

Massachusetts Community College Council

Margaret Wong, President
Rosemarie Freeland, Vice President
Gail Guarino, Treasurer
DeAnna Putnam, Secretary



Don Williams, Communications
Dennis Fitzgerald, Day Grievance
Joseph Rizzo, DCE Grievance
Hilaire Jean-Gilles, Research
Tom Powers, Webmaster

Minutes of the MCCC Executive Committee Meeting Electronic Meeting via Zoom Friday, April 3, 2020

Approved on May 15, 2020

Present: President Margaret Wong, Vice President Rosemarie Freeland, Treasurer Gail Guarino, Secretary DeAnna Putnam, Executive Committee Members Claudine Barnes, Ellen Pratt, and Linda Grochowalski

Guests: MCCC Communications Coordinator Don Williams, MTA Higher Ed Director Suzanne Wall, and MTA Field Representatives Bret Seferian and Colleen Fitzpatrick, and NEA Organizer Justin Tsaulvos

President Wong convened the meeting at 10:30 a.m. XCom approved the agenda and approved the minutes from its March 6, 2020 meeting.

COVID-19 IMPACT BARGAINING

The Executive Committee discussed updates regarding Covid-19 impact bargaining as it affects both units.

Note: To date, the Covid-19 Impact Bargaining Team has engaged in six sessions with Management since Monday, March 16, 2020. An updated list of agreements can be found here: <https://mccc-union.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/69/2020/03/Covid-19-Related-Agreements-between-MCCC-BHE.pdf> and here: <https://mccc-union.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/69/2020/03/BHE-MCCC-Agreement-on-Covid-19-Sick-Leave-Travel-Related-Issues.pdf>.

Day Team bargaining Chair Claudine Barnes, President Wong and VP Freeland presented issues impacting adherence to the DCE Seniority List and the Distance Ed Agreement for summer classes, as the community colleges are leaning toward going fully, or almost fully, online.

XCom also discussed MCCC's difficult but increasingly successful push to ensure that as many professional staff as possible are able to work remotely, and MTA's developed process by which community college employees may properly apply "The Right to Refuse" option with regard to Covid-19.

DELEGATE ASSEMBLY (RESCHEDULED)

XCom discussed the Board's decision to reschedule MCCC's Delegate Assembly to Tuesday, May 26, 2020 (which is a workday for professional staff but a day that will not interfere with college graduations) and technicalities regarding the running of the meeting via remote.

MOTION: That the May 26, 2020 Delegate Assembly start on or after 5 p.m. to better accommodate professional staff (Putnam)

MOTION: To amend the above motion so that the Delegate Assembly will start at noon (Pratt) **PASSED** as an amended motion, and **PASSED** as a final motion. *Note: The intent of this final motion is to allow for professional staff to take a half-day, and not have the Delegate Assembly start at the end of a long workday.* **PASSED**

President Wong and MCCC's three other officers agreed to work further on planning in terms of confirming a viable platform, proposing applicable standing rules, and the proper dissemination of Delegate Assembly materials. XCom also agreed that MCCC should reach out to the college presidents to request that delegates who are professional staff will be allowed to attend, based on Article 2.07 of the Day Contract (Association Leave).

HEALTH COVERAGE FOR ADJUNCT FACULTY AND P/T PROFESSIONAL STAFF

MTA Higher Ed Director Suzanne Wall reported on MTA's push for emergency health coverage for unbenefitted adjunct faculty and part-time professional staff. Wall explained that aside from existing proposed legislation, MTA and MCCC were pushing for the state to open up Health Connector or Mass Health for specific classes of employees, versus means testing according to income; also, MTA and MCCC are dialoguing with legislators and the BHE regarding Covid-19 emergency funds specifically allocated for Higher Ed.

Wall reported that, in addition to the above, Board of Higher Ed Deputy Commissioner Tom Simard has expressed to MTA legitimate concern for adjuncts and unbenefitted professional staff, and he seems very interested in working together with MTA and MCCC to pursue health coverage.

MCCC OPERATIONS

President Wong updated XCom on the working conditions of MCCC's office staff, with all primarily working at home, and coming in only for a few hours on rotation as necessary, with social distancing protocols in play.

Treasurer Gail Guarino reported that updated software had been purchased to allow office staff to work remotely, and that a heating system repair would be necessary in the office itself, although this was not an immediate emergency given the warmer weather and the fact employees were working in the office intermittently.

(NOTE: DO WE WANT ALL THIS IN THE MINUTES, AS IT ANNOUNCES THAT THE OFFICE IS OFTEN EMPTY???)

XCom took a break from 12:55-1:10 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The committee went into executive session at 1:10 p.m. to discuss matters pertaining to STCC, impact bargaining strategy and possible ULPs or grievances related to Covid-19.

XCom exited executive session at 2 p.m. and immediately adjourned.

The next meeting will be held on Friday, May 15, 2020.

Submitted by DeAnna Putnam, *Secretary*