

# MSP MEMBERSHIP MEETING

October 29, 2020

## GROUND RULES

- This meeting is for MSP members only.
- Please do not record or photograph the meeting in any way.
- Please stay on mute so that everyone can hear.
- Please type questions or comments into the Chat box – especially questions MSP should bring to the chancellor and provost – and send feedback to MSP later.
- This PowerPoint will be posted on the MSP website: [umassmsp.org](http://umassmsp.org)
- If you have questions about your individual situation, please email them directly to [msp@umass.edu](mailto:msp@umass.edu). All queries to the union are confidential.
- Everything is stressful and hard right now. We are all doing our best, for our students, our research, our loved ones. We all want UMass to be the best it possibly can be.

# **UMASS BUDGET UPDATE**

(THANK YOU FOR YOUR ADVOCACY)

- Governor Baker's proposal for the remainder of FY2021 (House 2 revised):
  - \$2.2 million INCREASE for UMass Amherst from FY2020
  - State budget is balanced with the CARES Act funds and \$1.3 billion from reserves – no layoffs, no cuts
  - State retains a healthy reserve fund of \$2.2 billion for FY2022
- The campus budget had predicted a \$37 million cut in state funding. The Governor's budget is a \$39 million INCREASE for our campus, vs. projections.
- State legislature will pass a budget in the coming month. UMass unions have:
  - met with more than 50 legislators
  - attended Higher Ed Committee oversight hearing
  - participated in actions in communities and campuses all across the state
  - continued to advocate for full funding for public universities.

## SPRING PLANNING: THE CHANCELLOR'S PLAN

- Increase the number of on-campus face-to-face classes by about 100 sections to meet graduation/major requirements (up to 2,000 additional students, mostly upperclass, mostly living off-campus)
- Invite all first-year students to live in dorms (about 5,000 students invited; not sure how many will come), mostly in single rooms
- Offer at least one FTF course for all first-year students who come to campus; departments asked who wants to teach FTF
- Continue to offer residential space on campus for students who need space (about 1,000 now)
- On-campus students: could get to 40-60% capacity in residence halls

## SPRING PLANNING: POSITIVE SIGNS

- Testing
  - Efficient and fast response – 115,000 tests so far
  - Compliance about 90 percent among staff and students
  - Only one on-campus student was infected. Only 4 students in FTF classes have tested positive (students who live off-campus)
  - Transparent data – COVID dashboard
- Contact tracing and containment
  - Fast and efficient
  - The cluster of cases related to the September 18 party was identified and contained, within three weeks new cases down to zero

## SPRING PLANNING: MSP QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

- Health and safety for in-person classes – must have all PPE with clear guidance for safety
- Faculty notification about student exposure/infection – we are asking for HIPAA waivers
- Isolation/quarantine spaces for faculty and librarians who are exposed
- Clarity on building regulations – open buildings where individuals are eating and congregating
- Enforcement of student testing/quarantine requirements, especially as students arrive in February
- Metrics for deciding whether to limit the number of students who return to campus – or at what point to send people home if outbreaks occur
- Concerns about pressure to teach on campus – especially junior and NTT faculty and grad students
- Inequity for FTF faculty who transformed classes during COVID-19 without workload adjustment
- No multimodal – all classes are either FTF or fully online

## MORE QUESTIONS

- Childcare concerns – lack of availability; remote or hybrid school
  - Funds will be released in January but insufficient to meet need
  - Request to use funds for TA/RA support
- Deadlines extended (AFRs, promotion processes, internal tenure deadlines)
- Hiring freeze selectively enforced (for faculty and staff)
- Results of VSIPs and indefinite furloughs for staff
  - Understaffed programs
  - Faculty and librarian workloads increasing
  - OPAM and grant processing delays
- Pushing back against staff furloughs and hours reductions in particular departments

## AGENDA, CONTINUED

- Solidarity – working with the staff unions – Sigrid Schmalzer
- Mutual aid and the Solidarity Fund – Emily Hamilton
- Resolutions to defend democracy – Kevin Young
- Statewide plans and GOTV with educators – Max Page
- Questions & answers



## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- GOTV with educators in swing states TONIGHT and Monday 11/2: <https://www.mobilize.us/massteacher/event/331679/>
- Support the UMass Unions United mutual aid and solidarity fund:  
<https://sites.google.com/view/umass-mutual-aid-network/home>
- Join the Mutual Aid committee or organizing committee
- Send your ideas and questions to the MSP at **[msp@umass.edu](mailto:msp@umass.edu)**

QUESTIONS?