

## 6/18/2020 [Allunit] MSP membership meeting 6/23 at noon

Dear colleagues:

We were as surprised as you were to get the administration's email about the fall calendar. As with all campus unions, the MSP union contract includes holidays on Labor Day, Veterans Day, and Indigenous Peoples' Day. The contract also states that the administration must negotiate any changes to this calendar, which they did not. The Provost has apologized to us in person (well, on Zoom) and at this time we are not going to file formal charges about this unilateral change. We know that faculty and librarians are flexible and eager to help the university in this chaotic period, and the administration has promised to negotiate with us about the impact of the new calendar. We are close to agreement around other issues as well, including definitions of online or "blended" teaching, and what workload adjustments and supports will be provided to those who must put in increased effort in the fall.

We have scheduled an MSP membership meeting for this coming Tuesday, June 23, at noon (bring your own lunch). Please email [mSP@umass.edu](mailto:mSP@umass.edu) to get the Zoom information – this meeting is for MSP members only.

Please know that the MSP's top priority is the health and safety of our students, our staff, and our colleagues. We have heard from our members with many questions about online or face-to-face teaching, health and safety on campus, accommodations for faculty and librarians who are at risk of COVID-19, and teaching adjustments for individuals with young children at home in the fall. We have heard from some faculty who are eager to be back with their students as long as they are safely distanced and protected, and others who are eager to design engaging online courses. **Our principle is this: any faculty or staff member who is able to do their essential work from home – teaching, service, and/or research – should be able to work from home.** It should be up to each individual to make the determination about what is safe for themselves and their families, and what fits their intellectual and pedagogical needs. That has been our principle in conversations with the administration, and we can give you more details in our meeting next week.

I hope you can join us on Tuesday at noon. In addition to sharing our tentative agreements with the administration, we want to hear your ideas and concerns, and to think about our strategy going forward. Email [mSP@umass.edu](mailto:mSP@umass.edu) for details to join the meeting.

In solidarity,  
MSP Executive Committee

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Allunit mailing list

Allunit@external.umass.edu

<https://list.umass.edu/mailman/listinfo/allunit>