

MSCF Minute



An electronic publication of the Minnesota State College Faculty

Welcome Back!

by Kevin Lindstrom, MSCF President

Welcome to the 2015-16 school year. I hope you had a relaxing and rejuvenating summer.

As is often the case, the summer months included several key developments that you may be interested in. I'll try to give a brief update on some of them here. MSCF officers and staff will be visiting campuses during the coming weeks to talk about these, and other, topics. We'll also write more about them in future issues of the Minute. As always, we welcome your questions and/or feedback on any topic.

Bargaining

We had several bargaining sessions with the system over the summer. Significant progress was made on several fronts, including reaching agreements on all outstanding language items. Unfortunately, we have not been able to reach an agreement on the financial components of the contract. Our bottom-line position continues to be a settlement with the same value as AFSCME and MAPE received earlier this summer. The system is unwilling to provide such a

settlement. We'll continue discussions with key system decision-makers in hopes of getting a fair settlement. In the meantime, I encourage you to ask, "Why can't we have a settlement equal to those of AFSCME and MAPE?" Ask your college administrators. Ask at shared governance. Ask anyone who asks you about bargaining.

Charting the Future

CTF arrives on campuses this fall. This is your opportunity to have a significant say in the future direction of the system. While all the details of the process aren't finalized, we know that the leadership council, comprised of college and university presidents, will play a central role. We also know that a key consideration in moving the process to campuses is to get the local perspective. So, I encourage you to be active in the process. Be active in defining how the local process will work. Be active in establishing your college's position on key issues. Then, be active in charging your college president with carrying your message back to the leadership council.

HLC Credentialing

In late June/early July we learned that the Higher Learning Commission will use a new standard for liberal arts faculty credentialing during future accreditation visits. All details of the change are not clear yet, but the primary element is a shift from 16 to 18 required in-field graduate credits for a credential. Upon hearing about the change, we immediately contacted the system office and reminded them that Article 20, Section 9 of the contract applies when the system changes a credential. This provision gives you both tuition support and release time should your college require you to get those additional credits. If you are impacted by this change, we encourage you to demand your contractual rights from your college. If you need assistance, let us know.

Membership

Over the summer we learned that the U.S. Supreme Court will hear the Friedrichs v CTA (California Teachers Association) case regarding agency fee (what we call "fair

Volume 2, Issue 1
August 17, 2015

share" in Minnesota). In short, the case challenges unions' ability to collect dues from non-members for the provision of key services. As we face this challenge, our need for a strong membership organizing effort is bigger than ever. Kent Quamme, MSCF Treasurer, will continue to lead our membership efforts. You can expect to hear a good deal from Kent in the coming weeks and months regarding how you can help in the effort. We'll also keep you updated on the Friedrichs case as it proceeds.