

**Joanna Gonsalves**

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**MSCA Vice President's Report for the Delegates Assembly**

This year my work as Vice President focused on:

**Supporting MSCA Committees** with member recruitment and committee communications. We have high engagement in MSCA committees with 72% of committee seats filled. [The committees](#) in greatest need of members for next year are the Elections Committee, the Investments Committee, and the Contract Action Team.

**Working with the MTA on the Higher Ed For all Campaign:** This involved serving on an ad-hoc committee to add language to the Cherish Bill about capital debt relief and green and healthy building requirements. Other committees were focused on student support and faculty & staff wages/working conditions. We submitted our recommendations to MTA's High Education Leadership Council on October 20th. At the Higher Ed for All statehouse [press conference](#) on December 1, I spoke about the need for funding to support [green and healthy campus buildings](#), financed by the state not through student fees. For MSCA members I developed a Cherish act [member FAQ](#).

In the new year, the focus was on coalition building with other unions and community groups to lobby for the Cherish Act and other legislation. We made plans for Advocacy Day, February 28th (which was canceled due to weather). I was also engaged in tabling for the Parameters Campaign, planning the May 5th Higher Ed for All *Speak Out* at the Statehouse and a cross-union Legislative Breakfast to be held May 12th at Salem State.

**Supporting Day Bargaining as Vice Chair:** In this role I helped with communications, running focus groups, drafting a member survey and providing tech support for student evaluation negotiations.

**Providing support for unemployment benefits:** Maria and I ran a workshop for our part time members on December 8th. Sixty people registered from 7 campuses and nearly 40 attended. I then met individually with faculty needing 1:1 support with claims. Another workshop will be held May 8th at 4pm on Zoom.

**Organizing around University Debt :** For a few years, I have been collaborating with an expanding group of campus workers and students in Massachusetts and other states to expose how campus building debt is creating campus austerity and raising our students' fees. This year we ran workshops, produced a [podcast](#) for *The International Journal of Equity and Social Justice in Higher Education* and are completing a trade book together. Working across the three sectors of Mass Public Higher Ed, we have started conversations about forms of privatization across the Mass Public campuses and exposing deferred maintenance at the Mass Community Colleges.

**Other contributions:** Serving on the MTA Advisory Budget Committee, Reviewing the MSCA constitution for proposed amendments at the MSCA Delegate Assembly, and serving as a Delegate to the MTA, MSCA and NEA annual assemblies.