MSP Board Meeting November 8, 2023

Board: Marc Liberatore, Eve Weinbaum, Sigrid Schmalzer, Asha Nadkarni, Kate Hudson, Kevin Young, Tristram Seidler, Jacquie Kurland, Christine Turner, John Staudemayer, Jeanne Brunner, Brokk Toggerson, Madeleine Charney, Josh Michel, Laura Francis, Michael Ash, Emily Heaphy, Toussaint Losier, Clare Hammonds

Staff: Lori Reardon, Katie D'Urso, Brian Hennigan

- Approve previous meeting minutes. Christine made a motion to approve, Asha seconded. Approved unanimously.
- 2. Organizing International Faculty. Reaching out to international faculty to see how we can better represent them; we've noticed in post-Janus there are a chunk of folks not signing up for membership. Understanding their issues, how the can MSP address those, getting folks signed up. Looking at an initial date in December. Support for immigration issues for NTT faculty may be one of the issues.
- 3. Upcoming MUM/UUU Action, November 14, noon, Cape Cod Lounge. 1 hour event. Overview of upcoming bargaining, particular parameters. Speakers from each union. Making connections between Cherish Act and parameters, and how parameters come to be. Postcard writing campaign to Governor urging for reasonable parameters. Important to have a big turnout. We are one of the most activist unions in the MTA, so a big turnout can have a big impact.
- 4. Al Forum debrief & next steps. Marc, Sigrid, Deb Keisch, Emery Berger, and others. 50-60-ish attendees. Lots of folks are already changing their assignments. Impact on Gen Ed courses seems like it will be significant (e.g., 10 pages of writing required). Does this mean we're going to just stop including teaching writing? Also, no more online testing and back to in-person? Another morale buster for faculty. We should be thinking strategically NOW. Impact on online programs? Need to shift back to smaller classes and more assistance for grading in-person exams if in-person is the only way we can confirm that work is being done by students. MSP Task Force?
- 5. Academic freedom & faculty amid campus protests. World events and role of MSP? All unit to go out explaining our contract re: academic freedom and other established rights. Is this "outside our lane" or is it a "labor issue" we should be responding to directly? Further discussion at next Board/Rep meeting (in three weeks)? Or next week?
- 6. General Assembly moved to Zoom.