Education Advocacy Day was recently held at the Statehouse.

Librarians – George

Chair George continues to seek a meeting date with the committee. A brief discussion ensued regarding librarian issues and Day Bargaining. It was noted that Juneteenth is now a state holiday.

Chapter President Reports

Salem

It was moved and seconded to go into executive session. The motion passed.

It was moved and seconded to come out of executive session. The motion passed.

The Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences is leaving the institution.

April 2, 2021

Five members have indicated interest in the retirement incentive.

Thirty-five faculty/librarians went up for PTR; 33 received 6% and two received 3%.

Bridgewater

Tiffany Chenault and Amy Smith, MSCA Salem Chapter, recently attended a Bridgewater Executive Board meeting.

Gillette Stadium has been rented for graduation ceremonies to be held the end of July, 2021.

Forty-three APRs have been canceled. The administration has imposed a three-credit limit for excess workload credits. Some faculty are unable to utilize the workload credits due to the number of workload credits associated with the classes they teach.

There continues to be safety violations and there is a lack of follow through on off-campus parties and activities. These result in an increase in COVID-19 infections.

Six members have indicated interest in the retirement incentive.

Fitchburg

An indoor graduation ceremony will be held. Administration is looking for volunteers to work at graduation.

All PTR members received 6%.

Seven members have indicated an interest in the retirement incentive.

A Board of Trustees meeting was held last week.

The university president said classes will be held on campus in large numbers during the Fall 2021 semester. It is unclear as to whether faculty will be able to choose the modality of the classes they teach.

The chapter is organizing a finance and budget group. It is hoped that Salem and Westfield chapter leaders will attend a meeting to share information on their processes. It is also hoped that the health and safety group will be revived.

Framingham

The university president will be retiring in August 2022. It is expected that the university provost will retire around the same time as well.

There has been an issue with volatile organic compounds in the library when the print shop is cleaning their machines.

April 2, 2021

There has been a large uptick in COVID-19 cases with 11 positive cases on campus.

Sarah Pilkenton has been elected as the new chapter president.

Seven members have indicated an interest in the retirement incentive.

MassArt

All 11 members up for PTR received 6%.

Seven members have indicated an interest in the retirement incentive.

MCLA

The campus was shut down yesterday due to a COVID-19 outbreak. All classes were shifted to an online format. This format will continue until the end of the semester. Graduation will be virtual.

Five people have indicated an interest in the retirement incentive.

There are three new vice presidents.

Graziana Ramsden will be interviewing the Westfield chapter leaders in the near future.

MMA

MMA is offering COVID-19 vaccines to all students who will be participating on the upcoming, required sea term. There is some resistance to receiving the vaccine among some students.

Westfield

The provost will be retiring in the near future.

There are five candidates for the university president position. The interim president is leaving the end of June.

The Board of Trustees continues to be challenging to work with.

Graduation will be held at the Mass Mutual Center.

Part-time faculty have had difficulties obtaining unemployment due to HR employees fighting claims. Discussion followed.

Worcester

Tiffany Chenault and Amy Smith, MSCA Salem Chapter, spoke at the recent membership meeting.

All 18 members up for PTR received 6%.

Eight members have indicated an interest in the retirement incentive.

A new Interdisciplinary Studies Department is being created at WSU. Liberal Studies will be housed in this new department.

Becker College, in Worcester, is closing. Worcester State will be enrolling some of students in certain majors, and hiring some of their faculty, particularly in nursing, as full-time temporary faculty. There is concern that these new faculty positions may eliminate part-time faculty positions.

There will be a drive-through graduation ceremony.

MSCA Officer Reports

President – O'Donnell

Delegate Assembly

April 9, 2021, is the deadline for chapters to submit delegate names to President O'Donnell. Delegates must be elected into their positions.

PTR

Results were due to the chapter presidents by April 1.

Vice President – Hegbloom

Vice President Hegbloom provided Board members with a brief update of her activities.

She emphasized that now is the time to reach out to legislatures on higher education funding issues. The House and Senate will be releasing their budgets in the next three weeks.

MTA is setting up in-district meetings.

MTA is working on a social media campaign that includes stories of students and faculty. It was requested by Vice President Hegbloom that she be contacted if Board members have such stories to share.

Treasurer – Weeks

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

It was moved and seconded to accept the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Proposal as distributed.

The monthly expense report was distributed via email and discussed.

Secretary – George

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

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David Keil (Framingham)
Christopher O'Donnell (MMA)
Len Paolillo (Bridgewater)

The motion passed.

It was moved and seconded to approve the nomination which was received late for the NEA-RA:

Maria Hegbloom (Bridgewater)

The motion passed.

It was moved and seconded to approve this additional nomination from the floor for the NEA-RA:

Chris Gullen (Westfield)

The motion passed.

Old Business

none

New Business

none

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy George
MSCA Secretary