

MSCF Minute



An electronic publication of the Minnesota State College Faculty

Emerging Leaders College - Session 4

by Brooke Thaden-Koch, Normandale, and Willy Mekeel, Riverland

The first session of Emerging Leaders College focused on outlining the history of the MSCF contract. The second session observed the Minnesota State Board of Trustees meeting. Leadership roles in MSCF was the focus of the third college session.

The final session of MSCF's Emerging Leaders College was held on Thursday, February 16, 2017. This session focused on the system relationship between MSCF and Minnesota State. MSCF President Kevin Lindstrom led a discussion of the important work individual MSCF members do in the Minnesota State system. A perception is that one individual cannot affect change in the bureaucracy. In our discussion, we learned the collective work of individuals makes change in the system.

The Collective Work of National Leadership
MSCF is part of a larger system of unions across the nation. MSCF members may only see the immediate outcome of union leadership in contract negotiations, resolution of grievances, and campus leadership. The success of MSCF is dependent on relationships with other national organizations. MSCF state

leadership volunteer with and work with the following organizations: the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers. MSCF forms a link in the web of organizations working to protect workers' rights.

The Collective Work of Committees
MSCF is part of the state system of higher education in Minnesota. MSCF leaders volunteer on many state-level committees. Leaders serve on these committees to ensure faculty can continue to do the valuable and immeasurable work of teaching. MSCF leaders volunteer on state level committees including AASC, Policy Council, Joint Labor Management, and Meet and Confer. In addition, MSCF leaders meet with Minnesota State Board of Trustee members and attend BOT meetings. MSCF state leadership is a link in the web of committees representing faculty rights to ensure high quality teaching at community colleges across the state.

The Collective Work of Local Leadership
MSCF campus leadership is a key part of the system of higher education in Minnesota. MSCF state leaders represent faculty

concerns at the state level. State leadership relies on the work of campus leaders. Identifying issues and communicating with MSCF leadership is the first link in the web of relationships.

The Collective Work of Responding to the Unplanned
MSCF leadership works with campus leadership, national organizations, and members of Minnesota State to identify issues from and respond to Minnesota State. While there is much predictability in committee work with Minnesota State each year, the union must be able to respond to the unplanned. Items included in the unplanned for 2016-2017 include a chancellor search, responding to proposed changes to Policy 5.22.2 (use of electronic devices), the 2016 national election, and the possible loss of agency fees. Responding to developing issues constitutes a large proportion of MSCF staff time but is necessary to provide a sustained voice for our member base.

The foundation of MSCF actions comes from a well-defined strategy that is developed with input and observations from national, state, and local affiliations along with work on

Volume 3, Issue 25
March 23, 2017

committees. This integrated approach to representation provides enough variation and personalization to meet the unique needs of our diverse organization and ensures our ongoing resiliency.

Contract Congress

The Contract Congress has been rescheduled for the evening of Friday, April 7 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Those designated as chapter representatives are welcome to attend as guests to the Delegate Assembly. Delegates are also welcome to attend the Contract Congress.

Please RSVP to John Ward at john.ward@edmn.org by Friday, March 24 if you would like to attend the congress.

Welcome New Members!

Steve Thomforde
Dakota County
Bruce Ellingson
Hennepin Tech - Eden Prairie
Matthew Farchmin
Lake Superior
Michael Joyce
M State - Moorhead
Leanne England
Rochester