

MSP Board & Reps

November 29, 2023

Board - Eve Weinbaum, Marc Liberatore, Jeanne Brunner, Laurie Francis, Macie Ciesielski, Madeline Charney, Michael Ash, Sigrid Schmalzer, Tristram Seidler, Josh Michel, Kevin Young, Christine Turner, Jordy Rosenberg, Jacquie Kurland, Clare Hammonds

Reps - Betsy Krause, Colleen Kuusinen, Emily Kumpel, Jeremy Smith, Jerry Lewinsky, John Hosp, Julia Feldhaus, Leonora Thoma, Lorraine Cordeiro, Luke Bouvier, Michael Starr, Mike Knapp, Neal Katz, Om Prakash Dhanker, Peter Beltramo, Shelly Peyton, Yasuko Shiomi, Virginia Closs, Luke Bouvier, Ezra Markowitz, Erica Schafer, Devin Day, Christine Hatch

Staff - Lori Reardon, Brian Hennigan, Katie D'Orso

1. **Reps meeting.** We had our once a semester meeting with department reps. Thanks for the great ideas, including suggestions about how we can continue to remind people about all the things MSP has accomplished for faculty over the years.

2. **Meeting w/ Chancellor and Provost.**

Did a demo of AI generative coding showing how the software can do coding homework, which seemed like a powerful demo and something they hadn't seen in quite that way before. We asked about what the institution is doing about the impact on teaching. They replied that the Faculty Senate task force would have a report (in two years?) We asked what the administration is going to do now. Total silence.

We also asked about raises and whether he is doing anything to push on this. His reply was that this is a system wide issue, and that he needs to defer to the president, but that he could chat with Chris Dunn in Government Relations (Marty Meehan seems uninterested in expending any political capital in pushing the legislature to fund our raises.)

We also had a discussion about academic freedom, and how on our campus it goes beyond AAUP guidelines; academic freedom for faculty is included in the contract, and covers out of classroom speech as well as within the classroom. Compared to Swamy, Javier does not seem to have thought deeply about academic freedom.

We asked about student arrests & conduct hearings. As we know, students were arrested and thrown in jail; their names and addresses were published by the police (as is allowed); students are being summoned to conduct hearings for violations of code of student conduct. These students received a list of possible sanctions for their participation which are up to and including suspension and expulsion. Javier insisted that he is following policies, and is allowing the process to work. Seems to be passive, hands off, and not willing to get involved. We suggested that this situation could escalate, and if faculty protest and get

arrested in defense of their students UMass would get a lot of press that we don't want.

3. **Further responses to student arrests & conduct hearings.** Agreed that we need to go more public since lesser steps have not gotten the response we want. We will continue to push on the administration including, talking to Michael Egan today, General Assembly on Friday with action steps. First warnings, then consequences.
4. **Thursday Action: 8 minutes for 8 percent.** Raises are completely held up by an unrelated squabble between the heads of the state Senate and House. Numerous actions - last Monday hundreds of MTA members at the State House. Tomorrow, actions at all campuses across the state. At UMass Amherst noon tomorrow in the center of campus. Need to think ahead about fighting to fix the broken system where things like this can (and do) happen.
5. **Reminder:** Fall 2023 General Assembly: Friday, December 1 at noon via Zoom.