

FOR THE RECORD

Washtenaw Community College Education Association
www.wccea.wordpress.com

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Board of Trustee Candidate Screening Process

By Kim Jones

The WCCEA takes our cue from MEA's own screening procedures:

MEA's Screening & Recommendation (S&R) process places control of MEA political recommendations in the hands of MEA members from across the state from diverse backgrounds and roles within the public education community. The process is governed by the MEA Political Action Committee (MEA-PAC) Council, made up of local delegates from MEA's 62 coordinating councils.

Recommendation decisions are based on candidate responses to questionnaires and interviews regarding education and labor issues only.

Recommendations at the state level are made by the Statewide S&R Committee, which is composed of elected members from various parts of the state and job classifications.

The S&R process for legislative districts is controlled at the local level, where interviews and recommendation votes are taken by MEA members from those jurisdictions serving on local S&R Committees.

At WCC, this year's screening process included two members each from the WCCEA (Kim Jones and David Fitzpatrick), WCCESP, and AFSCME. There were 10 total candidates: one declined the invitation, two never responded. So we interviewed 7 people, and it was highly enlightening. All candidates were asked the same six questions, with each member asking one question. We deliberated for awhile at the end of the interviews, and came to consensus on recommending **Dilip Das and Bill Milliken**. We asked pointed questions about their position on Board members and their interaction with faculty/staff as well as their role as Board members in general. We believe these are the two best candidates who will offer an opportunity to repair what is broken at WCC in a fair and just manner.

WCCEA BOT ENDORSEMENTS

Dilip Das (Appointed to vacant BOT seat in fall 2015)

Campaign website: trusteedas.com

"Students at WCC, like students at most community colleges, suffer from large gaps in course, certificate, and degree completion rates based on income, first-generation college status, race, and ethnicity. I have led the board discussion about what WCC can and will do about closing these persistent gaps, and hope to continue focusing on this issue, if elected." (Dilip Das)

Bill Milliken

Campaign website: billmillikenforwcctrustee.com

"The job of a Trustee is to set policies that enable the faculty and staff to provide our students with the best possible learning environment. With good listening and problem solving skills, and no agenda, I am in an ideal position to do just that. Trustees are also responsible for financial oversight, a task for which running my own business - Ann Arbor-based Milliken Realty Co. - has prepared me well." (Bill Milliken)

MEA Votes

*For information
about candi-
dates recom-
mended by your
fellow MEA
members, visit
the online voter
guide at
mea.yourvoter.guide*



**Board of Trustees
Meetings**

ML 150, 6pm

[http://www4.wccnet.edu/
trustees/](http://www4.wccnet.edu/trustees/)

October 25, 2016

November 15, 2016

December 13, 2016

Representative Assembly: What You Need to Know

By Kim Jones

When I was asked to pen a few words about what the Representative Assembly (RA) position on the WCCEA Board is all about, I faltered. How can I explain in mere words democracy in action? I can tell you, but you'll miss the excitement, the elegance, and the drama of it all.

Since I'm a fan of history, I thought I'd take you back to where it all began. According to the National Park Service:

- The first legislative assembly in English North America took place July 30 through August 4, 1619 in the choir of the Jamestown Church. This first House of Burgesses consisted of Company appointed Governor Sir George Yeardley, a six man Company appointed governor's council and two representatives from each of the eleven surrounding settlements or plantations. These representatives were chosen by election from among the settlers of each plantation.
- Like the early struggles of the colony itself, this first assembly suffered. It was hot and humid and many of the Burgesses were ill from the extreme temperatures. Indeed one Burgess had already succumbed to the heat as it was reported that on August 1st one Mr. Shelley of Smyths Hundred had died. The Governor decided that this first assembly would end after six days, on August 4th.
- Although it was not the intent, the effects of this first representative assembly would frame the foundations of our present government - where citizens can elect representatives to speak for them: a government "of the people, by the people and for the people."

So there you go. Robert Hatcher and I are the lucky ones who get to represent the Washtenaw Community College Education Association within the Michigan Education Association. We are there "when the magic happens". We vote for and against legislation that structures the organization. The most exciting event is the Spring RA, held in Lansing, Michigan in May. This is where ALL the RAs from all over the state convene. It's somewhat like being a congressperson in the Michigan legislature. It's big and loud and political. People vie for important positions on committees like the Anti-Privatization Committee, the Human Relations Commission, and the International Understanding Commission. Now no one died last spring, so it wasn't quite as eventful as the Jamestown meeting, but it was very official and we all were very legislative-y.

At the end of the day, the RAs work to make sure that MEA is working for all the members. We draft and revise the bylaws. We work to make sure that the organization moves forwards and adjusts to the changing landscape around us. We make sure we are a voice in Lansing when necessary and even nationally through the National Education Association.

There are many opportunities to get involved. MEA offers numerous professional trainings, and leadership academies. So feel free to talk to either Robert Hatcher or Kim Jones any time!

Something to Share?

If you have something to share with the Washtenaw Community College community and Board of Trustees, please remember that space is reserved at the beginning of every meeting of the Board of Trustees. WCCEA representatives use this time to address the Board, but you are encouraged to share your triumphs or concerns as well.



HLC Tuition Reimbursement

If you have been flagged and are on an educational plan to earn additional credits, you can submit for reimbursement upon payment of the tuition. The reimbursement request must be submitted within 6 weeks of payment. For reimbursement of continuing tuition, you must show a verification of a grade "B" or better for the previous class.

Should you have any questions about the form or reimbursement, please contact Liz Marinkovski in HR at 973-3588 or lizmski@wccnet.edu.



October 6, 2016

WCCEA General
Membership Meeting
430-530 in
LA275.