

Assembly Insists on Iraq, Impeachment; Acts on Budget, Librarians

Brett M. Rhyne, Perspective editor

Delegates to MSCA's annual assembly passed several significant measures: resolutions calling for withdrawal from Iraq and the impeachment of President **Bush** and Vice President **Cheney**; a budget that does not include a dues increase; and constitutional changes that establish a committee to address concerns of librarians.

Dozens of delegates attended the assembly Saturday, April 28, held this year on the campus of the Massachusetts College of Art.

Delegates passed by wide margins resolutions supporting the immediate withdrawal of all American forces from Iraq, and the impeachment and removal from office of Bush and Cheney.

President **Patricia V. Markunas** was a vocal supporter of both measures. "Those of us in higher education who work with students every day are sickened by the violence in Iraq," she said. "Young people should be in classrooms, not war zones. It's a waste of lives and minds. Our troops need to be brought home immediately."

The Iraq resolution calls on the Massachusetts congressional delegation to "introduce and support legislation to block any further funding of the war," and to provide funds "only for the immediate and safe withdrawal" of troops from Iraq.

"Our vote demonstrates how seriously we take this war and its continued destruction of life and resources," said delegate **Ben Jacques**, professor of English and communications at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. "It's time to bring our soldiers home."

The second resolution lists six acts that "many serious Constitutional scholars consider to be impeachable offenses" — including civil and human rights abuses and overstepping the power of the executive branch — and calls on the state's congressional delegation to begin investigative proceedings against President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney, "to the end that they may both be impeached and removed" from office.

The Bush-Cheney administration shows no

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respect for the Constitution, the Congress, or the people it's supposed to serve," Markunas said. "They've spied on Americans, lied us into war, tortured foreign nationals, and put our troops in harm's way for no good reason."

"Support for impeachment is growing rapidly across the country," said delegate **Maynard Seider**, professor of sociology at MCLA and sponsor of the resolution. "Our hope is that local and state-wide efforts such as this will move Congress to action."

Other actions taken at the assembly include the ratifying of the union's budget for fiscal year 2008, which runs July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

Delegates approved a budget of \$475,250, an increase of just under \$20,000 from FY2007. Despite this, members will not pay any more for dues, with

the 1,500 full-time faculty and librarians continuing to pay \$230 a year, and the remaining 1,060 part-time workers paying less on a sliding scale.

The difference will be made up through reimbursement of \$43,000 to MSCA from the chapters, and a reimbursement for salary database management from the Massachusetts Teachers Association of \$9,300.

Union officers and employees received 3 percent raises across the board adding \$6,000 to the budget. Raises for the officers will be paid only when the next contract has been settled and funded. Delegates allocated \$10,000 for MSCA's biannual elections to be held next spring. Other budget lines saw only small

increases or decreases from last year.

For full details of the FY2008 budget, please see the March/April 2007 *Perspective*, or the union's Web site <www.mscaunion.org>.

Delegates passed two amendments to the MSCA constitution. As reported by MSCA Secretary **Nancy George** in the March/April *Perspective*, the amendments create a permanent Librarians Committee within MSCA, which will "seek to find resolutions to librarians' workplace challenges and advance issues affecting librarians and state college libraries to other members of the MSCA."

Prior to the passing of these amendments, the only recognized arena for addressing librarians' issues was an Ad Hoc Committee on Librarian Concerns, created in 2002.