

MSP Board & Reps Meeting

March 24, 2021

Board. Marc Liberatore, Kate Hudson, Eve Weinbaum, Christine Turner, Asha Nadkarni, Paulina Borrego, Michael Ash, Kevin A. Young (history), Maciej Ciesielski, John Staudenmayer, Jeanne Brunner, Dean Robinson, Jeremy Smith, Tristram Seidler, Steven Brewer (ex officio)

Reps. Jacquie Kurland, Luis Marentes, Luke Bouvier, Pablo Visconti, Rodrigo Zamith, Neal Katz, John Hosp, Yi Feng, Christine Hatch, Toussaint Losier, Ezra Markowitz, Karen Kurczynski, Louise Anthony, Steve Eyles

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

Approval of minutes from 3/24/2021. Motion made by Jacquie, seconded by Asha. Approved unanimously.

Updates (Eve)

Budget

- \$50 million new money coming to campus from American Rescue Plan Funds. \$25 million will need to be spent on student aid, however the timeline is longer to spend the money (at least until 2023), so universities could use that to offset other monies they would have spent next year on financial aid. There will also be state money coming in which can be used on anything except for tax cuts.
- Administration is telling colleges and schools that there will be \$5 million. They're "being cautious, so much uncertainty. Saving for the future."
- Fall plan - only one faculty member on the Chancellor's committee, concern about faculty governance.
- Also concerned about Flexible Learning task force, moving forward quickly, also with a lot of administrators. Kate Hudson and Steve Brewer are on this task force.
- CNS Strives - hired a consultant, Segal Consulting, to restructure the College. Concern that it's about cutting staff, but it's unclear. Union leaders met with Segal yesterday.
- Multi-unions, everyone is going back to the bargaining table. The Bargaining summit (scheduled for tomorrow) will focus on four common coalition demands. 1) pay, including merit going back six years, flat sum for health insurance increases; 2) full-staffing; 3) more holiday (campus closure days); 4) Climate Justice/Green New Deal proposals
- Unclear what the transition is going to look like in terms of hybrid work options as we transition back to campus (allowing people to work from home in some way.) Could drive a wedge between librarians if different unions have different options

Bargaining Updates (Asha)

Bargaining Focus Points

- Increasing racial and gender equity (hiring, retaining, workload)

- Full staffing
- Salary & benefits
- Holistic evaluations of teaching
- Online education
- NTT issues & teaching tenure track
- Climate justice

Hope to be done in July, but more likely into the fall

Currently working on COVID-related issues

- SRTI - we thought they wouldn't be mandatory for this spring, but apparently the administration didn't think they agreed to that
- Automatic TDY delay for all (with retro promotion increment if successful)
- Extension for using start-up funds

Other topics

- workload adjustments that were denied - we are working on these

Budgets

- Updated presentation by Marc

Save the date

GEO planning event Stop AAPI Hate- Saturday, March 27th at 1 p.m. on the Amherst Common. Focused on Asian American racism, misogyny. More information is on [Facebook](#).

General Membership Meeting, 4/8/2021, noon

Board of Trustees Meeting April 14, 2021

Legislative Breakfast - March everyone is welcome; we'll send out information

Western MA Labor Federation legislative forum: Tuesday, March 30 at 6 p.m., focused around education. Please [register](#) to attend.

Workshop on writing OpEds - for all union members, faculty & librarians telling their stories and what has been going on on campus and on sending a message to BOT that they are failing in the mission to protect public higher ed: Thursday, March 25th (tomorrow) at 2:00 pm on Zoom. Join here- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89371696465>.

Next board/rep meeting

- Wednesday 4/7/21, 8:45 a.m.
- <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/534375874>

Spring 21 General Assembly/Membership meeting

- Thursday, 4/29, noon

MTA Annual Meeting: Friday, April 30th (1:00pm-5:00pm) and Saturday, May 1 (9:00am).
Priority for Saturday attendance. Email Emily to get a delegate seat. For more information and
for the agenda please see:

[https://massteacher.org/events-and-conferences/annual-meeting-of-delegates.](https://massteacher.org/events-and-conferences/annual-meeting-of-delegates)