

# MSCF Minute



An electronic publication of the Minnesota State College Faculty

## Happy End of Semester

by Gretchen Long, MSCF Secretary

As you read this, many of you are preparing for the end of our academic year. (Or you may have put off reading this until semester is done). You are finalizing grades, arranging last minute meetings with students, and attending the culmination of our year – graduation. It is a busy time, but also a time to reflect on accomplishments.

As you are celebrating the accomplishments of your students and colleagues, reflect on the role our union plays in achieving those accomplishments. Through our contract, we have secured teaching and learning conditions that support and enhance the success of our students. Hiring practices language and equitable pay create a stable faculty who can develop and maintain the student relationships so critical to learning and persistence. Credentialing provisions ensure students are taught by faculty who are not only subject matter experts, but who also know how to teach. Professional development provisions, including annual funds, sabbaticals, and internships support the continued development we need to meet the ever changing needs of our students. Faculty control and direction of the curriculum allow us to develop relevant and meaningful programs and courses, and our academic

freedom protections mean we can tailor our teaching to our individual strengths and the unique needs of each class. Shared governance language gives us a meaningful role in decisions about how to make not only our classrooms, but also our campuses welcoming, supportive environments for all students. And our pay and benefits provide the stability that allows us to contribute to our colleges and communities in ways that extend far beyond our classrooms. Each of us, I'm sure, can add to this list.

These provisions didn't just happen. Hundreds of current and former MSCF leaders supported by thousands of MSCF members demanded and were able to guarantee these provisions. Our willingness and ability to act collectively has given us the contract we have today, a contract grounded in quality teaching and student success. Together, we have achieved great things.

This year, we saw what was anticipated to be one of the greatest threats to our ability to act collectively in the form of the Janus case heard by the US Supreme Court. Our response, the response of our members has been overwhelming. Over 91% of our members have signed renewal cards reaffirming

their support for MSCF. Over 3,100 faculty have said, in effect, I know how important my union is to the things I value – decent pay, decent teaching conditions, and student success – and I'm sticking with my union.

Sometime this summer, the Supreme Court will release its decision in the Janus case, and about the same time, you will start hearing calls to drop your MSCF membership, either to give yourself a “raise”, or for a cheaper “alternative”. When you hear those messages, consider the contract provisions listed above and how critical they are to providing quality learning experiences and quality of life, and consider also the work that still needs to be done. Whether it's tackling a bad administrator or restoring funding for public higher education, addressing issues of inequity or protecting due process, as we have in the past, together we will continue to achieve great things.

### LOCAL ELECTION RESULTS NEEDED!

Please send the names of the individuals who will be filling the roles listed below to Janel Engesser at [janel.engesser@edmn.org](mailto:janel.engesser@edmn.org) if you haven't done so already.

Chapter President  
Board Member  
Legislative Liaison  
Membership Chair  
AASC Chair

Volume 4, Issue 32  
May 3, 2018



Click on Mark Grant's picture above for this week's legislative update

### ATTENDING THE DFL OR GOP STATE CONVENTION?

If you are attending the DFL or GOP state convention and would like to connect with your MSCF colleagues who are doing the same, send your name, cell number, and which convention you're attending to Janel Engesser at [janel.engesser@edmn.org](mailto:janel.engesser@edmn.org). We'll try to arrange a group meal during the convention.

### MSCF WORKGROUP MEMBERS NEEDED

#### Dues Restructuring Workgroup

This workgroup will study the possibility of restructuring MSCF dues, and bring a proposal to the December 2018 board meeting.

#### Delegate Assembly Review Workgroup

This workgroup will look at ways of reducing the cost of the DA in 2020 and beyond, and present a report at the December 2018 board meeting.

### CHECK BACK!

Remember to check the [MSCF website](#) throughout the summer for regular updates. Information regarding the Summer Leadership Retreat and Board of Directors meeting along with other current events will be posted.