

# MSCF Minute



An electronic publication of the Minnesota State College Faculty

## Emerging Leaders College - Trustees and Contracts

by Stephen Nelson, Northland - Thief River Falls, and Renee Guyer, South Central - N. Mankato

*On Trustees*  
by Stephen Nelson

Our Emerging Leaders meeting for November was scheduled so that we could attend the Minnesota State Board of Trustees meeting before spending some time with the contract. There was quite a lot going on at the meeting, but one thing that stood out to several of us in the Emerging Leaders group was how positively energized and enthused some of the Trustees were while discussing a recent visit they had with a state-wide student group. Reflecting on this leads me to offer up the following recommendation:

Consider inviting some Minnesota State Trustees to your campus.

Maybe your college is looking for ideas for speakers for commencement, or in-service meetings, or a scholarship ceremony, or maybe your campus has a new program or building you could show off. Urge your college President to invite some Trustees out to visit whenever makes the most sense. Then when they do come, also invite them to sit in on a faculty meeting and/or a class you're teaching—

anything that creates some inroads to important parts of the college they may not normally experience.

The Trustees have a huge influence over the Minnesota State system, and they appear to take that role quite seriously. Helping them become more familiar with the local successes and challenges we experience at our campuses, giving them concrete stories to supplement the abstract policies they often have to focus on, can only enrich their understanding and appreciation for the realities of the system that entrusts so much to them.

*On the Contract*  
by Renee Guyer

While some of our members are well versed in the contract, others may not have much familiarity. Here are a few sections we hope you will find interesting:

**Article 3  
No strike or lock out**  
Common to many union contracts, we agree not to promote or support a strike, except in those conditions allowed by Minnesota Statute on Public Employment Labor Relations while the system

agrees to no lockout of faculty members during the term of the contract.

**Article 8  
Shared Governance and Academic Affairs**

This article defines the purpose, structure and authority of each of these bodies. While there is a defined structure, there is also an allowance for alternatives based on the needs of particular institutions as agreed upon by the college president the MSCF chapter with the state's approval. Faculty Shared Governance Council is the opportunity for faculty to meet with the College President while Academic Affairs and Standards Council is the academic decision making body.

**Article 11  
Work Assignments**

This article is full of critical information including provisions related to elapsed time, Saturday and Sunday assignments, class schedule and class size. This article is also one of the places in the contract where we still have a divide between faculty in the former MCCFA bargaining unit, frequently referred to the 'green' side of the contract and faculty in the former

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UTCE bargaining unit, the 'blue' side of the contract. (In case you didn't know the history-the final MCCFA contract had a green cover and the UTCE contract had a blue cover.)

**Article 17  
Professional Development**  
Outlined in article 17 are the provisions for both college and system level funds for faculty professional development. Also included in this article is the language surrounding sabbatical leave. If you are considering a sabbatical be sure to read article 17 of the contract as well as Kevin Lindstrom's MSCF Minute from November 3, 2016.

### Welcome New Members!

Donita Ettestad, Rainy River  
Thomas Ward, Century

