NECCPA – March 23, 2026 Chapter Meeting Notes

Northern Essex Community College Professional Association

NECCPA President Linda Giampa called the meeting to order shortly after 12:30 PM on Zoom on Monday March 23, 2026. About 30 members attended.

1. **Chapter Elections** – Chapter elections for president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and director will be held at the last chapter meeting of the spring semester on April 27. Anyone interested in running for these offices should contact Linda Giampa, Steve Russell or Laura Mondt. At this moment, it appears that incumbents are interested in running for their positions again, except Steve will be vacating the position of secretary.

2. **MCCC Delete Assembly** – This will be held on Zoom Saturday April 25 at 9:30. NECC has 15 positions to fill. Contact Laura or Linda if you can come.

3. **NECCPA Scholarship** – Linda reminded the group that donations are needed for the scholarship fund. Here is how to do it:

    1. Cash or check (made out to NECCPA) to the following people:
        a. Linda Giampa, Academic Coaching, C211
        b. Laura Mondt, Haverhill Library, A207
        c. Jenny Fielding, Lawrence Library, L007
    2. Online donations via credit card at https://neccpa-graduating-student-award-fund.cheddarup.com
        Note: there is a small processing fee to donate this way.

Also, members can nominate students. See instructions below:

Award Description and Criteria: NECCPA Graduating Student Award 2026.docx

Application form: NECCPA Graduating Student Award Application

Applications are due 4:00 PM, April 13. Also, needed are members to review the applications. About 5 people are needed to do this. Please contact Linda or Laura to take part in this. Winner of the scholarship will be announced at April 27 meeting.

4 **MCCC Board of Directors Report** – NECC Chapter Director Laura Mondt reported on the state-wide salary equity study which is going forward. This is separate from Day and DCE Contract negotiations for the contracts beginning July 1, 2026.

5 **DCE Contract Bargaining** – Ballots for the DCE contract in effect for the period ending June 30, 2026 were mailed out and due back by mail at MCCC April 3. The DCE contract for the 3 year period beginning July 1, 2026 will be starting soon.

6 **Day Contract Bargaining** - The Day contract bargaining (separate from the equity study) for the 3 year period beginning July 1, 2026 will be underway soon. The bargaining priorities survey has been distributed by e-mail and members are asked to give their input.

7 **MTA Representative** – David Murry the MTA representative for MCCC encouraged people to attend upcoming union get togethers. These will be held Tuesday April 7, 2:00 on the Haverhill Campus (Room C-215) Tuesday April 14, 2:00 on the Lawrence Campus (TBA). In both cases, snacks will be provided. Feedback was good from the fall meetings. People enjoyed them as they were good opportunities to meet other members to talk about work life as well as more fun things. It's a way to build solidarity among members.

David also said that it would be good to have a membership organizer who would introduce new people to the Union and help new members get to know people.

8 **Brightspace Conversion** - Discussion ensued about the heavy workload that Brightspace conversion is entailing and the back-ups that might occur in CIT in the summer when members are converting their fall courses.

Steve reminded the group that Austin Gilliland, at the March 19, indicated that 100% accessibility rating was not necessary despite the warning banner that is displayed when entering a course in Brightspace. At the meeting she urged members to submit their courses, even though they may not be perfect.

Members were concerned about the lack of faculty input into the checklist used by CIT and that the checklist was too complicated. Some members were concerned that academic freedom could be compromised with the Brightspace format requirements. There were concerns, too, that the CIT requirements encouraged redundancy and inefficiency.

Meeting ended at about 1:30

Next Chapter Meeting is April 27, 2026, 12:30 on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Russell, Ph.D.
NECCPA Secretary