

MSCF Delegate Assembly Highlights

April 16, 2010

Gregory Wright, MSCF Secretary

- Mulcahy tells delegates that we are researching taking legal action
- MnSCU unable to consider simple MSCF proposals
- MSCF questions if we are getting our CTL money's worth
- Mulcahy: MnSCU incapable of providing coherent direction to attain seamless transfer
- Mulcahy: "Be very judicious about radically changing standards to save money... This is not open season on the contract."
- Mulcahy: Some MnSCU Board of Trustee members are obsessed with sabbaticals
- Mulcahy: It is difficult to convey the extent of absence of ideas regarding curriculum restructuring that does not exist at MnSCU
- Lindstrom: MSCF is developing talking points in support of Technical Education
- Lindstrom: Legislation may be needed to control student use of electronic devices in the classroom
- MnSCU report to legislature may not reflect the severity of the cuts
- Ryan-Guest reports disconnect between MnSCU and faculty in academic discussions
- Academic Affairs to discuss placement cut scores
- Ryan-Guest: Protect your intellectual property rights
- Ryan-Guest talks to delegates about online office hours
- Agreement needed on ownership before loading information within online learning platforms
- Call MSCF if you want to be a part of media ad for higher education
- Ryan-Guest tells legislature that cuts cannot be passed to campuses
- Wright tells delegates that faculty comments on proposed credentials are essential
- Information coming to campuses on D2L
- Nelson urges members to convey a common message to legislators
- Nelson wants more members involved in legislative election process
- MSCF members running for state legislature
- MSCF asks for clearing house approach to study abroad programs
- JoAnn Roche, finalist for MnSCU Board of Trustees
- Insurance committee working on better dental insurance
- The Quarterly Investment Analysis will be on MSCF website
- Most grievances are from Article 11. Faculty need to hold the line.
- Many DA resolutions

ANNUAL REPORTS

President's Reports – Greg Mulcahy

1. Mulcahy told the Assembly about an LSU tenured professor that was removed from the classroom because her grading was too severe and administrative grade changes were made. As a point of information this should resonate with all faculty and reminds us of the challenges facing academic quality.
2. Mulcahy reported that MnSCU has received another \$10.5 million dollar cut to its budget. Pawlenty wanted to cut more but, because of stimulus money restrictions, was prevented from doing so. MnSCU will now be funded at the 2006 level; these cuts will be Pawlenty's higher education legacy.

3. Mulcahy informed the delegates that Anoka Tech is in breach of contract with MSCF because of repeated contract violations. We are researching taking legal action to resolve this.
4. Mulcahy has proposed to MnSCU that we simplify the committees and reporting process; at this point we are still waiting for MnSCU to get back to us.
5. CTL decided to cut the stipends to campus faculty but keep the salaries of MnSCU staff. Mulcahy told the assembly that MSCF will be having an internal conversation regarding getting our money's worth from CTL.
6. Mulcahy also addressed transfer and told the assembly that MnSCU has not been capable of providing coherent direction to create seamless transfer. The legislature has become involved in MnSCU's business because MnSCU is not doing the work they should be doing.
7. Mulcahy told the delegates that we do not trust the data used by MnSCU in response to questions from legislators about technical programs.
8. Mulcahy reported that the next Minnesota budget shortfall will be \$5.4 to \$6 billion; basically same as where we were in 2003-2005, and there is no solution in sight.
9. Each campus needs to have a lot of discussion about AASC. He cautioned AASCs to avoid administrative attempts to save money at the expense of curriculum. He cautioned AASC's to be very judicious and careful to avoid radically changing standards and class size to save money. Mulcahy: "Do not let the administration change class size without going through the contractual process. Campuses should call MSCF if they need clarification or assistance." Mulcahy said the same applies to campus discussions on department chairs; do not let administration tell you that a precedent has been set on another campus and therefore they can eliminate department chairs. He told the delegates to call MSCF and MSCF will engage in a discussion with the administration. Mulcahy added, "This is not an open season on our contract."
10. Mulcahy informed the assembly on the Bologna initiative which MnSCU is using to look at curriculum and degrees. Mulcahy pointed out that the education system in Europe, including their national k-12 curriculum, is so different from ours that the Bologna initiative may work in Europe but would not work in Minnesota. Mulcahy told the delegates that it is difficult to convey the extent of absence of ideas regarding curriculum restructuring that now exists at MnSCU.
11. Mulcahy said that there are some MnSCU Board of Trustee members that are obsessed with sabbaticals and are trying to tie the cost of programs with sabbaticals.

Technical Vice President's Report – Kevin Lindstrom

A written report was submitted.

1. Lindstrom updated the assembly on the 60/120 issue. He reminded the delegates that MSCF is stressing the "value added" component to longer programs and student inclusion in our discussions. On January 4, 2010 he sent to the student organization a summary of the discussions MSCF has had with them; MSCF is still waiting for their response.
2. Several legislators, including Carlson, Mahoney, Mullery, Olson, and Rukavina, have expressed concerns about the erosion of tech ed. MSCF is attempting to work with the Office of the Chancellor to develop talking points for the legislature to support tech ed.
3. The data that MnSCU has used to report to the Legislature is questionable and not an accurate representation. He referred to the St. Cloud report that may be more helpful. He suggested that faculty may want to duplicate the St. Cloud report to support tech ed.
4. Lindstrom also reported that a great deal of Pell grants go to for-profit institutions and this is a concern. For-profits are also buying not-for-profit schools to gain accreditation.

5. Lindstrom suggested that faculty should google the James Corbett case to become aware of the problems caused by recorders in the classroom. He believes that faculty will need legislation to control the use of recorders, laptops, and other electronic devices in the classroom.
6. Lindstrom reported his concern of how MnSCU's manner of reporting to the legislature does not reflect the severity of cuts, nor the terrible situation that funding cuts have created. He also complimented Anne Wynia on her statement to the legislature that budget cuts should not be taken from faculty salaries.

Liberal Arts Vice President's Report – Anne-Marie Ryan-Guest

A written report was submitted.

Reported on committee work.

1. From the Academic and Student Affairs Policy Counsel, Ryan-Guest reported on the disconnect between MnSCU and faculty on academic discussions
2. Ryan-Guest reported that there was a document from the Minneapolis public schools to place a high school within Minneapolis CTC; however, there is no support at any level for the concept of a high school within a college.
3. The MSCF Academic Affairs committee will be discussing placement cut scores. Faculty who want to comment on the cut scores should be in touch with MSCF.
4. The Transfer Oversight committee discussed Common Course Outlines and how they are tied to the outcomes of a course. IFO members are resistive to adopting the Common Course Outline model even though it would make transfer much easier. She also told the delegates that MnSCU is not directing IFO to complete and publish common course outlines.
5. Ryan-Guest reminded the delegates to protect their intellectual property rights. She told the delegates that if faculty write a grant, they should be certain to define who owns the intellectual property that is created. She also reminded the delegates that ownership of intellectual property should also be defined in sabbatical plans.
6. The Technology and e-Learning committee will send suggestions to the bargaining team on online courses. The practice for office hours should be reflective of the manner in which the course is taught; online office hours for online classes.
7. Ryan-Guest reported that ISRS media codes will be changed in fiscal year 2011 to reflect the manner in which online courses are taught. Media code 10 will be removed and two media codes will be added: media code 12 will be for online courses that are completely online, and media code 13 will be for courses completely online with a synchronous component.
8. Ryan-Guest reported that there is an RFP out for new distant learning platforms. She cautioned the delegates that if they are putting anything online they should get the approval upfront as to who owns it, and faculty should have an upfront agreement on ownership before having IT help put things online.
9. Ryan-Guest reported that Education Minnesota passed an action item to continue the \$10.00 diversion of crisis fund dues to the media campaign. In an effort to increase the visibility of MSCF members, we are seeking faculty to tell their story on EM's TV spots. This is faculty's chance to have higher education included in EM's media program. Faculty who are interested can contact the MSCF office.
10. In reviewing the Constitution and Bylaws, the task force wanted local chapters to be reminded that they need to define their local executive committees in the event that disciplining members becomes necessary.
11. Ryan-Guest testified several times at the legislature. She attested that transfer is not seamless and needs improvement and if there are cuts to MnSCU that they cannot be passed on to the campuses where teaching and learning takes place.

12. Ryan-Guest also introduced a resolution at the Education Minnesota Representative Assembly to have EM support high school teachers having the same credentials as MSCF faculty in order to teach concurrent classes.

Secretary's Report – Gregory Wright

A written report was submitted.

1. Wright informed the assembly that written reports would now be attached to the Board and Delegate Assembly Highlights. This is a continuing effort to inform members of Board actions and to increase the awareness of members of the many activities of MSCF, as well as to assure that members receive full and complete accounting of information presented at Board meetings and Delegate Assemblies.
2. Wright informed the delegates that he has continued his efforts to increase the higher education profile within the Education Minnesota Board and EM bureaucracy. These efforts, in concert with our Legislative Committee and executive officers, have resulted in greater recognition of issues unique to higher education and MSCF. The media campaign that has raised public awareness of education in Minnesota will start to include higher education. This is a significant step forward for MSCF and EM.
3. Wright told the assembly that progress is continuing to be made on the Credential Field committee; however, the process is still being impeded by the limited meeting times. In addition, faculty members continue to register complaints that they do not receive notification from either the campus Chief Academic Officer or the campus faculty president regarding Credential Field proposals. Wright told the delegates that if they are not receiving the credentialing proposals on their campus that they must talk to their Chief Academic Officer and their faculty president, and insist that the credential proposals be forwarded to all faculty. Additionally, Wright explained how important the faculty comments are in shaping and determining the requirements of a proposed credential and encouraged faculty to provide comments to the credentialing committee.

Treasurers' Report – Joe Juairé

A written report was submitted.

1. Juairé informed the delegates that the dues will not be increased this year and informed the delegates of changes within the budget to account for negotiations and improving the database.

Instructional Management System Committee – Karen LaPlant

1. MnSCU will not continue to fund the Respondus LockDown Browser feature.
2. MnSCU is in negotiations to extend the D2L contract to August 2012. Version 9 of D2L will be released this summer and campuses should soon be receiving information on this
3. Software issues will now be dealt with in the Academic Services Counsel.

Legislative Report – Rick Nelson

A written report was included in the DA packet

1. Nelson stressed the importance of protecting our core mission of “teaching and learning” to our members and to the legislature and that we must deliver a common message to the legislators, board of trustees and the general public.
2. The Legislative Steering Committee developed a common message of “teaching and learning,” developed the “Be Active” campaign, which encouraged members to get involved in the political process, developed talking points for our members to use when speaking to legislators and kept

members informed on issues to help them be more comfortable when hosting political events on their campus or in their homes.

3. One of the Legislative Steering Committee's goals is to increase the number of people engaged and involved in the legislative and election process.
4. Nelson asked delegates and board members to host their local legislative delegation to discuss how cuts and legislation affects their classroom as well as to inform them about our core mission and values.
5. A summary of the Legislative Session was given by Nelson and included information on the Higher Education Policy Bill, Transfer Bill and Pension issues.
6. Nelson distributed MSCF's Key Messages for the 2010 election cycle.
7. Derek Lindstrom and Dave Page, MSCF members, were recognized and thanked for running campaigns for the legislature.

Elections Committee – David Kapke

1. Kapke reported to the delegates that Greg Mulcahy was re-elected president and Joe Juairé was re-elected Treasurer.

Meet and Confer Committee – Kerry Duncan

A written report was submitted.

1. Duncan commented that the Meet and Confer agenda has met with pretty much the same agenda at each meeting, which indicates that MnSCU is unable to resolve any issues.
2. The Student First initiative will now become a standing agenda item.
3. MSCF has requested a clearing house approach for the study abroad programs but we are still waiting for a MnSCU response to this request.
4. Duncan reported that JoAnn Roche is now a finalist for a position on the MnSCU Board of Trustees.

JLM – Insurance – Rick Nelson and Sara Ford

1. Information will be forthcoming from human resources on enrollment into long-term care insurance.
2. The insurance committee will be working on improving dental coverage. The committee is also investigating disease management and wellness programs.
3. Ford stated that we must use our collective strength to decrease insurance costs including management fees.

Defined Contributions – Barb Prince

A written report was provided

1. Prince gave an overview of the committee's duties.
2. MSCF will post on the website the Quarterly Investment Analysis so that all members can see it.
3. TIAA-CREF has a dedicated staff working with the MnSCU plan; when calling TIAA-CREF members should identify themselves as members of the MnSCU plan.

Field Representative Reports – Sara Ford, Kari Cruz and Tom Johnson

A written report was submitted.

1. Cruz reported that most of the grievances are from Article 11, workload. The contract compliance visits have also found discrepancies in workload assignments and have filed grievances to address them.

2. MnSCU is out of compliance on hiring practices and appears to have no idea of how they will address it.
3. Ford pointed out a common theme of administrators who try to solve their problems by dividing the faculty. Faculty need to hold the line on the contract.

NEW BUSINESS

Constitution and Bylaws Proposed Amendments – Ryan-Guest

Ryan-Guest provided a full and complete review of the proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws.

Motions

1. Motion from the C & B Committee to alter the language in the Constitution and Bylaws, as documented and detailed in the example at the Delegate Assembly.

Motion to amend Article 6, Section 2 – Meetings, by creating a Subsection 1 and title it, “Electronic Meetings” and include the language provided. Lindstrom/Quamme. Carried

Motion to Amend Article 9, Section 2 to add the letter “s” to the word “time.” Fisher. Carried

Motion to adopt as amended. Carried

Resolutions

The following resolutions come as motions and seconds.

1. Be it resolved that MSCF seek four (4) credits release time (approximately 60 hours) for each nominated faculty to prepare their portfolio for presentation; and for those campuses who do not choose to participate, that the college administrators be held harmless in their performance evaluations. Ruled out of order. However, Mulcahy will pass this concern on to the negotiating team.
2. Be it resolved that MSCF members believe in the concept of salary equity for all. Ruled out of order.
Mulcahy explained to the delegates that the negotiating committee is aware of this concern and that it becomes disrespectful of the body to continue to hear the same issue.

Motion to appeal the decision of the chair. Klemz/Wilcox. Defeated.

A division of the house was called for. Klemz

President Mulcahy asked for those voting yes to stand. Then asked for those voting no to stand. The ruling of the President was sustained.

Mulcahy reminded the delegates of the rule that resolutions submitted 30 days before the DA will be debated. Resolutions submitted after that time must receive a 2/3 majority.

The following resolutions were submitted after the deadline and therefore take a two-thirds majority vote to be heard.

1. Be it resolved that MSCF request or require that all such administratively assigned grades be identified as such on student transcripts, so that it is clear that the grade is not reflective of the instructors appraisal of the student's work.

Received 2/3 to be heard

Motion to amend to include that "this does not imply approval of administrative grade changes by MSCF". Juelich. Failed.

Motion to amend to include the statement "this does not imply approval of administrative grade changes by MSCF" within the "where as" portion of the resolution. Seward. Carried

Original motion as amended. Hambleton. Carried.

2. Be it resolved that MSCF and MnSCU will meet to discuss improvement and functionality of the MnSCU online credentialing website and every official website or page, including the Chancellor's, which faculty must use to seek information, guidelines and be in compliance with the Teaching and Learning Competency requirement.

Received 2/3 vote to be heard.

Carried.

3. Be it resolved that MSCF will seek a meeting with MnSCU with the purpose to discuss mandatory inclusion of unlimited faculty postings with explicit information about the Teaching and Learning competency requirements and working web links to provide further details for applicants.

Did not meet 2/3 threshold to be heard.

4. Be it resolved that MSCF reconsider our relationship with Education Minnesota if there is not 100% participation of Board members or proxies at the 2011 Education Minnesota Representative Convention. Ruled out of Order.

Delegate Assembly Highlights by Gregory Wright are created to inform MSCF members of the content of MSCF Delegate Assembly discussions. Delegate Assembly Highlights are not the official MSCF Delegate Assembly minutes. Each Delegate has all of the written reports that are referred to in the Delegate Assembly Highlights. If you have questions, please contact the Delegate on your campus. You may also contact me at wrightgreg@aol.com ; in the subject line, please use "Delegate Highlights." Or, you can call me at 507.951.8005. In the future, look for Delegate Highlights on the MSCF website.