

MSCF Minute



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We Are What We Do

by Jessalyn Sabin, Hibbing CC faculty member and Emerging Leaders College participant

Perhaps you have wondered about what kinds of leadership opportunities exist in MSCF. What are the responsibilities? What day-to-day tasks are we as members unaware of? As a pupil of the Emerging Leaders College, I traveled down to the State Office on the 24th of January. I, along with my colleagues in the program, were there to learn about different leadership roles in MSCF. Kevin Lindstrom, our President, discussed his role in the organization and covered the day-to-day operations and work plan for his office in MSCF. Darci Stanford and Norm Halsa shared their experiences as Liberal Arts and Technical Vice Presidents, respectively. They both also gave us some perspectives on the roles of the Chapter President and Grievance Representative. It was encouraging to learn that folks like ourselves can start out in local roles and make significant differences on our campus. Kent Quamme outlined the responsibilities of Treasurer and the rather compelling state of our finances should the Janus vs. AFSCME ruling come to fruition. Finally, Mark Grant outlined current issues and the official MSCF stance at the Capitol through his legislative work.

My take-away from this experience is that there is so much more to each of these positions than meets the eye. There is centralized support that gets spread across our system from these five points of contact. Because of this, much of the noise from the main MN State office gets contended with and handled on a day-to-day basis. This is so efficient that we as faculty never end up having to shoulder the disquiet that arises from these incidents. It made me realize all the more that the value of a strong union and good leadership cannot be minimized.

On the theme of leadership examination, we also spent some time at the MN State Main Office. Attending the MN State Board of Trustees meeting was an eye-opening experience. We need to be sure that those in charge of our system hear from us, and the best way to do this is to allow our union representatives the support to give us a voice. Additionally, we need to be sure that we are sharing our perspectives with our chapter leadership, as they are the point of information dissemination in both directions- to us and to our representatives.

Apathy is often more dangerous than we care to examine. So many of us, myself included, have not been tuned into the threats of the Janus vs. AFSCME Supreme Court case and how that might impact our resources to support strong leadership. Even closer to home, the upcoming mid-term elections and gubernatorial race will be imperative to our success as a union. If we do not advocate for ourselves and within our chapters, how can we expect a favorable outcome? We are what we do. As instructors, we are advocates for our students. We need to take on advocacy for ourselves and for each other. This gives our students the best possible environment to learn in and for us to teach in.

I have often thought that leadership means standing up and standing out. However, from the experiences in our Emerging Leaders training this past week, I would revise that idea. I believe leadership can also be defined as passionately following and advocating. We can all do this; it does not take being in a chapter president or a state-wide leadership position to do this. In return, they can passionately represent our needs as faculty, and ensure the best future for all.

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BARGAINING UPDATES

As always, bargaining updates are available via the MSCF bargaining hotline at 651-767-1276 or 866-208-8210. In addition, a more in depth video update by Kevin Lindstrom is currently posted to the [MSCF website](#). In order to view the video, you must login to access members only content.

FACULTY FORUM INVITE

Please join us for our next faculty forum, "[Creating a Safe Place](#)" on Feb. 7! Dinner and great conversation provided. Click on the link for more details including instructions on how to attend remotely. RSVP to mscf@edmn.org.

MSCF ELECTION DAY

Chapter Presidents should have received election materials earlier this week. Elections will be taking place on Monday for [MSCF Vice President of Liberal Arts](#). Contact your chapter president for polling places and times. Absentee voters, remember to mail in your ballot by Feb. 5!

DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

Delegate lists are due to the state office by Feb. 9. Please make sure to contact your chapter president if you are interested in representing your chapter. Proposed resolutions and/or C&B amendments for consideration at the DA are due by March 2.