



Proposed Addition of Legislative and Policy Advocate Board Position

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We propose that a position be added to the Minnesota College Professionals Association (MCPA) Board to address Legislation and Policy Advocacy within Higher Education beginning with the 2018-2019 year. This requires a bylaw change that will be voted on by membership at the November 2017 Annual Meeting.

Rationale:

After much consideration, particularly given the increasingly complex political climate in Minnesota and nationally around Higher Education, the MCPA Board of Directors believes that it is our duty to members and the students we serve for MCPA to assume a more active role in non-partisan advocacy in the political and policy arena. An increase in political involvement and advocacy will reaffirm MCPA's commitment to inclusion, social justice, and support of students, staff, and Higher Education institutions in Minnesota. To this point, the Board has responded to current events and political actions affecting Higher Education through discussions and sessions at MCPA events, as well as open letters organized by the Presidential Team. In order to provide more oversight and action on behalf of the organization, the creation of a new position to the Board of Directors is required to further progress the organization's advocacy and legislative awareness.

Furthermore, with the proposal to reduce the two current Disability Commission Co-Chair positions to one Advocate position, the addition of a new position to the Board of Directors would allow the organization to retain the current number of Board Members.

Recommendation:

We recommend that one Legislative and Policy Advocate position be added to the Board of Directors. This position will serve to inform and propose appropriate actions to the Board on current events and legislation at the local, state, and national level that will impact the students and staff of our institutions.

Duties of the Legislative and Policy Advocate:

At the Board level, this person will be required to maintain a high level of knowledge on current events and legislative actions affecting Higher Education at the local, state, and national level. It is recommended that a successful individual in this position would have a background or interest in Higher Education advocacy and political discourse. The incumbent would propose appropriate actions to address events and legislation affecting students, staff, and institutions in Higher Education - these actions may include but are not limited to: writing statements on behalf of the Presidential Team and Board, communicating with local, state, and national political leaders, attending legislative hearings, organizing/attending advocacy events, and more as suggested by the advocate.

Please see the below position description for additional information.

Succession:

This new position will be in effect with the 2018-2019 Board beginning June 1, 2018, following established procedures for Board appointments.

Legislative and Policy Advocate (1)	
Term Length:	2 Years
Type:	Appointed Position
Team:	Inclusion
Committees:	N/A
Events to Coordinate:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Conference<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Solicit conference workshops that focus on current events, legislation, and advocacy.● Events and opportunities for members to be informed and take advocacy actions.● Inclusion Institute<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Inform the Inclusion Institute planning team on timely and relevant options for topics, themes, and speakers.
Must Attend:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Board Meetings● Conference● Inclusion Institute● Relevant political events and hearings● One additional membership outreach opportunity

Additional Duties:

- Organizes outreach to MCPA stakeholders regarding current events and legislation.
- Pursues knowledge around current issues and legislative actions affecting students, staff, and institutions of Higher Education.
- Proposes appropriate action to address issues and legislation affecting students, staff, and institutions of Higher Education.
- Seeks out and writes proposals for appropriate legislative and advocacy grants.
- Work with the Delegates at Large to ensure awareness of and address concerns about various policies within Minnesota's Higher Education systems that impact students and staff.
- Maintains accurate and timely information on website.
- Networks via meetings and events to explore, address, and actively assist the Board in raising awareness and inclusion of the needs of diverse students and professionals.
- Intentionally engages the Board in advancing equity and inclusion in the Strategic Plan.
- Utilizes role to make progress on the Strategic Plan.
- Maintains current membership in MCPA.
- Submits annual report in May to share with incoming Board members.