

MCCC General Chapter Meeting Notes for March 23, 2015



This meeting was held in TC103A & LC301 from 12-1pm.

Bake Sale

The annual Bake Sale that raises money for the NECCPA Scholarship will be held April 17 in Haverhill. There will not be a Lawrence date this year. A sign-up sheet was passed around for members to sign up to bake and/or man the table. Trish Schade is in charge this year.

NECCPA Scholarship

The NECCPA Scholarship packets are now available from Linda Giampa. Please encourage your eligible students to apply. The winner will be awarded the scholarship during our next meeting April 27.

Chapter Elections

Our officers are all planning to run for their current positions – Linda Giampa – President, Ann Grandmaison – Vice President, Liliana Brand – Treasurer, Kristen Arnold & Stephanie Wares – Co-secretaries.

MCCC Elections & MTA Annual Meeting

- You may have received your ballot in the mail with your ID and pin number. You must use these to vote online by March 27 at 4pm.
- You also have the option to sign up to attend the MTA Annual Meeting. Do this by putting your name in as a write-in candidate on the online form. Everyone is encouraged to attend – MCCC will pay for a shared room at the hotel and per diem costs to cover food and parking. It's May 8-9 and there are still about 30 slots open.

MCCC Delegate Assembly

This is a one day MCCC event held at the Courtyard Marriott in Marlboro on April 25. Linda Giampa said it's a great event and we are all encouraged to attend. Joe LeBlanc pointed out the importance of upcoming issues, including the new contract, health increases (co-pays are nearly doubling, deductibles going up, percent shares changing) and the early retirement program.

Early Retirement Program

At this point there are no details to share about the program that Governor Baker has been talking about. We are all encouraged to attend the SMART retirement seminar on Thursday May 7 from 12-2pm in TC103 to have questions about social security and insurance answered. (flyer attached)

Spurk Building Renovations

- There was some question about whether or not faculty would be going back to their original offices once the Spurk renovations are complete. Andy Morse said he had heard that they weren't, but Amy Callahan heard that they were – and she was actually told she didn't have to move her belongings.

- Linda Giampa said she was told by David Gingerella that offices “maybe or maybe not” be moved. She also said that nothing is written in stone yet, except for the target date when everyone will be out of the building which is May 2016. Gingerella has offered to meet with her as often as needed about any concerns about the renovation.
- Andy Morse encouraged everyone to come to the Finance Committee Meeting on April 2 at noon in Lecture Hall A because it will be a time we can ask questions about the renovation plans. There is concerns about certain areas (i.e. little Sprouts) moving off campus due to space concerns.
- Joe LeBlanc said that we have the right to review and discuss the plan once it’s in place. Linda Giampa will ask Management when they expect to have a prepared plan to share at the upcoming MACER meeting on March 26.

Tentative Schedules

Full-time faculty should have their tentative schedules by the end of March. Contact Linda Giampa or Tom Greene with any issues.

Professional Day

Please remember to sign up for Professional Day if you haven’t already. It’s this Friday April 27.

Parking Fee/Policy

- Linda Giampa said the issue is important – because \$8.50 might seem like it’s not much now, but as soon as we allow this to happen, the college is likely to raise fees each year and we will end up paying much more. “At some point, the fee is going to be too much, and by then it’s going to be too late to do anything about it.”
- Ann Grandmaison added that the enforcement of the policy is causing ill will in the community. Library patrons are literally being ticketed within minutes. Dignitaries meeting with Lane and Opportunity Works staff are also receiving tickets.
- Joe Rizzo encouraged us to take a stand on the parking fee. He noted we are the only community college in Massachusetts to charge faculty and staff to park. Even Bunker Hill and Roxbury where parking is at a premium due to being located in Boston do not charge faculty and staff for parking. He surmised that the bottom line is that NECC wants the money from the fees to pay the security guards to enforce the policy and write tickets. He noted that by law the college has the authority to charge a fee for parking, but we can stand up to the way it’s implemented and the effect it has on everyone.
- Linda Grochowalski from MCCC attended the meeting to support us. She said that the \$8.50 is the tip of the iceberg and if NECC allows the parking policy to stand, then it’s going to increase and other colleges around the state will also start charging faculty and staff to park. We’re “ground zero.” She encouraged us to activate against the policy now and suggested going to a Trustee Meeting might be a good way to voice our concerns so the Trustees are aware of our displeasure. They might not know how the policy is impacting all of us and perhaps would reconsider their decision. (She works as an adjunct at Quinsigamond and was part of a group of about 20 faculty who were successful in overturning and unpopular policy by attending Trustee Meetings.)
- Joe LeBlanc said that beginning next fall there will be a crackdown on unpaid tickets and the college will begin towing and “booting” cars without stickers and/or unpaid tickets. He suggested perhaps if we all park in the free lots (Buckley Garage in Lawrence and the Tech Center lot in Haverhill) that might make a statement. Giampa agreed and said maybe we can make a commitment to do that for 2-3 weeks.

Retirement Planning

Steve Slaner had a concern about ramifications of making an error on the state retirement forms. Linda Giampa said she would forward his question to Donnie McGee for clarification.

UMASS Lowell classes on campus

- Joe Rizzo provided copies of a 1997 agreement between MCCC, NECC (and other colleges), and UMASS Lowell. The agreement states that classes being offered by UMASS Lowell on another colleges' campus cannot conflict with courses already being taught by the home college. Our unit work should not conflict with courses being offered through another institution on our campus.
- This has been an issue with UMASS Lowell the past few semesters. Last semester there were a couple of conflicts and this semester there is one conflict. It actually got to the point where we were not being allowed to run our course because UMASS Lowell was running theirs.

Pearson

Pearson is funding accelerated general education courses meant to attract adult students to NECC (similar to the SNHU/College for America model.) Joe Rizzo recently met with the Distance Education Committee and development of these courses are still in progress. They plan to meet again on April 2.

Next meeting: The next MCCC General Chapter meeting will be Monday, April 27 at 12 noon.