

# Massachusetts Community College Council

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Joseph LeBlanc, President  
Diana (Donnie) McGee, Vice President  
Philip Mahler, Treasurer  
Gail Guarino, Secretary



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

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Minutes of the MCCC Executive Committee Meeting  
Mechanics Place, Worcester, MA  
Monday, April 3, 2009

**Present:** President Joe LeBlanc, Vice President Donnie McGee, Treasurer Philip Mahler, Secretary Gail Guarino, At-Large Members Claudine Barnes, Rosemarie Freeland, and Lois Martin, MTA Consultant Miles Stern, MTA Consultant Katie D'Urso, Communications Coordinator Don Williams

President Joe LeBlanc called the meeting to order at 10:50 a.m.

The Order of Business was adopted.

The minutes of February 6, 2009, Executive Committee meeting were approved by consensus.

## **DISSUSSION**

### ***Delegate Assembly Planning***

President LeBlanc distributed a draft agenda for the MCCC Delegate Assembly, which will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2009, at the Crowne Plaza in Worcester. Commissioner of Higher Education Richard Freeland will address the assembly at 11:00 a.m. Peter Tsaffaras, Deputy Commissioner for Employee Relations of the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education, is also planning to attend the Delegate Assembly. President LeBlanc will invite MTA's Arthur Pippo and Richard Sanders to attend. President LeBlanc will also contact the presenters of the Jon Butler Memorial Award and the Raymond C. Lemieux Memorial Award.

Other arrangements for the Delegate Assembly include the following:

- Director Barnes, Director Martin, Cliff Martin, and Secretary Guarino will manage the registration desk. They will need a list of delegates by campus and blank name tags.
- Communications Coordinator Williams will get a delegate count from each chapter. Eighty (80) members must be present for a quorum.
- Treasurer Mahler will ascertain the maximum/minimum number of delegates from each chapter.
- The hotel's projection system will be used, and two podiums will be set up.
- Employee Free Choice Act petitions will be made available.
- President LeBlanc and Vice President McGee will make arrangements for the MCCC PAC collection.

### ***Employee Free Choice Act***

Vice President McGee asked that a link to the Employee Free Choice Act petition be set up on the MCCC home page. The NEA web site has section on the Employee Free Choice Act.

**Motion:** The MCCC web site have a link to the Employee Free Choice Act petition, which is available at <http://www.freechoiceact.org/petition>. The link will use the Employee Free Choice Act logo.  
(McGee/Freeland) **Passed**

### ***Condominium Basement Issues***

Edy Stoddard, MCCC office staff member, reported on the deteriorating condition of the basement at the MCCC office space at 27 Mechanic Street, Worcester, Massachusetts. Because the basement is damp and has dirt floors and no windows, mold has started to grow. The problem has not been solved by installing

dehumidifiers and cleaning up the space. After consultation with local contractors, the solution to the mold problem is to empty the basement and lay a cement floor. Basement windows may also be necessary for ventilation. The condominium association has agreed to get the work done. The work will require a special assessment of the members of the condominium association. As of this date, there are no cost estimates for the work. The MCCC Executive Committee supports rectifying the basement problem. Consultant D'Urso suggested hiring Attorney Sarah Gibson, who consults for the MTA and has a Masters degree in Industrial Hygiene.

### ***FY 2010 State Budget and the Federal Stimulus Funds***

President LeBlanc reported on Commissioner Freeland's update on the FY 2010 budget and stimulus funds. The stimulus funds for higher education are meant to fund higher education budgets at the FY 2009 level before the 9C cuts. To qualify for the stimulus funds, without a waiver, states must fund their budgets at the FY 2006 level. The Governor's House 1 budget provides that level of funding. The House 1 budget still needs to go through the legislative process. If Massachusetts qualifies for the stimulus funds, how much money and how it will be apportioned is unclear. For higher education, the current funding formula may be used. Governor Patrick has appointed Jeffrey A. Simon to be the Director of Infrastructure Investment for the recovery plan. The role of the legislative Stimulus Oversight Committee is not clear.

The MCCC Strategic Action Committee (SAC) may need state-wide political action to urge the legislature to pass a budget that funds higher education at the FY 2006 level and to insure stimulus money is used to prevent layoffs and more fee increases. Vice President McGee reported that the legislature is again talking about partial tuition retention for community colleges. The Executive Board Committee went into executive session to discuss political strategy.

### ***Legal Requests***

Consultant D'Urso reported that the MTA has handled 23 legal requests from MCCC Day Unit members between September 2008 and March 2009. The requests came from multiple campuses and cover many issues including emailed death threats, restraining orders, environmental situations, Workers' Compensation, and disability and retirement issues. Consultant Stern reported that DCE faculty have made legal requests involving conflict of interest, unemployment, discrimination, reasonable accommodations, bargaining, and issues stemming from the conversion of the payroll system to HRCMS.

### ***National Council of Higher Education Conference***

Vice President McGee and Director Barnes had very positive experiences at the National Council of Higher Education Conference held in Portland, Oregon. Vice President McGee attended workshops on collective bargaining, stimulus funding, GPO/WEP, dual enrollment, and under-age college students. Vice President McGee stated that it's important to have faculty input in dual enrollment agreements to protect the academic integrity of community colleges. Director Barnes noted that most states restrict community college enrollment to students who are 16 or older.

### ***Recent Action at Holyoke CC***

The two arbitrations at Holyoke CC involving hiring off grid and a retrenchment have arbitrators' decisions that are very favorable to the Union.

### ***Bunker Hill CC Member Conference Request***

President LeBlanc received a request from a unit member for funds for a one night stay at a hotel in order to attend the MTA Ethic Minority Affairs Committee Conference on April 4, 2009. The participant would pay for transportation.

**Motion:** Pay for a hotel for one night for a unit member to attend the MTA Ethic Minority Affairs Committee Conference on April 4, 2009. (Guarino/Freeland) **Passed**

### ***Adjunct Ad Hoc Issues***

President LeBlanc reported that five cluster group meetings are scheduled for early May, tentatively at Quinsigamond CC, Holyoke CC, Bunker Hill CC, North Shore and Bristol CC. Announcement postcards about the cluster group meetings will be sent to all DCE members. This mailing, as well as refreshments for the meetings, will be funded from the NEA grant for DCE organizing.

The Executive Board went into executive session to discuss other DCE issues.

### ***Treasurer's Announcements***

Treasurer Mahler made the following announcements:

- The National New Majority Faculty Day is April 30, 2009. The new majority faculty is contingent faculty.
- The MTA printed and paid for new DCE brochures and other DCE materials.
- The MTA budget will be taken back to chapters after the MTA's April board meeting.
- Treasurer Mahler is meeting with the auditors at 2 p.m. today to finalize FY 2008 audit.
- All of Day Grievance Coordinator Fitzgerald's important documents are scanned and electronically archived.

### ***MCCC Policy Review***

The Executive Committee continued its review of the MCCC policies.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

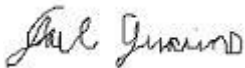
President LeBlanc and the Executive Committee send thanks to MTA for printing for DCE brochures.

Patti Legault, parliamentarian, will visit the Executive Committee in June to consult on the bylaws.

The next meeting of the MCCC Executive Committee is on Friday, May 8, 2009.

The Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Gail Guarino, Secretary