

## **MSP Executive Board and Reps Meeting – December 1, 2021**

**Board Members:** Marc, Eve, Asha Nadkarni, Christine Turner, Clare Hammonds, Christine Ho, Jeanne Brunner, John Staudenmayer, Kevin Young, Maciej Ciesielski, Michael Asha, Paulina Borrego, Priyanka Srivastava, Sandy Litchfield, Sigrid Schmalzer, Tristram Seidler, Dean Robinson

**Department Reps:** Yi Feng, Luke Bouvier, Tom Roeper, Carolina Aragon, Christine Hatch, Christine Ho Ela Gezen, Ezra Markowitz, Jennie Donohue, Jeremy Smith, Jim Hicks, Karen Kurcaynski, Laura Attanasio, Leonora Thomas, Lisa Modenos, Lorraine Cordeiro, Louise Antony, Luis Marentes, Neal Katz, Pablo Visconti, Steve Eyles, Toussaint Losier, Shelly Peyton, Om Parkash Dhanker

**Staff:** Mickey Gallagher, Lori Reardon, Emily Steelhammer

**Guest:** Emily Kumpel

Approval of minutes from Executive Board Meeting on 11/10/21: Motion made by Jacquie, seconded by Sigrid. Unanimously approved.

Meeting called to order at 8:47

### **Bargaining Update**

- An update was provided to the board about where we are in the process, where are sticking points are, and strategies we may employ to get movement.

### **All In report backs**

- Jacquie was able to sign someone who had left the unit temporarily to take up an Associate Dean position. While MSP staff does reach out to people in this position they always just get ignored. This is exactly why knocking on doors/reaching out directly is effective.
- Sigrid signed someone up who intended to sign-up but didn't understand the registration form.

### **Academic Calendar Change Update**

- An update was provided to the board about where we are on this issue, what the administration's motivations are, and the very valid concerns expressed by our members about an earlier start.
- The proposal to start next year on September 1<sup>st</sup> went to the faculty senate before Thanksgiving break. Many people were really moved to speak against it, while the

administration insisted that this was the only possibility. The opposing voices won out and there was a successful vote to postpone the decision.

- The good news is that this was a victory – and one which shows how opposed faculty are to the calendar change. The bad news is that this was only a postponement, and this issue will be on the agenda again. Most of the administration get a de facto vote  
Discussion ensued about how to push back.

### **Possible MUM Actions**

- Around climate justice issues:
  - We have a lot of great proposals on the table and are being told that we should just forget about them.
- Around childcare issues
  - There is no for childcare in the new Lincoln Apartments. The problem is that it's a public private partnership and thus all parts of the new building need to be revenue generating. Because of GEO subsidies childcare is not revenue generating.
- Not sure we can organize two actions, but it would be useful to know who cares about these issues (PSU knows who has kids on the waiting list). Do people have thoughts if we can mobilize around these?
- If you're talking to your colleagues and sending out an email, ask about these actions as well.

### **Fair Share Commitment**

- We have been working on this for 15 years! Massachusetts has a flat tax but we think it should be progressive. The Fair Share Amendment would bring in \$2 million in an ongoing revenue stream. This money is targeted for public education and public transportation and infrastructure. It would target only those who make more than \$1 million dollars in income (and it would be a tax only on the amount over \$1 million)
- There is overwhelming support for this. However, once the opposition starts blasting us with the counter arguments (millionaires will leave MA, it will hurt job creation, they don't want to mess with the constitution, etc.) those tend to be persuasive with people.
- The bottom line is that we want to get the word out to members. There's a [pledge](#) that we want everyone to sign.
- The other side is already paying for ads. The UMass Trustees would not support this last time around, even though it would bring a steady stream of income to UMass. We have work to do to convince the Trustees to get support for their own institution (!).
- We need to organize this in the community too.

### **Save the Date!**

- MSP General Assembly Membership Meeting: Monday, 12/13/21, 12:00pm. If you haven't already, please register [here](#).
- Next Executive Board Meeting: Wednesday, 2/2/21, 8:45, in person or Zoom TBD
- Next Joint Executive Board and Rep Meeting: Wednesday, 2/16/21, 8:45am, Via Zoom: <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/534375874>