

## Annual Meeting Notes June 2012

### Some PHENOM Highlights of 2011-12

- I. Tangible Successes
  - a) \$20M/year Casino Funds for Public Higher Ed
  - b) Largest advocacy day
  
- II. Coalition Work – “Suits and Streets”
  - a) We organized the Student Debt March with Jobs with Justice, Occupy Boston, and SEIU
  - b) We convened the Summit Group which meets monthly and includes unions, legislators/aides, college administrators, students, Commissioner’s office, etc. It worked on:
    - Supplemental Budget
    - Casino funds
    - “Top 10 Reasons”
    - Advocacy Day
    - FY 2013 Budget
  - c) We worked closely with MSP (faculty/librarian union at UMA)
    - Student letter writing campaign
    - Economic Impact of Investment in Public Higher Education in Massachusetts
  - d) Great collaboration on campus work with
    - CEPA (UMA)
    - UMB Student Union
  - e) Student Immigrant Movement
    - against anti-immigrant legislations
  - e) Reaching out further
    - (national) Campaign for the Future of Higher Education
  
- III. Long-Term Planning Process
  
- IV. Publications
  - Top 10 Reasons to Invest in Public Higher Education
  - Economic Impact of Investment in Public Higher Education in Massachusetts
  
- V. Campus Events
  - Numerous showings/discussions of Student Debt film
  - Tour with Quebec students
  - Puerto Rican students
  - Framingham State, MCLA, Holyoke CC, etc.
  
- VI. Lots of meetings
  - Commissioner Freeland, legislators, unions, Pres. Caret, Crittenton Women’s Union, etc.
  - Spoke at numerous conferences
  - Testified at legislative hearings

## VII. Staffing Changes

July 2011: Ravi went from 30 hours/week employee to 4 hours/week consultant  
Alex went from part-time to full-time employee  
2011-12 Work-Study Students: Ben, Emily, Nicole at UMA; Derek at UML  
July 2012: Ravi's consultant stint ends; Ben starts as 5 hours/week consultant for  
technology and accounting

## Annual Meeting

### Notes on Big Discussion

Craig: asked for specific examples of grievances. Lindsay: stack it and if people want to come back who feel comfortable addressing it. Lisa: patience...change takes time...too much focus on inside game not enough on building campus power: making sure talking to under-represented campuses. Ben: supportive of the Student Association structure. Another student: GBLT...great organization...need to get everyone involved particularly community colleges. More work to do...wider leadership positions...better chance for students to be engaged...invest in the organization...USSA model will increase the amount of people who feel engaged. Dale: applaud what PHENOM has done..."everything"...all have done...like to see all of it continue to happen incorporating as many people as possible..partnerships between UMASS, community colleges, state universities... is this a matter of coalition building?

Discussion: PHENOM needs to articulate what role it plays in larger progressive movements. What is aim of this conversation? Aim address questions as a group? No plan to address proposals. Body has authority. Planning committee didn't intend for changes...discussion. Ferd: last year's meeting – state-wide student association which didn't happen. Hasn't been analyzed. Whatever structure/policy focus on...need to analyze. Center for Educational Policy and Advocacy which is a student group at Amherst looking to build a student movement. Discussion on very little state-wide meetings. By-laws call for it and very few meetings...more accessible and need for state-wide meetings.

Alex: difficult position as staff member. No formal procedure for grievances...felt only thing could do was to keep it between the parties...not useful to talk about individuals..biggest challenge as an organizer..can recruit but problem with retention and development. People leave...people dig heels...does staff remain neutral? Or, take sides for good of organization? Feels like outsider. Should have zero tolerance...need structures to address grievances. Discussion: PHENOM getting negative reputation...uncertain future if don't address. Need to achieve PHENOM's aims. Community colleges..traditionally lower income...power dynamics...current structure prevents interaction..how we make decisions and review? Change bylaws, change structure- example something came up mid-year...needed 1 week to respond as something was due..realistically people needed information 2 weeks out...one week to review, revisions sent back out...input not in...difficult in tight time frame as people especially students juggling...eventually students go away...terrible for engaging students from lower income...decisions

made by same few higher income...lots of energy getting people in the room to discuss issues but issues not addressed.

Marie: 50% people of color, 50% women, 30% GBLT...representation from niche... organizations from specific constituencies...2 years...Executive Board can be instructed how to specifically fill an open seat. Term limits either entire Board or have Advisory Committee not have voting seat. Proposal...still trying to figure put term limits...want to propose today and vote on it...if can't vote today vote in 2 weeks if not then want PHENOM to focus on lobbying and stop taking grants for non-profit organizing.

Lindsay: very focused discussion so far...do we want a broader conversation or specific to focus issue regarding bylaw? Discussion: dynamics...coalition...welcome most impacted...diverse Board gets to that. Craig: involved with PHENOM for awhile..attractive...state strong responsibility to provide affordable, accessible higher ed..necessary to provide support..economic means...strong public sector. How fight? Discussion: most impacted not engaged? Coalition...students...people very busy..how can we make it so people get involved? Difficult at Lowell...Conversation has felt Boston-Amherst. Hearing experiences around Boston-Amherst at the exclusion of others. Is this going to accomplish goals? Don't have answers: PHENOM more than students, faculty, staff on campuses. Is Massachusetts going to be a state with a public sector? PHENOM great...need stakeholders involved...diversity...lobbying is the tacit threat..need to be organized if not organized that threat useless. Had no idea about PHENOM..confused...do we have a vision statement? Need it for everyone...Ferd: 5 principles...like a mission statement and have a purpose statement in the bylaws. Discussion that is too lengthy...need something for public. Marilyn: 1. people need get involved when they think they have power 2. Have to know where we are headed- long range- crucial have lots of representation of people who have been excluded 3. If short-term what does that mean?

Discussion: how does PHENOM fit into the broader progressive movement? Need to be explicit. Underlying philosophy...mission and analysis of why things are the way they are..we are not clear. Do we have a number on the percentages? No- don't want to exclude. USSA and PHENOM Boards get elected. 5 at large we can appoint...subjective assessment. USSA has clear goals..e.very step of the process..strong formalized process...have a mechanism to appoint as many as needed...identity, region, member..state-wide...roughly 30 on Executive Committee...5 for PHENOM...16 seats divided among regions...stipulation 1 student each region...appoint 5...balance between representation and getting things done. Things are time-sensitive also cumbersome issues...representation crucial but not whole point...we need to make things happen.

Next Steps: 1. Proposal put forward 2. Next steps to continue to grapple...always good to have organization reflect..people representing...want to see better balance of grass roots organizing ...having people to represent constituencies key..concrete proposal...proposal to supplant elections today? Formal vote? Marie: if bylaws state can't be voted on today then whoever is voted in on a regional board stays...but vacancies need to meet new requirements. How will this work with bylaws? Ferd: outline of a proposal not a concrete...read bylaws..1. notice of special meeting...2. Ratification by 2/3 vote...3. Notice distributed to all members 10 calendar days in advance..4. Membership anyone in Massachusetts or affiliated with MA higher education who pays dues...should have had check-in on dues before meeting...

Discussion: distressed voices not heard...diversity important...not sure changing board will change things...discussed Dartmouth...time is reason why people don't get involved...concerned if move forward ignoring survey results...zero tolerance...what happens when people are filling 2 identities...favor of USSA model...instances where students felt turned away...travesty...institutional procedure...past, present, future...student-centered...embrace USSA model. Max: is proposal to get rid of geographical model? If so, worth a discussion. All agree problem with representation? Thought process...discussion when formed...region was significant. Problem with time...if long-term view...have to solve problem...discussion: for a few years felt not making progress...larger picture..."isms" are detrimental to the progressive movement...underlying philosophy...need another meeting to revisit points Hollywood: social network...don't know what a public higher education network is...need solid statement...regional needs to be addressed...need to take active approach...east active..want to get involved but turned away because limited amount of seats..dynamic...look around...whose here...whose talking. Stasha : no option on survey of none of the above,,,survey doesn't reflect these feelings...need a diverse Board...this is one piece of a larger puzzle...it is concrete...makes it our responsibility to go out and get representation...more clearer way to get plugged in...50% opaque policy discussion...bigger than just board. Alex: passionate...numbers in diversity...something to come away with yet still very hard to do...enormous time issues...regional issue is a separate issue...some activity in some regions...let's put people in slots...put people doing more work..."active" member...should be a bar to get to be a certified chapter...not saying representing and have 1 do it all...think about where you want to be but where do you live? 1. Diversity proposal and 2 not turn anyone away...build the Board differently.

Lindsay: proposal needs to be written out. Ken: good proposal overlay on what we have...larger board is important...more people involved...elect Board..if don't have right % then expand Board...new bylaw to have it done? SNEA at Westfield State...membership of 100 students...2/3 show up at meeting..made EB...functional job...also make sure representation from freshmen, soph, juniors, and seniors...continuity, came up with what jobs are important and designate as a Board job...might require more time in planning group...straw pole...10 day notice..call Delegate Assembly. Ferd: regional constituency – maximize number of colleges and universities represented...need time for alternative proposal and if elect Board can vote to mandate the new Board to add people and how to add people...another meeting then and also give some time for new proposals...Discussion around date...June 24...no provision for proxy. Notice has to be 10 calendar days...concern about time to get other proposals...Delegate Assembly..how to make happen? Not a lot happens at regular Board meetings. Other dates? Place? Alex: doesn't seem to be controversial about having the Delegate Assembly...seems broad consensus...proxy provision? July 8 given as another date? Sooner rather than later? Ferd: Can mandate Board to fill vacant seats.

Vote regarding June 24<sup>th</sup> as the date for Delegate Assembly. Passed. Leave it to the Board for location. Mathematically the 5 seats are not enough. Whatever happens...consequences...teeth. Proxy voting not referenced. Proxy on the Board done all of the time...difficulty if amended. Need to do the election for the New Board...Board is responsible for operation and implementing policies.

Nominating:

Greater Boston (3)

Alexis Marvel (student UMB) \* elected

Marie Hendrick (alumni UMB) withdrew her nomination

Stasha Lampert (alumni UMB) withdrew her nomination

Hollywood Aman (student UMB and alum of BHCC) \*elected

Monica Pool (faculty BHCC) not present to accept nomination

Jillian Mason (community) \*elected

Central (3)

Kim Selwitz (Framingham State alum) \* elected

Lisa Field (Fitchburg State alum)\* elected

North (3)

Craig Slatin (UMASS Lowell, faculty) \*elected

Ryan Manita (Middlesex CC student) \*elected

Phil Geoffroy (UMASS Lowell student) \*elected

Southeast (3)

Ron Weisberger (faculty Bristol CC) \*elected

West (4)

Max Page (faculty UMASS Amherst) \*elected

Brett Hausler (student UMA)

Pat Burke (student Westfield State)

Emily Round (student UMA) \*elected

Jen Healy (UMA student) \*elected

Vanessa Martinez (faculty HCC) \*elected

Marie and Stasha had withdrawn their nominations. Colleen and Dale were nominated but didn't accept.

Budget: majority of contributions are union donations. Not expecting a lot of new revenue. Need to focus on fundraising. Very close a couple of times not being able to pay Alex. Resting on a very few number of people. Norm has been \$3 per FTE for unions but this not public. Budget passed unanimous.

Short-term plans: take up next meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup>.

Reports and Announcements: Campaign for Future of Higher Education...Ron on the Board...is PHENOM officially involved? National organization...faculty...PHENOM endorsed so got a seat on the board...Ron is in the seat...similar work nationally. Discussed briefly Progressive Income Tax...referendum state-wide.

Issue on election...bylaws state no more than 2 from 1 campus but extends 3 to west...3 provisions this extension is spelled out...silent on 4. For purposes of this election, allow extension to 3 to west but recommend a bylaw change to clarify. Second...question called...motion passed.