

Massachusetts Community College Council

OFFICERS

Richard Doud, *President*
Joseph LeBlanc, *Vice President*
Philip Mahler, *Treasurer*
Phyllis Barrett, *Secretary*



Philip Kennedy, *Operations Manager*

COORDINATORS

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

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
Mechanics Place/Worcester
Friday, June 3, 2005

Present: President Rick Doud, Vice President Joe LeBlanc, Treasurer Philip Mahler, Secretary Phyllis Barrett; At-Large Members Geri Curley, Abe Sherf; Communications Coordinator Don Williams; MTA Consultants Katie D'Urso, Michelle Gallagher; Operations Manager Phil Kennedy. **Not Present:** Roberta Albano.

President Rick Doud called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

The committee adopted the Order of Business, as amended, by consensus.

MOTION: Approve the minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of April 11, 2005 (Mahler/Curley).
PASSED.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Doud reported that he has heard from a couple of chapters about possible requests for reassigned time; one or more of these may be brought to the Board on the 17th. He also reported that he will be among those testifying in favor of changing Chapter 150E of the Collective Bargaining Law at the hearing scheduled for June 9. He noted that at a hearing on May 3, fourteen of the fifteen community college presidents testified about the great work of the colleges. In Day Contract news, President Doud reported that the management and union teams are meeting frequently now, and talks may wrap up next week. He also noted that Chancellor Gill has finally given her approval to rectify the internal/external experience issue on the professional staff classification grid; it was recommended that Coordinator Don Williams do an article on this change for the newsletter.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT/SAC/DAY BARGAINING

In strategic action news, Vice President Joe LeBlanc reported that May 12 was a great day—almost 100 people showed up at the State House to lobby for part-timer and 03 issues. He thanked the members of other higher ed units who lent their support, as well as Sandy Howell, Roberta Albano, and Donnie McGee, SAC activists who planned the day. As reported above, President Doud will be among those testifying in favor of the Quinn Bill, which would make changes to Chapter 150E, next Thursday, June 9. Unit members from throughout the system are encouraged to attend. Donnie McGee, Brooks Smith, and Vice President LeBlanc have made several recent visits to the State House in support of the bill. The vice president also noted that there is a picture of members of the Bristol chapter demonstrating about the 1000 plus days without a contract in the current issue of the *NEA Leader*. And he thanked Rose Yesu (Ma) and Caroline Schwartzwalder (NS), who passed out “First in Baseball/First in Football/47th in Higher Education” t-shirts and pins at the Democratic State Convention. Vice President LeBlanc said he plans to spend some time this summer researching collective bargaining models for higher education in other states.

Vice President LeBlanc visited Holyoke on May 20 for a regional legislative breakfast. Both he and Secretary Phyllis Barrett described the event as a great success: Holyoke Chapter President Mark Lange, Vice President LeBlanc, and three college presidents (Messner, Pura, and Rubenzahl) addressed the crowd; ten-twelve area legislators attended; and a good discussion ensued. Members from Berkshire, Greenfield, and Springfield Tech joined those from Holyoke in the audience.

In Day Bargaining, Team Chair LeBlanc reported that the teams were at the table two days this week; three meetings are scheduled for next week. Management says the deadline for an agreement on the money package is midnight on Friday, June 10. Some good news: Following a vote in the House and the Senate, the health contribution will return to 85/15 or 80/20 on January 06. Vice President LeBlanc lauded MTA and the labor coalition for their good work on this issue.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Treasurer Phil Mahler distributed the financial reports prepared by Operations Manager Phil Kennedy, noting that income seems to be up somewhat over last year, as are expenses. The treasurer said he does not feel that the organization is out of the woods quite yet. He also noted that office staff member Aaron Poirier is busy billing Day members who have outstanding balances due to a technicality involving the billing cycle and actual start dates. Some of these individuals are unhappy to be asked for more money, which the treasurer and the office staff regret; however, some payments are coming in. Finally, the treasurer shared a motion made at the Finance Committee meeting, thanking him and the office staff for all of their efforts in the area of membership reconciliation with MTA.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Secretary Phyllis Barrett will be preparing a revised *Leadership Directory* this month, as well as updating her email directories. Chapter presidents are asked to share any changes in their leadership lists; individuals are asked for changes to their personal contact information. In her capacity as chair of the Personnel Committee, Secretary Barrett reported that the committee recently conducted an evaluation of Communications Coordinator Don Williams. The committee enthusiastically recommends his reappointment. This summer, at the request of the Finance Committee, the Personnel Committee will be reviewing the job description for the treasurer in light of changes to the operation in recent years.

REPORT OF THE MTA CONSULTANTS

Consultant Katie D'Urso reported on a couple of troubling situations in which faculty members have been stalked by students. One situation has been resolved; in the other case, a restraining order was filed. Consultant D'Urso also reported that there are still problems in the nursing department at Bunker Hill, where a failing student has filed a discrimination charge against faculty members. Finally, Consultant D'Urso reported that the demand for cross-training of some professional staff at Northern Essex may have a silver lining: the union will ask that several individuals be re-classified at a higher grade as a result of the training and new duties.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Coordinator Don Williams reported that he is planning to double up on the legislative mailing—sending the newsletter to both the homes and offices of senators and representatives. He agreed to wait a bit on publication of the June issue pending some news on contract talks. He shared pictures he had taken of the Lemieux and Butler Awards winners at the Delegate Assembly and noted that some chapters used the flyers he created at graduation.

NEW BUSINESS

A. 05-06 Calendar

President Doud reviewed the proposed calendar. It will be presented for Board approval this month.

B. Auditors Report

MOTION: Recommend the Board adopt the audited financial statements, report, and recommendations for FY'04 prepared by Alexander, Aronson, Finning & Co., PC, dated January 2005 (LeBlanc/Curley).

PASSED.

C. Communications Coordinator Appointment

MOTION: Re-appoint Don Williams as Communications Coordinator (Sherf/Curley). **PASSED.**

D. Personnel Committee Appointment

Motion: Appoint Maureen Woolhouse to the Personnel Committee (Curley/LeBlanc). **PASSED.**

E. Policy Manual

In order to save some money, it was agreed that the *Policy Manual* will not be updated and reprinted this year. Leaders will receive copies of the new Bad Debt and Investment Policies to place in their current manuals. If necessary, a few manuals will be printed for new Board members.

DISCUSSION

A. Bristol Communications Motion

MOTION: The Executive Committee recommends against establishing an official MCCC listserv (Curley/Barrett). **PASSED.**

Rationale: After considerable discussion, it was agreed that the benefits of communication do not outweigh the problems and time needed for monitoring a listserv. The potential legal implications are also worrisome. Finally, there are numerous ways in which individuals and chapters can communicate with each other.

B. DCE Contract Printing

Michelle Gallagher had not yet arrived at the meeting when this item came up. President Doud said he believed that the official copy of the contract is making the rounds so that signatures can be collected before printing.

C. DCE Contract Committees

President Doud noted that there are some committees that need to be formed *per* the new agreement. He asked Communications Coordinator Williams to advertise openings on these committees in the newsletter.

D. Chapter Appeals Training

Trainings are planned for one individual from each college who will serve as a resource person for the chapter in the new appeals process. Details will be forthcoming.

E. Fall Leadership Night

This event is planned for Monday, September 26, in Marlboro, though concern was expressed about the reliability of accommodations there. There was a lengthy discussion of a possible program, with tentative agreement on two breakout sessions following the speaker: one geared towards newer members (explaining classification and other arcane matters) and one geared to veteran activists (possibly on chapter revitalization strategies). A raffle was among other possibilities discussed for the evening, and Katie D'Urso offered to approach MTA about some prizes. Coordinator Williams was asked to advertise the event in both the summer and the September issues of the newsletter.

F. BHE Meeting

The Board of Higher Education will be meeting at North Shore on June 21. It was decided to be prepared to have a presence there if needed in support of contract talks. Either President Doud or Team Chair LeBlanc will ask to be put on the agenda.

G. Invitation to June Board Meeting

Chapter presidents will be invited to attend the June 17 Board of Directors Meeting, providing for an opportunity to discuss the proposed contract or to strategize if contract talks have broken down.

H. MTA/NEA Conference Accountability

Concern was expressed at a recent Finance Committee meeting that not all conference attendees participate fully, despite generous stipends and accommodations. MTA President Catherine Boudreau has also expressed concern about this matter. It was agreed to put the issue on the agenda for the Board meeting.

I. Adjunct Issues

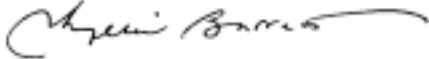
Gerri Curley reported that an adjunct at Bunker Hill asked if it might be possible to create a seat on the Board for an adjunct representative. MTA Consultant Michelle Gallagher responded that this practice did not work well at the MSCA, for whom she previously worked. The current practice is for chapter directors to represent the interests of both full-time and part-time members on their campuses. The aim is unity and solidarity. It was also noted that there is no prohibition against an adjunct being the director from a chapter.

J. Delegate Assembly Location

It was agreed to look for a venue near the office in Worcester. The treasurer and the office staff agreed to investigate and were authorized to make a decision.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m., followed by lunch.

Respectfully submitted,



Phyllis Barrett, Secretary