

MSCF Minute



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Connecting with Chapters

by Kevin Lindstrom, MSCF President

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The new school year welcomes a number of new faces to the MSCF state office. Darci Stanford (South Central College) is our new Liberal Arts Vice President. Chip Dykstra and Matt Ryg are our new field staff members. John Ward is a new member of our office staff. In the coming weeks, I hope you get the opportunity to interact with many, if not all, of them. We're excited to have them aboard.

With a fully staffed office, our attention is turning to making significant connections with our chapters. To that end, we have paired a field staff member with a state officer to serve each of our chapters. This gives you two different points of contact when you have a question or concern. The officers and field staff will work jointly to provide service. A list of the pairings for each chapter was sent to chapter presidents over the summer months.

I've also asked our officers to focus on spending time on our campuses during the coming year. Sometimes that may

take the form of a formal presentation at a chapter meeting or other event. Other times it may just be a matter of stopping by campus and being available to visit with whoever happens to be around. Whatever the form, the idea is to make state officers available to you on your campus. We want to hear what you have to say and to provide assistance when you need it.

There are many reasons for our increased presence on campus. Chief among them is a reminder to all of our members that we are here to assist you, especially when you really need it. If you've seen us around and had the opportunity to get to know us, we hope that we will be your first call for help on matters related your rights. After all, MSCF is the only entity whose sole focus is the rights of our faculty.

I recently came across a case that illustrates the importance of contacting us when difficulty arises. In this case an instructor was harassed throughout the summer by a student and parent over a grade issued in spring semes-

ter. On several occasions the faculty member asked their dean for assistance. On each occasion the dean failed to provide appropriate assistance. The result was continuing harassment, escalation of the situation, and a miserable summer for the faculty member. Had we been notified early in the process, we would have provided the assistance the member deserved and the dean fundamentally failed to provide.

Our presence on campuses doesn't always need to be about matters as serious as the one cited above. Sometimes we'll just stop by campus to buy you a cup of coffee (or, if your tastes are more like mine, a Mountain Dew) and talk about the topic of the day. With all that's going on in the system these days, there's plenty to talk about. We look forward to seeing and talking with you soon.

MSCF on Social Media:

In our continued effort to communicate with members and to build community among members, Minnesota State College Faculty now has a Facebook page. This page will be used to share information on local, state and national issues related to faculty rights and labor organizing as well as a way for local chapters to share MSCF events happening on your campuses.

Examples of local events could include a membership drive, hosting a local legislator on campus, a MSCF faculty retirement, or a MSCF faculty member recognized for an accomplishment. We know there are lots of great things happening on campuses with our chapters and members and recognize the importance of having a way to share them.

The Facebook page does not replace any current form of communication used by MSCF.

Continue to watch your email for weekly MSCF Minutes, your home mail for quarterly Green Sheets and your campus for state MSCF Officer visits. Please send any local MSCF event you'd like posted to MSCF@edmn.org.

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