

MSCF Minute



An electronic publication of the Minnesota State College Faculty

A Seat at the Table

by the MSCF Racial Equity and Diversity Committee

The concept of Shared Governance is one of the cornerstones of our contract. We know that decisions affecting our colleges also affect us as faculty. What's more, we know that college-wide decisions often impact us differently from how they impact other staff and administrators. That's why we have a formal structure in place to ensure faculty have a seat at the table when those decisions are made. It's not necessarily the case that administrators are out to get us, although that happens, but it is the case that those in administration may not be able to see all sides of an issue without faculty involvement to provide a broader perspective. We need to be at the table to represent our unique interests and perspectives as faculty. As the slogan goes, "Nothing about us, without us, is for us."

It is in that spirit the MSCF Delegate Assembly approved a change to the Constitution and By-Laws in the composition of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is made up of the five statewide elected officers and four At-Large members. Previously, all four At-Large members were nominated by and from the Board of Directors. (The board is made up of the statewide elected officers, the standing committee chairs and one representative from each chapter). Following the change, three of the At-Large members will be nominated in the same way. *"The remaining one (1) At-Large member will be nominations from the general membership of faculty from underrepresented groups, which may include, but not limited to, LGBTQA, women and persons of color."*

Many decisions made by the Executive Committee impact different faculty in different ways. These decisions are informed by our fundamental identities. What we must remember is that these identities have organized society and characterized inequalities in status and power in America and in the labor movement for our entire history, and continue to do so today.

It is essential that we guarantee a seat at the table so that our Executive Committee has a wider range of perspectives to make more informed decisions that will yield a stronger and more inclusive MSCF. What's more, it is essential that we guarantee a seat at the table so MSCF counteracts, rather than reinforces, the disempowerment that many of us experience in society and on our campuses.

Volume 3, Issue 33
May 11, 2017

If you would like a seat at the table to provide a broader perspective and empower members who have been historically marginalized, we strongly encourage you submit your name, or another person's name, and contact information for nomination to mscfevents@edmn.org.

Check Back Often

Remember to check the MSCF website throughout the summer for regular updates. Information regarding the Summer Leadership Retreat, Board of Directors meeting, and other current events will be posted so check back often!

Also, do not forget about the bargaining hotline for the latest bargaining news, 651-767-1276 or 866-208-8210.

Welcome New Members!

Sara Homelvig, Alexandria
Paul Klevann, Anoka Tech
Troy Braun, Century
Teri Miska, Century
Gail Wilbur, Century
Amy Goman, Lake Superior
Camron Vollbrecht, Lake Superior
Barbara Wiener, North Hennepin
Caleb Paulson, Saint Paul
James Woodcock, Saint Paul

Standing Committee Position Statements

At the April Board of Director's meeting, the board approved position statements from both the Racial Equity & Diversity Committee and Faculty Rights Committee. The statements are meant to identify and clarify areas MSCF stands for related to both racial equity and diversity and faculty rights. These are meant to serve as a resource for you to voice MSCF's position when local issues arise.

Please click on the following link to read the board approved position statements to date:

<https://www.mscfmm.org/position-statements>