

MSP Board Meeting

February 12, 2025

Board - Marc Liberatore, Sigrid Schmalzer, Kate Hudson, Jacquie Kurland, Tristram Seidler, Eve Weinbaum, Taqi Razi, Maciej Ciesielski, Marianna Ritchey, John Staudenmayer, Ela Gezen, Jeanne Brunner, Kevin Young, Michael Ash, Asha Nadkarni, Toissant Losier, Laura Francis

Staff - Lori Reardon, Kristen Strehle, Katie D'Urso

1. **Bargaining Update** - We've been at bargaining for a year. We brought three groups of faculty and librarians to testify about additional ranks, childcare, and compensation in a variety of forms. Recently received a package from them, we are responding with a package. We're currently off the record. Still want a lot of merit out of the ATB raises. Other unions are a bit behind us, but even if we settle first there will still be lots of opportunities to support other unions.
2. **Campus Leadership** - Lots going on in federal government that affects life here at UMass. We wrote a letter asking for more support for the community, got back a link to the federal actions website with an ask to help get this out to our members. Disappointing with the lack of response. Now is the time for MSP to stand up.
3. **Organizing**
 - a. Department meetings - please sign up to attend department meetings!
 - b. NEOs are really important - please sign up! We've got talking points. Takes an hour, and is crucial to our efforts to keep our numbers strong.
 - c. Come to Michael Mann events "Winning the Climate War" 2/21
4. **Current Moment** - what are we hearing from faculty as concerns? Protecting students, especially international graduate students; attacks on DEI, transgender rights; Cuts to NIH, NFS, USAID; impact of reduced overhead; people worried about using email; lots of immigration questions and concerns; access to data; pre-tenure faculty concerns about losing grants and research being significantly impacted.
5. **Actions** - Red cards are being distributed by MTA. We will send out information to campus about rights ASAP. MTA had an all day staff training and is assigning an attorney to work with immigration lawyers who. Funding working groups meet on Thursdays from 8:30-9:30 a.m. All union town hall is planned. February 19 call to action; April 17, national day of action for higher education. Multi-union know your rights training coming soon.

6. Provost Visit to Board, March 12

7. Open Discussion

- a. What is labor doing nationally? Know your rights, lobbying legislators, litigation, etc. What should we be doing to think a couple of years ahead? The labor movement needs to be doing a lot more. What can we do to prepare?
- b. MSP and other labor unions are the only democratic structures still in place. What to do in your union here?
- c. What's the next set of actions?
- d. Call for general strike.
- e. Labor Center offering a conference on strikes.
- f. Look at recent successes (such as vote of no confidence.) All based on individual contacts.

8. Calls for Participation

- a. MTA Higher Ed conference, March 1
- b. ALF Legislative Breakfast, March 14, 8-10:30 a.m., Springfield
- c. MTA Annual Meeting Delegates, May 2-3, Springfield)