

## **MSP Executive Board**

February 24, 2021

**Board.** Marc Liberatore, Kate Hudson, Eve Weinbaum, Christine Turner, Michael Ash, Clare Hammonds, Jen Adams, Kevin A. Young, John Staudenmayer, Paulina Borrego, Prinaka Srivastava, Jeanne Brunner, Maciej Ciesielski, Fareen Parvez, Caleb Rounds, Tristram Seidler, Dean Robinson

**Reps.** Om Prakash Dhankher, Luke Bouvier, Jacquie Kurland, Carolina, Toussaint Losier, John Hosp, Neal Katz, Yi Feng, Steve Eyles, Christine Hatch, Maria Barbon, Rodrigo Zamith, Tom Roeper

**Staff.** Emily Steelhammer, Mickey Gallagher, Heather LaPenn

**Approval of minutes from 2/10/2021.** Christine made the motion, Asha seconded, approved unanimously.

### **Updates**

#### Vaccines

- some UMass staff are eligible (e.g., dining hall workers), but not faculty teaching F2F. We're pushing.

#### Staffing

- University is seriously understaffed in all the bargaining units, including faculty. Temps are being hired, and some high-level staff even though there is supposed to be a hiring freeze. This will be a continued focus of all the unions on campus.

#### Legislators

- CHERISH Act - working with legislators to work on progressive taxes to support CHERISH Act. Working closely with both our state and federal legislators.

#### COVID on Campus

- Met with Michael Eagan and Carol Barr about quick turn-around for returning to F2F classes this week. Pushed back - too early to bring back F2F classes, wanted another week, but got a hard no. Faculty have the right to ask for proof of compliance of students (green checks on phones.) Also pushed back about locking students not in compliance out of LMS. So far this seems like a threat, not sure if they will follow through.
- COVID numbers have gone down, but we've also seen large student groups gatherings.
- What are the plans for St. Patrick's Day? More activities are needed to occupy students.
- SRTIs - surprised to hear that SRTIs are back for spring. We will keep pushing on that.

Plan for Friday's caravan action

- Two messages - don't wait for the asteroid to use money from surplus accounts and the best way to protect and support students is by bringing staff back. Students are really hurting, we want to support them.
- Gathering at 100 Venture Way. Everyone will stay in cars and we will travel around campus including stopping at the parking lot closest to Chancellor's house. We'll be doing press and there will be a Zoom conference from your cars.

### **Report Backs from outreach and department visits**

- Paulina reports that six folks in the library have banded together to organize one-on-ones, and it's going well.
- Jen - Spoke with an accounting professor who was extremely grateful for the tenure extension and is about to go on family leave thanks to MSP.
- Jeanne - meeting w/ pre-tenure faculty. They are grateful for tenure extension but have a few concerns about workload adjustments in that they haven't taught 2/2 when they go up for tenure. Taking advantage of workload adjustments or any TDY cannot be held against them and should have no impact on tenure review.
- Tristram- Met with micro-biology department. Intense situations for folks who are teaching F2F (and then toggling back and forth.) Questions about bargaining.
- Neal - has been talking to non-members, and most have signed up! Faculty with Chinese ties are concerned about retribution.

### **Small Group model**

Break out groups

Report back from break outs

### **Save the Dates**

Next board/rep meeting

- Wednesday, 3/10/21, 8:45 a.m.
- <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/534375874>

All union car caravan to bring back staff and support students

- Friday, 2/26/21, 11:30 a.m.  
<https://actionnetwork.org/events/it-shouldnt-take-an-asteroid-caravan-rally>

MTA winter skills conference

- Jan-March 2021
- <https://massteacher.org/events-and-conferences/union-skills>

MSP open forum

- 3/5/21, 4/2/21 & 5/7/21 • 12:00pm-1:00pm,  
<https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/92452221421>

Spring 2021 General Assembly/Membership meeting

- Thursday 4/29, noon