

Massachusetts Community College Council

Joseph LeBlanc, President
Diana (Donnie) McGee, Vice President
Philip Mahler, Treasurer
Phyllis Barrett, Secretary



Don Williams, Communications
Dennis Fitzgerald, Grievance
Joseph Rizzo, Grievance
Hilaire Jean-Gilles, Research

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
Mechanics Place/Worcester
Friday, May 4, 2007

Present: President Joe LeBlanc, Vice President Donnie McGee, Treasurer Philip Mahler, Secretary Phyllis Barrett; At-Large Members Geri Curley, Lois Martin, Abe Sherf; MTA Consultants Katie D'Urso, Michelle Gallagher; Communications Coordinator Don Williams; Operations Manager Phil Kennedy.

President Joe LeBlanc called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m.

The minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of April 6, 2007, were approved, by consensus.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President LeBlanc reported that he enjoyed the conference in New York at which he participated in a panel discussion on public higher education issues. Some of the sessions he attended were on the struggle for resources, emerging bargaining issues, contingent faculty, and ways to restore the public trust and to improve advocacy for public higher education.

The president has also been on the road, attending a Boston-area cluster meeting and a chapter meeting at Mass Bay; an adjuncts regional meeting at Bristol (he thanked Joe Rizzo and John Palmer for their leadership in this area); the Teaching and Learning Conference (kudos to those at Roxbury); the PHENOM Lobby Day at the State House; the Higher Education Task Force Meeting at the UMass Club, at which Governor Patrick spoke; the Classification Task Force meeting; and, of course, the MCCC Delegate Assembly. He mentioned that Parliamentarian Patty Legault-Frank has offered to work with the Bylaws Committee to improve the format and clarity of the bylaws.

President LeBlanc said his current focus is on helping Vice President McGee and the SAC Steering Committee in lobbying for the adjunct health and higher ed bills; organizing the May 18 Summit on preparing a response to the Graduation and Retention Rate Committee's Report; organizing the first meeting of the Adjunct Ad Hoc Committee; meeting with Art Pippo, MTA Director of Higher Education, to discuss the posting for a replacement for Consultant Michelle Gallagher; signing the new PCA Agreement; holding cluster meetings; finding a Greenfield member to serve on the BHE's new Transfer Issues Task Force (thanks to Mary Folan from Bunker Hill, who has already agreed to serve).

President LeBlanc also congratulated Claudine Barnes (CC), Mike D'Entremont (BH), and Joe O'Neill (MB) for being named to the NEA's Leadership Academy for 2007-2009. This is quite an honor! President LeBlanc also expressed optimism about the new Governor's Education Nominating Council; the membership bodes well for the appointment of future college trustees.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Vice President Donnie McGee gave a legislative update, reporting that the state budget is now in the hands of the Senate. Members are urged to contact their senators in support of House Bill 1122/ Senate Bill 732 to fund the \$400 million dollar gap and of Senate Bill 739, for capital spending projects on the campuses. The Strategic Action Committee will continue to push for this legislation, as well as for Senate Bill 1587, the Adjunct Health Insurance Bill. The vice president also reminded those who

benefited from passage of the Chapter 161, the 03 Buyback Law, to thank Sen. Joan Menard, Senate Majority whip, and Rep. Jay Kaufman, House Chair of the Public Service Committee.

Vice President McGee also thanked all of the MCCC members who participated in the PHENOM event on April 26. Ten community colleges were represented; 16,000 postcards were delivered to the governor and legislators; and Joe LeBlanc was publicly acknowledged for his lobbying work at the State House by Rep. Kevin Murphy, House Chair of the Joint Committee on Higher Education.

Vice President McGee also reported that an Optional Retirement Plan Update is going out today. Meetings are scheduled with MTA Lobbyist Jack Flannagan and Rep. Jay Kaufman to discuss this issue, as is a meeting with Peter Tsaffaras at the BHE, and there is a plan to distribute a mailed survey to all ORP participants in the MCCC. Work continues on clarifying issues, delegating research and other tasks, pursuing an oversight hearing, and proposing legislation to address concerns.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Treasurer Mahler said the financial reports will go out by email next week. Last week's Delegate Assembly and visits from the auditors took precedence over getting these ready for today. He was pleased that the budget was readily accepted at the Delegate Assembly. He continues to spend a lot of time on the implementation of the pay by credit card plan. Abe Sherf thanked the treasurer and Operations Manager Phil Kennedy for their hard work.

REPORT OF THE MTA CONSULTANTS

Consultant Katie D'Urso reported that a good proposal has been received from North Shore in the effort to resolve issues around nursing salaries. She, Grievance Coordinator Dennis Fitzgerald, and Day Team Chair Rick Doud continue to work on this issue around the state. Consultant D'Urso also reported that there is a meeting next week to discuss the Mass Bay administration's request for transcripts from current employees. She asked for advice on how to approach an issue involving Day DCE courses at Berkshire, and reported that there have been some problems with accuracy in the computation of raises at Roxbury.

MOTION: Purchase subscriptions to the College & University Professional Association for Human Resources (CUPA-HR), a service that gives data on full-time and part-time salaries, at a cost of approximately \$650, to be taken from the negotiations budgets (Martin/Curley). **PASSED.**

Consultant Michelle Gallagher reported that she has received a proposal from mediator Mike Ryan regarding a process for resolving the outstanding unit determination (CAS) cases. There was a discussion of the proposal and a possible counterproposal. Grievance Coordinator Dennis Fitzgerald will be asked for his opinion. Consultant Gallagher also reported that the Campus Classification Representative Committee will meet on May 16; President LeBlanc will remind chapter presidents to appoint representatives and alternates to this now-standing committee. He will send a similar reminder about the Professional Staff Committee membership. Consultant Gallagher will also schedule a meeting of the Strategic Directions Committee.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Coordinator Don Williams said the newsletter will be out soon. It will include pictures from several recent events: the Teaching Learning Conference; the PHENOM Lobby Day; and the Delegate Assembly, featuring the new banner. He shared information about possible guest columns he has received recently, and it was noted that new guidelines for these submissions are currently being considered.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

Trust Board member Abe Sherf reported that members are now receiving new insurance cards and an updated contract with MetLife. Information on the new vision benefit will be included in the brochure; this is a limited benefit, not comparable to what existed many years ago.

DEMONSTRATION OF NEW ELECTRONIC DUES PAYMENT SOFTWARE

Treasurer Mahler shared the materials that he has entered on the web page that will allow for DCE members to pay their dues by credit card (as well as payroll deduction or cash) in the future. This initiative is in response to the mandate of the DCE Agreement for Electronic Communications and with luck, will improve collections. Committee members congratulated and thanked the treasurer for the time and work that went into this project.

DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Graduation/Retention Summit: May 18

President LeBlanc is working on getting a head count for attendees from the colleges. He will send out another invitation and then speak with some individuals as well. The summit will be held from 10:00-3:00 at the MCCC office in Worcester. The goal is to produce a position paper or at least a list of ideas and concerns to bring to the college presidents, the Board of Higher Ed, and others.

B. Adjuncts Ad Hoc Committee

President LeBlanc reported that John Palmer, DCE Team chair, who will be co-chairing the committee, will work with Joe on planning a first meeting in June.

C. PHENOM Follow-Up

The next gathering of the PHENOM steering committee will be held at UMass-Lowell on May 17. President LeBlanc anticipates a request for financial support. There was a discussion about how to harness the energy of this initiative, preserve a professional tone, and proceed at an appropriate speed.

D. 2006-2009 Agreement Salary Increases and Contract Printing

President LeBlanc commented on “user unfriendliness” of the contract’s graphic design and the presentation of the contents. Consultant D’Urso said she has improved the Table of Contents; there was discussion of the expense and difficulty of generating an index. Treasurer Mahler pointed out that the contract will be online in pdf format, which is searchable.

E. Letters, Editorial Submission Policy

Coordinator Don Williams distributed a revised draft of the proposed changes to the Letters to the Editor and Guest Columns policies for the newsletter, and there was further discussion of the wording.

F. Delegate Assembly Wrap-Up

Ninety-eight delegates attended. President LeBlanc said he thought there was a healthy start to a real conversation about the part-time vote issue. He also thought that the presentation on Strategic Directions by some new leaders was a good thing to include, and Consultant Gallagher said that the materials gathered after the group discussions were interesting and helpful. There is still some sentiment for having this meeting on an evening rather than on a Saturday.

G. MTA Annual Meeting

Logistics for getting room keys were discussed. Delegates are reminded to let Dennis Fitzgerald know they are present for purposes of reimbursement and to plan to attend the Higher Ed Caucus early Saturday morning.

H. MTA/Williamstown Planning

This year's MTA Summer Leadership Conference will be held as always at Williams College, August 5-9. Each chapter is eligible to send at least two members. President LeBlanc will remind chapter presidents about the registration deadline. It is probably possible to register online. Consultant D'Urso reported that she and MTA Director of Higher Ed Art Pippo will be offering a workshop on grievance filing on Wednesday of that week.

I. Meeting Schedule for Next Year

President LeBlanc asked that Executive Committee members review next year's calendar for possible conflicts.

J. QCC Query Regarding Nursing Faculty Pay

President LeBlanc asked for advice on how to respond to a request from Acting Chapter President Dale Labonte at Quinsigamond for information she can share with her chapter about the status of negotiations on the nursing salary issue. He was given several suggestions.

K. MTA Committee Request

Communications Coordinator Don Williams volunteered to serve on an MTA committee being set up by Vice President Paul Toner to develop membership materials for new higher education members.

L. Welcome to 43 New Unit Members from Bristol

Several part-time employees at Bristol have been doing unit work—as advisors, learning specialists, instructors, counselors, and project coordinators—but were denied unit recognition. After Grievance Coordinator Dennis Fitzgerald filed a prohibited practice charge for refusal to provide information, the college responded by sending him the names, work areas, and titles of forty-three employees who are now recognized as MCCC unit members. They will be added to the part-time seniority list and will now have the protections provided by the contract.

M. June Executive Committee Meeting

Because of schedule conflicts, the meeting was moved from Friday, June 1, to Thursday, June 7, at noon.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Phyllis Barrett, Secretary