

MSP Board Meeting Notes

December 11, 2019

Board Present: Eve Weinbaum, Sigrid Schmalzer, Kevin Young, Kate Hudson, Paulina Borrego, Tristram Seidler, Jen Adams, Asha Nadkarni, Maciej Ciesielski, Sandy Litchfield, Jeanne Brunner, John Staudenmayer, Marc Liberatore, Christine Turner, Clare Hammonds, Steve Brewer

Staff: Heather LaPenn, Lori Reardon

A. Approval of Minutes

Voted to approve the minutes from November 20, 2019. Maciej made the motion, Steve seconded. Passed unanimously.

B. Updates

- TA from the Writing Center was harassed by right-wing student connected with Alex Jones. She has ended up getting a restraining order. There was a lack of an organized response from the Dean of Students Office.
- Professor in Isenberg. Students in her class do brief videos using popular memes; several years ago someone made a video that included a reference to a Hitler movie. A current student was offended. She was apologetic, but was pulled out of class and told she would never teach that class again.
- Bargaining starts on Friday - expect that we will discuss timelines. Team has met once, and think they have a good sense of what our priorities are.
- Emily Steelhammer & Christine Ho both had babies!

C. General Assembly Plans

- Brief training on grievance processes
- Plans for questions/discussion with State Rep. Mindy Domb - will talk about the legislative agenda for spring, and wants to hear from us. Top priorities for MTA - K-12 funding bill was passed, a huge victory. Turning to higher ed for spring. Adjunct bill - adjuncts who teach at multiple institutions would be able to combine those for the purpose of health care. (Steve will bring up.) Debt relief & financial ed - Swamy in support, if the state was supporting financial aid it would free up \$\$\$. (Jen will discuss.) Buildings. State take back some of the responsibility for capital expenses that would free up campus \$\$. (Sandy will bring up.) Comment about "deflating" the cost of higher education - we are actually spending much less per student, with larger classes, fewer faculty. (Steve)
- How our contracts are funded. Administration (local and state) have not been bargaining with us in good faith. Negotiating and funding our contracts in a timely manner. Streamline process. (Christine will talk about this.)
- Bill to make strikes legal. (Sigrid).

D. Brainstorming bargaining proposals on key priority issues

- Climate Justice & Sustainability
- Free bus, more busses, rail trail plowed, occasional parking (incentivize people to not bring their car every day.) Addressing bad climate control in buildings in an energy efficient way.
- Race & Gender Equity
- Child care. Service requirements for women and faculty of color. Increasing the anomaly pool. Spousal hire.
- Peer Teaching Evaluations - David Gross & Gabriella Weaver, moving away from student evaluation of teaching to peer evaluations of teaching. Problems with online evaluations (they are released well before the class is over, can be filled out after the finals, giving credit for best practices).
- Peer teaching evaluations - most faculty do not have training in pedagogy, wouldn't know what to look for; fear that those who do have training in pedagogy will be tapped; pre-tenure faculty can't say no, but wouldn't feel comfortable evaluating tenured colleagues; would take a lot of time for faculty.
- Likert scale data are not interval data, so we shouldn't use means.