

# MSCF Minute



*An electronic publication of the Minnesota State College Faculty*

## Messages

*by Kevin Lindstrom, MSCF President*

On Thursday the Legislative Subcommittee on Employee Relations (LSER) voted, on strict party lines, to [reject the tentative agreements](#), reached in good faith and in accordance with state law, between AFSCME, MAPE, and Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB). The anti-employee message of the committee majority was clear in [their words and actions](#). Shortly after the rejection both [AFSCME](#) and [MAPE](#) issued messages indicating they have no intent of relenting in any way. I commend them for their stance. MSCF stands with them.

Also shortly after the rejection, [MMB issued a message](#) in strong support of the tentative agreements and in recognition of the work done by the employees of AFSCME and MAPE. Contrast the MMB message with the position of Minnesota State officials, referenced repeatedly during the hearing, in opposition to the agreements. Multiple subcommittee members referenced messages they had received from the system office indicating that the settlements were too generous. More specifically, the system had said they couldn't support anything

with more than a 1% per year cost increase. There is little doubt that the system's message played a part in the committee's action. Let this be another example, where there is no need for more, of the true nature of the Rosenstone era. The question now is whether the new system administration will reposition itself in alignment with MMB or find a Rosenstone-like excuse to continue to undermine employees.

Beyond rejecting the tentative agreements, several members of the subcommittee majority took the opportunity to deliver anti-worker messages during the meeting. One representative went on and on about how the value of these settlements are so much greater than those in the private sector. While his assertion should be subject to fact-checking and context, his real message was that all workers should be reduced to the least common denominator.

In contrast to most of the messages delivered by the majority, I completely concur with the chair's message of frustration about lack of complete data on settlement costs. Specifically, she said she had asked for and hadn't

received data on actual expenditures by bargaining unit over the past several years. Well, Madam Chair, we have [that data](#) and we're going to share it with you and everyone else. In it all will see that actual expenditures on system administrators have grown at a rate approximately five times faster than MSCF faculty expenditures have grown over the past five fiscal years.

Pause for a moment and consider the incredible tension in the system's messaging around bargaining. System administrators have told the legislature they can't support bargaining unit settlements beyond 1% per year. While the current messaging is aimed at AFSCME and MAPE, absent some clearly signaled change of direction, it's reasonable to assume they will aim the same at us. So while system administrators are saying bargaining unit settlements must be held down, the expenditures on those very administrators are growing much faster than most of the bargaining units.

That's our message.

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### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Matt Carhart, Anoka-Ramsey CR  
Joe Vork, Fond du Lac  
Brian Sevre, Hennepin Tech  
Leah Rocholl, M State  
Ann Bell-Pfeifer, M State-DL  
Shawn Sorenson, M State-FF  
Blessing Reynolds, MN West-So.  
Dorie Fritz, Normandale  
Davis Hamilton, Northland-EGF

### CIVIC SUMMIT

LeadMN in partnership with The Democracy Commitment is hosting a free one-day summit for faculty and staff. The summit will provide opportunities to learn about ways that you can integrate civics learning across curriculum.

October 20, 2017  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Hilton Mall of America  
Riverside Room

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