

the GREEN SHEET



VOLUME XXII, ISSUE 1

The Official Publication of the Minnesota State College Faculty

SEPTEMBER 2020

A Fall Unlike Any Other

By Matt Williams, MSCF President

By the time this issue of the MSCF Green Sheet arrives at your home, it will have been 25 weeks since the COVID-19 pandemic upended virtually every aspect of our lives. As organized faculty, we managed to teach under emergency remote conditions in Spring 2020, mobilized virtually to successfully pressure the legislature to pass our contract, conducted our first virtual Delegate Assembly to honor our commitment to labor union democracy, and communicated with each other as MSCF on an unprecedented scale.

We did so while also helping our school aged children learn from home, while navigating a changed world where even getting groceries or getting a haircut has become suddenly complex, while family members and friends found themselves out of work due to a sputtering economy, and while we raised our voices—virtually and at physically distanced rallies—to demand that black lives matter following the killing of George Floyd.

Colleagues, friends—I wish I could tell you that we are at the end of this crucible. As you all know, we are not, and likely won't be any time soon.

So, let me share what we know.



First, the only truly “safe” way to teach/learn until there is a safe and effective vaccine is to do so remotely. Full stop. Anything that is in-person and on-campus carries with it the risk of infection. Second, we know there is compelling science behind the three main risk mitigation strategies: masking, physical distancing, and screening. We strongly support all three of these mitigation strategies. Third, we know that the success of these mitigation strategies is uncertain in real-world settings and ultimately depends on successful training and compliance. The outbreaks we've seen on college campuses across the country are not encouraging. Finally, and what this all adds up to, is that we know there will be further disruption. Whether that is due to students having to quarantine,

an entire class having to pause because the instructor has to quarantine or is recovering from an infection, or even a surge so intense that the entire state goes back into a shut down this fall—disruption should be something everyone expects and prepares for.

I know this doesn't paint a rosy picture, and I share everyone's frustrations and desires to be done with this pandemic. Better days are undoubtedly ahead, but to get there we have to be clear-eyed and honest about the immediate challenges we face.

Here's what we need to do together as MSCF to help get us past this crucible. First, get informed; get engaged. Information changes on a rapid basis. This is why going to your chapter meetings (virtually, of course) and watching for updates in your email matters so much right now. Additionally, your elected MSCF leaders on your campus need to hear from you so they know what is happening in your classes and beyond. Most of the decision making regarding this pandemic is happening at the campus level, so make sure your experiences and perspectives are shared with your campus leadership team. Finally,

(continued on page 2)

Personal Email

Over the last 6 months, we have been adapting the way we conduct the business of MSCF to a largely virtual world, from conducting an online Delegate Assembly to exploring options for online elections. This has provided opportunities for members to connect in ways we hadn't previously imagined. However, state

and federal law limit the type of communication and business we can conduct using state resources, especially state email addresses. To ensure that all members have the opportunity to engage fully, especially in the legislative process and MSCF elections, we are asking each member to share a current personal email address, especially



A Fall Unlike Any Other continued from page 1

our MSCF state office is hosting all-member information zoom meetings on the first and third Thursdays of the month. Any member can log on to these calls and get updates directly from our office about what we know and developments happening at the system level.

Second, make sure you know and understand your campus safety plan. If there are elements that are confusing or lacking, work with your campus MSCF leadership time to ask questions and to press your college administration to address those issues. Again, training and compliance are the most critical aspects of successful risk mitigation.

Finally, and perhaps the most challenging, we must as MSCF not just attend to the immediate, day-to-day challenges this pandemic presents us, we must also step back and consider the big pictures that put us in this situation in the first place. For example, we know many of the ventilation and HVAC systems on our campuses are woefully out of date and in desperate need of upgrading—something that was true before the pandemic. This is especially worrisome because we now understand this virus is a respiratory pandemic and spreads through aerosols. So why, then, was no bonding money provided at the legislature to address this urgent

need? Why, then, has the public 2-year system in Minnesota been starved for needed funding for so long?

We not just in the midst of a crucible, we are in the midst of a national reckoning. A reckoning that demands both problem solving and soul-searching. None of what we are facing currently had to be this way. The only true way out of this is not a return to the normal of before—that “normal” was not doing us any favors—but a fundamental change in direction. Change of this magnitude is something we as MSCF can and must be a part of making happen.



www.mscfmn.org

The Green Sheet is published two to three times a year by the MSCF. Authors include MSCF officers, faculty members and staff.

651-767-1262 or 1-800-377-7783

MSCF, 55 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103

MSCF is an affiliate of Education Minnesota, NEA and AFT. Printed at Education Minnesota.  1641

June 19, 2020

MSCF Delegate Assembly Resolutions

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State College Faculty (MSCF) and its membership support divestment of the funds that the Minnesota State Board of Investments has invested in fossil fuel companies presently in the Minnesota State Pension Fund and ask that it instead invest those funds in renewable energy and sustainable industries. Carried.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State College Faculty (MSCF) strongly recommends that the Minnesota State system eliminate the final round of evaluation for large-seed innovation funding through the Shark Tank Open model and make the scoring of proposals using a rubric the final, determining stge. Carried.

3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State College Faculty (MSCF) will demonstrate it's commitment to advance equity and inclusion within the union ranks by:

a. Encouraging colleges to further diversify the instructional workforce through both recruitment and retention efforts,

b. Working cooperatively with other groups on equity and inclusion initiatives,

c. Developing and/or engaging in equity-focused faculty development opportunities with a focus on developing and rewarding talent that will support our mission of equitable student success, and

d. Engaging in critical examination to identify structures that pose barriers to recruiting and supporting black and indigenous members and members of colors. Carried as amended.

4. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State College Faculty (MSCF) supports the recency requirement in credential fields for faculty teaching concurrent enrollment technical/career

programs. Carried.

5. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State College Faculty (MSCF) work with the MinnState System Office to create consistent policies and procedures regarding holds on records across all campuses to facilitate consistent and equitable access to higher education for incarcerated students. Carried.

6. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State College Faculty (MSCF) form a workgroup to develop and maintain the collection of system wide data necessary to allow our math faculty efficient access to student placement and success data for math classes at MinnState colleges and to provide assistance to math departments in the performance of their professional responsibilities. Carried as amended.

Revocation Window

The revocation window is the period of time when a current member may revoke their authorization to have union dues deducted from their paycheck. The

revocation window is Sept. 1-30. A written request must be submitted to the MSCF state office during this time period.

June 19, 2020

MSCF Delegate Assembly Amendments

1. Multiple Articles in the C&B – Board of Directors

“The Chairpersons of Standing Committees and the MSCF representative(s) to the EM Board of Directors and the Education

Minnesota (EM) Retired Board, if not elected Board members, shall be ex-officio, non-voting members.” Carried.

2. Multiple Articles in the C&B – Every Other Year Delegate Assembly

“The Delegate Assembly shall be convened each year, unless a specified year is canceled by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors”. Failed.



Early Voting

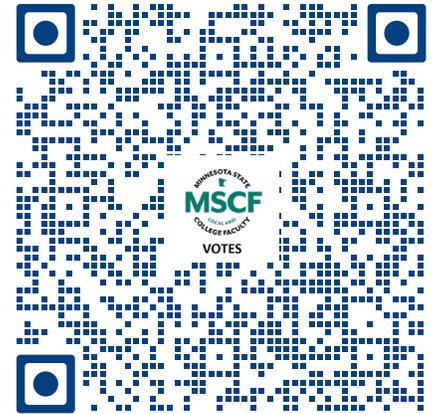
There has been no shortage of media coverage surrounding mail in and absentee voting in recent weeks. Even so, it seemed like a good time to remind everyone Minnesota enjoys No Excuse Absentee Voting (Minn. Stat. § 203B.02).

In Minnesota, you can vote early with an absentee ballot starting 46 days before Election Day.

It's always been easy and convenient, but now, it's also the safest way to make sure your vote is counted.

An absentee ballot can be requested online – simply scan the QR code.

<https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/ABRegistration/ABRegistrationStep1.aspx>



MSCF Contingent Faculty Hiring Hall

Contingent members who want to join or update their information in the MSCF Contingent Faculty Hiring Hall need to do so by October 1,

2020 to be included in the hiring campus lists. For more information on the Hiring Hall, including the process for joining and updating

information, visit the MSCF website at www.msfcfmn.org and click on the Contingent Faculty tab.

Education Minnesota Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning Professional Development Grants for teachers, ESPs and higher education faculty

Awarded twice a year, ESPs and teachers may request up to \$1,500, and higher education faculty may request up to \$3,000. A Professional Development

Grant can also be used for groups to either attend professional development or be trained at their worksite. Deadlines: Nov. 6 and April 2.

For additional information and how to apply, go to www.edmnfoundation.org.

Member benefit resources

With the COVID-19 pandemic, our world is changing daily. Not only has our work changed but finances may be tight, retirement plans may have changed and paying bills may be difficult or impossible. ESI Member Benefits and our business partners are here to support you. Please reach out to the individual programs or contact ESI at 651-292-4856 if you have questions or are in need of assistance.

Financial concerns and support including budgets, investments and pensions

- EFS Advisors:
www.efsadvisors.com
763-689-9023
Personal loans and other assistance
- NEA Member Benefits
www.neamb.com
800-637-4636
- United Educators Credit Union
www.uecu.coop
651-264-0669

Payment flexibility and billing relief options

- Liberty Mutual
www.libertymutual.com/agent/darlenevonarx
952-229-5692
- Travelers
www.travelers.com/educationminnesota
888-695-4640
- California Casualty
www.calcas.com
866-680-5143
- NEA Life Insurance
www.neamb.com
800-637-4636

Trauma counseling

- AFT Member Benefits
www.aft.org/benefits/trauma
800-238-1133

Office Max/Office Depot discount program

- NEA Member Benefits Office Max/Office Depot Discount Program
www.neamb.com/products/nea-office-depot-officemax-discount-program

Additional resources

- Educators Lifetime Solutions
life and long-term care insurance
www.educatorsltc.com
763-689-9023
- Lifesprk
caregiving resources and in home care
www.lifesprk.com/edmnnav
952-345-3317
- Minnesota Health Insurance Network
health insurance and Medicare supplements
www.educationmn.mnhi.net
952-465-0072
- PerksConnect
online shopping
edmn.perksconnection.com
- Securus ID
identity theft protection and recovery
www.educationminnesota.securusid.com
612-238-0340
- Tradition Mortgage
purchase and refinancing
www.mneducatorshomes.com
952-252-4490
- Zebit
shop now and pay over time
www.zebit.com/edmn
- NEA Member Benefits
www.neamb.com
800-637-4636
- AFT MB
www.aft.org/member-benefits
800-238-1133



MSCF
55 Sherburne Ave
St. Paul, MN 55103

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
PRESORTED
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TWIN CITIES, MN
PERMIT NO. 582

the GREEN SHEET

VOLUME XXII, ISSUE 1

The Official Publication of the Minnesota State College Faculty

SEPTEMBER 2020

Contact information

Contact information for MSCF elected officers

Matt Williams, President, 651-797-1265
Matt Dempsey, Vice President, 612-276-2881
Kent Quamme, Treasurer, 800-377-7783
Gretchen Long, Secretary, 651-797-1279
Mark Grant, Legislative Chair, 651-797-1259

MSCF staff

Kari Ann Cruz, 651-767-1272
Chip Dykstra, 651-767-1277
Emily Mateo, 651-767-1273

MSCF Board Meetings

September 11, 2020
October 30, 2020
January 29, 2021
April 10, 2021

MSCF Delegate Assembly

April 9, 2021