

MSP Board Meeting
September 9, 2020

Present: Marc Liberatore, Kate Hudson, Asha Nadkarni, Eve Weinbaum, Christine Turner, Priyanka Srivastava, Paulina Borrego, Maciej Ciesielski, Clare Hammonds, Michael Ash, Caleb Rounds, Sigrid Schmalzer, Fareen Parvez, Tristram Seidler, Kevin Young, Jeanne Brunner, Jeremy Smith, Jen Adams

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

Chancellor's Meeting Updates - Officers met w/ Chancellor & Provost on August 31; agenda included furloughs, budget planning, Chinese students in China, future planning (spring and beyond.)

Chancellor exhibited extreme pessimism

- 1100 students on campus currently; budget shortfall due to dorms & dining;
- hedging on enrollment numbers;
- Pessimistic on federal and state \$\$
- Therefore we need to preemptively make significant cuts
- Chancellor argues that furloughs of staff are due to lack of work (since dining halls and residence halls are largely shut down.
- In a change, we are now being told Academic Affairs will not be spared - we are trying to clarify
- Spring planning - "firewall" with MSP members for planning, will call on faculty through the faculty senate
- CTL, IT and IPO are preparing guidance for faculty teaching students in locations with different privacy concerns; personal repercussions; legal concerns; and cultural, religious, and social norms (e.g., China)

Other Updates

- 850 AFSCME members were given notice of "indefinite" furloughs last week; agreement is vague; process was vague; working one day a month to stay on health insurance and keep pensions; auxiliary services is a separate budget. Will revisit status in December; some furloughs may be permanent; some individuals may be back to work before then.
- Went to PSU and USA and said that they wanted to cut another 500 jobs. Still unclear who these people would be, and how these would affect university activities; at the bargaining table, but they haven't seen lists.
- We've submitted an information request to hear what has been required of deans in terms of cuts, whether they are base or "cash"
- Colleges that had large numbers of people who left due to VSIPs will be probably OK right now, but others are apparently being asked to make personnel cuts
- Budget details have been hard to come by. Have been told \$5 million needs to be saved in FY21 from PSU & USA. PSU & USA sent proposals other than furloughs/layoffs, all of which were rejected by the administration.

- Assumptions \$30 million tuition reduction (seems to be made up.) Cut to state budget (assumption \$36.7 million cut from state.)
- Continuing to work with legislators and other unions around the state to press for funding.
- Any information we can get from chairs, colleges about budgets
- Different chairs are being told different things
- Can we work more closely with the Faculty Senate? Some years ago MSP members got involved, but didn't seem to have a huge impact with a lot more work.
- MSP members have not been asked to take furloughs - they are teaching this semester (January paychecks?)

Staff Union Organizing

- All union board meeting/town hall - set up meetings with the boards of the unions to supplement the almost daily meetings of the Presidents.
- Mutual aid for staff: Emily Hamilton created a website: <https://sites.google.com/view/umass-mutual-aid-network/home> ; contact Emily Steelhammer if you're able to help administer program

All-In

- Reports back from department meetings
 - Appreciate workload adjustment
 - Worry about staff
 - Anger about MSP "not being in solidarity with staff"
- Individual meetings with new faculty
 - Sigrid reports that one of her favorite MSP activities is meeting one on one with new faculty to welcome them to campus and the MSP.

Joint Board Rep Meetings

Dates to Remember

Labor and the Movement for Black Lives: Intersections of Economic and Racial Justice, 9/9/2020, Wednesday, noon-1:30 p.m., <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/92079588804>

New Faculty & Library Virtual Reception, 9/30/2020, Wednesday, 4:00 p.m.