

## **MSP Executive Board Meeting**

February 6, 2019

Present: Eve Weinbaum, David Gross, Kate Hudson, Marc Liberatore, Christine Turner, Kevin Young, Tristram Seidler, Randy Phillis, Clare Hammonds, Erica Scharrer, Joya Misra, Jeremy Smith, Jim Smethurst, Sandy Litchfield, Eric Berlin

Staff: Emily Steelhammer, Lori Reardon, Mickey Gallagher

- A. **Approval of minutes from 11/28/18** - David Gross made the motion, seconded by Jim Smethurst. Approved unanimously.
- B. **JCC bylaw change approval** - language updated to remove references to agency fee payers and conscientious objectors in wake of Janus decision. Christine Turner made motion, seconded by Randy. Approved unanimously.
- C. **Debrief from Fund Our Future Higher Education all union forum.** ~50 MSP members attended, 200+ overall. Lots of energy in the room. Lots of co-sponsors for the bills. We need to understand what the process is so it doesn't die in committee. Mindy Domb and Jo Comerford have co-sponsored, but they have said that it will only happen if they hear from lots and lots of folks. Put pressure on us, or it will die a slow death. Students are really excited to work on this. CEPA, PHENOM, other students talking about perhaps starting a new organization. Meehan after some hemming and hawing is publicly supporting. Trustees are non-committal at best. Is this breach of fiduciary responsibility? MTA not interested in a lawsuit, what would it take for us to do this on our own? Escalating plan of action between now and May. First visiting trustees individually to see if they will support. Then student referendum, which if it passes would require the board to respond. Governor's budget proposal is in. 7.5% increase for higher education, largest we've seen in a while. \$200 million set aside in a fund (\$100 million for higher education) that would come if revenues keep going up (rather than new taxes.) Probably would be focused on affordability, but we should be articulating our priorities. Debt-free Futures Act - PHENOM & MEGA working on this. four years of free college. No one thinks it will pass in that form, but it has a lot of supporters. And could be taken up by Raise Up Massachusetts. Fair Share Amendment has been re-filed by the Legislature, would take three years to get referendum through. Free two years of higher education could be possible. Other MTA priorities - adjunct healthcare bill. If you work at more than one state institution, time would be cumulative in terms of health-care and pensions.
- D. **Fund our Future Higher Education Advocacy Day** - March 21, Boston, State House. Can we actually turn out a bus full of faculty and librarians? 50 people. Ask Swamy if we could cancel classes so students and faculty could attend. Eric Berlin will take pictures of faculty and librarians at work. For social media. Make video to send to legislators. Have an exhibit in the State House?
- E. **Updates from Joint Committees**

- a. **Gender Committee** (report from Joya). Seems to be a collaborative group and a lot of common ground between MSP and administration. Agreed on a number of recommendations to look at, and made some requests for additional data.
  - b. **Research Faculty** - (report from David) principles 1) rights and responsibilities of research faculty should be defined. 2) University should provide bridge funding for research faculty. 3) Access to professional development.
  - c. **Equity Committee** - (report from Christine). Role of retention bonuses in comparison, and should they be included or not. First meeting on Feb. 21st. Jennifer Normanly involved on the administration side.
- F. **ACLU Letter** - They are representing Reggie Andrade (PSU member who was questioned by the Campus Police after a report of an “agitated black man.”) Letter includes recommendations, mostly for education in the dorms, mental health resources, clear response protocol for dealing with incidents. Students have not heard back after letter sent Dec. 5. Want us to co-sign a letter encouraging administration to respond.

#### **Off Agenda**

- Erica Scharrer has joined the board as our new grievance officer.
- We’ve had some successes in addressing some grievances recently (some for non-members whom we will now be asking to join.
- David Gross (long-term treasurer) will be retiring this spring. We will need a new treasurer. David and Lori offered to make a presentation at the Joint Board/Rep meeting on 3/6 about what the job entails.
- Need to sign up for department visits. Emily will email department visits sign-up. Please sign up!