

MSP Executive Board Meeting

April 15, 2020

Present: Kate Hudson, Eve Weinbaum, Sigrid Schmalzer, Sandy Litchfield, Paulina Borrego, Jen Adams, Clare Hammond, Christine Turner, Marc Liberatore, Asha Nadkarni, John Staudenmayer, Kevin Young, Jeanne Brunner, Tristram Seidler, Dean Robinson, Erica Scharrer, Maciej Ciesielski, Jeremy Smith

Staff: Lori Reardon, Emily Steelhammer, Heather LaPenn, Mickey Gallagher

Updates

- Bargaining continues. Did not send out updates this past week because there were some very problematic proposals around NTT faculty. Off the record meeting with Michael Egan yesterday and they've withdrawn the most egregious.
- We are thinking we'll probably extend the current contract through next year given that state budgets will be problematic, but hope to keep making headway on non-compensation issues.
- Although all summer classes are online, the fate of other programs are still up in the air.
- Chancellor said that fall is also still up in the air, but realistically re-opening in September seems unlikely. A full class was admitted.
- Federal stimulus for colleges and universities. UMass got \$18 million, half needs to be for emergency needs for students. Unclear whether refunds for room and board (which totalled \$40 million) count. If not, deficit for FY20 will be problematic.
- Lobbying for stimulus funds is ongoing according to Swamy (concern that this is couched in terms of austerity while private sector are getting all sorts of bail out funds with no strings attached. Michael Ash is updating study about impact of investments in public higher ed is the best way to get the economy going.)
- Members are being told they can't use their own start-up, PMYR or RTF money due to budget crisis. Verified this is not the case. Those funds will never be touched. In addition, RTF can be used to support grad students.
- Grad students, especially international students are particularly vulnerable as they are unable to earn money outside the University and there are no jobs on campus.
- Demolition of Lincoln and North Village apartments has been pushed back to June 1st. Officers requested further delay at last Chancellor meeting.
- Received an email from a College of Education dept. chair asking for volunteers to put courses online. Many questions come up: where is compensation, does that mean I'm going to have more students in my class than someone who doesn't volunteer, what will student evaluations look like..
- How can we help our members channel their desire for activism?

Approve Minutes from 2/26 and 3/11

Jen moved to approve, Erica seconded, approved unanimously.

FY21 Budget

- Part-time employees, Alisa & Diane, additional raises to compensate for loss of health insurance.
- Arbitration - cut down \$.
- Continue abatement fund.
- MSP Connection \$ added, after success of this year's activities.
- Officers recommending a \$2 increase to dues (we'd rather do incremental raises than wait years and then hit people with a larger sum.) Also shoring up budgets in the wake of Janus. MTA dues will also probably go up \$2.
- MSP & JCC budgets (JCC are joint expenses with FSU at UMass Boston. We pay 65% of the joint expenses).
- Christine moved, Maciej seconded. Passed unanimously to recommend the \$2 dues increase budget to the General Assembly scheduled to meet 4/27/20.

MSP donation for COVID-19 relief and press release

We have some \$\$ left over in this year's budget due to \$ we are saving because of COVID-19. Proposing \$2,500 to the Student Support Fund, and \$2,500 to Feed the Frontlines. Need to confirm that graduate students will also be eligible for grants before donating to the Student Support Fund. Will also provide some additional suggestions to members of organizations that would benefit from donations. Jeremy made motion, Kevin seconded, approved unanimously.

MTA Delegates

We want to fill all our seats for this virtual meeting - although no contest for President or Vice-President there are rumors of a nomination from the floor, so we want to make a strong showing. May 2, 9-10:30 a.m. probably is the prime voting time. Deadline is April 27 to let Emily know via email (mSP@umass.edu) if someone wants to be a delegate.

Open Board and Officer seats to fill

Need names for new Board members. Encourage current board folks to join the officers.

General Assembly Plan

Town hall format, will need a tight format given the numbers of folks. Monday, 4/27 @ noon.

Virtual Teach-in on the Virus Crisis and Healthcare

Activist focus on the crisis & union solidarity. Let Jeremy know if you are interested. Asha, Christine, and Sigrid volunteered to be on the committee.)

Dates to Remember

MSP Virtual General Assembly Meeting: 4/27/20, noon-1:30 p.m. via Zoom

MTA Annual Meeting of delegates: 5/2/20, 9 a.m.-noon, virtual