

MSCA Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes
March 4, 2022
Virtually using Zoom

Present: Caffrey, Chenault, Ciano-Boyce, Diakite, Eve, Falcetta, George, Hegbloom, Hennessy, Hibbert, Krishnamurthy, Lam, Leone, Mitroka Batsford, O'Connell, O'Donnell, Ramsden, Rosero, Seceleanu, Smith, Washington, Weeks

Guests: Robert Donohue (Framingham), Chris Gullen (Westfield), Roberta James (MTA), Sarah Mabrouk (Framingham), Jennifer Mendell (Bridgewater)

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: February 2, 2022:

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2022 MSCA Board meeting with edits. The motion passed.

Visiting Speakers:

There were no visiting speakers.

Chapter President Reports:

Bridgewater

There was a water leak problem on the third floor of the library. The chapter president contacted the university president about the issue and a day later repairs to the roof began.

The mask mandate continues to be in effect in the classroom and library.

As a result of the activism to get the problem resolved, university administration has earmarked \$5 million in ARPA funds to replace the library's HVAC system.

A joint presentation to the Board of Trustees was made by the MSCA and APA chapter presidents. Concerns were presented to the Board of Trustees as well as information on the Fair Share amendment.

There has been an increase in communication with the university president. He will be engaging in a listening tour with departments.

Fitchburg

The COVID protocols are being examined. It is hoped that the mask mandates will continue until the end of the semester.

March 4, 2022

Framingham:

Provost search continues.

Mask mandate continues in offices and classrooms. Masks will not be required in other locations as of April 1.

Difficulties staffing governance committees.

Trying to educate members on budget issues.

Mass Art

Provost search continues.

Mask mandates continue other than in the residence halls, in which above the entry ways, masks are not required.

Booster shot deadlines are coming up for both faculty/staff and students.

As of March 21, testing will no longer be available for vaccinated students/faculty/staff.

A student project focused on labor issues related to the current food service company, Sodexo. The faculty member, who was the student's professor, brought this to the administration's attention and an investigation on these allegations ensued.

MCLA

A meeting was recently held that included the chapter president and other union stewards to find out more about mask mandates.

The enrollment crisis continues. There is no clear marketing plan.

There is difficulty getting people involved in committee activities.

MMA

The campus is back full time and there is no mask mandate.

A few grievances are at different stages.

Salem

Keenan changed the mask mandate without any input from the campus community. There was push back regarding this change and now the classroom/office mask mandate has been pushed back to the week after spring break.

Westfield

Mask mandate is in place until March 21 other than the health center and community center (in which mask mandate will continue).

Trying to increase enrollment.

The institution is in bad financial shape. The provost will not allow any more cuts to academic affairs.

Disestablishment of a one-person department. Discussion followed.

The new university president is getting acclimated to the university and getting advice from other administrators.

Worcester

Hiring 25 new faculty members. The search committees are wrapping up their searches.

The chapter president sent Board members the newest information on masking at Worcester State. Changes in the mask mandate will occur on March 23 after spring break and testing. As of March 23, masks will still be required in all instructional spaces. Also, masks may be required in events, depending upon event size. Listened to faculty feedback via chairs of department.

The Task Force on Financial Sustainability continues its work. Phase 1 work will end in June. Working to close a budget deficit of \$10 million a year.

Local elections will be held soon. The nomination deadline has been extended.

MSCA Reports:

Elections – Mabrouk

Chair Mabrouk's report was submitted through email.

Members must pay their dues or be on payroll deduction by March 15 or they will not be able to vote in the election.

She provided the Board with information on her activities on the election as well as the various deadlines that are present.

It was moved and seconded that the Board authorizes Chris Gullen to increase the Zoom capacity to 1000 if necessary for the MSCA Officer Election Forums.

It was moved and seconded to amend the motion so that it authorizes Chris Gullen to increase the Zoom capacity from 500 to 1000 for this month.

It was moved and seconded to amend the amendment so that it authorizes Chris Gullen to increase the Zoom capacity from 500 to 3000 for this month. The motion passed.

The original motion passed as amended.

It was moved and seconded that the Board directs the chapter president or representative to send to the campus listservs that states they must register 48 hours in advance for the forums and that they must have their dues paid or be on payroll deduction by March 15 to vote in the election. Include this information: the MSCA has increased the number of Zoom capacity to 3000 participants. The motion passed.

Regarding the arbitrator – the meeting with the arbitrator can be done via Zoom.

It was moved and seconded that an arbitration date between April 16 and 21 be selected at the discretion of the arbitrator. The motion passed.

Organizing and Unity Leader - Krishnamurthy

A meeting was recently held with chapter leaders and liaisons. There was a focus on full-time faculty/librarian recruitment and tactics that may be used to recruit new members. A number of innovative techniques were presented including a video presentation discussing the benefits of union membership.

Grievance - Donohue

Some grievances have gone through mediation. A failed mediation occurred yesterday.

Some members have been contacting Chair Donohue directly.

Day Bargaining – Hegbloom

Corrections were sent to Elizabeth Sullivan, COP counsel. Nothing has been heard from them yet.

Elizabeth Sullivan, COP counsel, will let Chair Hegbloom know about the presentation dates with student evaluation vendors

DGCE Bargaining – Seceleanu

No report.

Legislation – Dodge

No report.

Librarians – George

No report.

Bargaining Action Leader – Gullen

Web page sample designs will be sent to Board members. Discussion on the web page designs will be during the April Board meeting.

Zoom account has been upgraded to allow for the election forums. The upgrade is only for one month of additional capacity.

Old Business

Review of MSCA employee leave policy

It was moved and seconded to approve the MSCA recommendations for Holiday, Sick, Vacation Leave. The motion passed.

Day and DGCE contract issues

No discussion necessary.

MSCA Officer Reports:

President – O'Donnell

It was moved and seconded to approve the Delegate Assembly Delegate Counts 2022. The motion passed.

It was moved and seconded to hold the 2022 Delegate Assembly virtually, through Zoom. The motion passed.

It was moved and seconded to approve the tentative 2022 MTA Annual Meeting Delegate count. The motion passed.

Vice President – Hegbloom

A report was sent via email.

The mask survey results were sent to Board members. A summary of the results will be sent to members.

Discussion followed regarding mask mandates and safety issues. President O'Donnell will send a request for a meeting to the COP to talk about health and safety concerns.

The Perspective Editor position needs to be filled. The MSCA will begin seeking applicants in April, after the officer election.

The BHE Student Council is meeting on March 17. Vice President Hegbloom will attend along with Framingham Chapter President Caffrey.

The MSCA Book Club will have an author event on April 13. An MTA grant will be applied for to pay the speakers for their presentations.

March 4, 2022

The MTA Annual Meeting will be held in person. Budget recommendations will be talked about at the upcoming MTA Board meeting later this month.

Treasurer

Stipends for chapter officers need to come through the state treasurer's office.

Treasurer Weeks reviewed the monthly expense report.

Treasurer Weeks reviewed the proposed budget for FY2023. Discussion followed.

The investment account regarding investments, the Investment Committee, investment strategies, was discussed.

Secretary

The deadline for nominations for the 2022 NEA/RA is March 14.

MTA Reports:

Consultants – James

No report.

Health and Welfare Trust - George

No report. There has not been a meeting and the next meeting will be held in April or May.

Board of Directors – Hegbloom

Director Hegbloom sent Board members a report on the last meeting via email.

New Business:

Enforcement of Health and Safety agreements

Discussion regarding mask mandates and agreements was held.

Director Smith, Salem, asked if any other chapter has heard of Follette Access. It appears to be at Salem only.

A question was asked about the CBA funding process. President O'Donnell reported that the governor submitted the funding request to the legislature. President O'Donnell will communicate with members and the Board when the funding is approved.

MSCA Board Minutes
March 4, 2022

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy George
MSCA Secretary