



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Thursday, March 3, 2016
President's Office Conference Room**

Members in attendance

Susan Gold
Nick Hernigle, Student Trustee

Others in attendance

Dr. James Birge, President
Cathy Holbrook, Vice President of Student Affairs
Theresa O'Bryant, Associate Dean of Students
Dan Colonno, Director of Public Safety
Amanda Beckwith, Coordinator of Center for Service and Citizenship and the
Women's Center; Head Women's Volleyball Coach
Alexandra (Allie) Kadell, Student Government Association (SGA) President
Allison Gilbert, Women's Center Student Assistant
Ginger Menard, Clerk

Vice President Holbrook began the meeting at 9:12 a.m. noting that the focus of the agenda is on student safety as a follow up to issues discussed at the October meeting.

“It's On Us” campaign and “Safe Zone” training

Amanda Beckwith, Allie Kadell and Allison Gilbert shared information on two programs: “It's On Us” and “Safe Zone” training.

Allie Kadell explained that the plan to bring the “It's On Us” campaign to campus began last year and came to fruition this year. This campaign provides a more accessible and engaging way

to educate students, and all members of the campus community, about how they can help prevent sexual assaults.

MCLA's campaign began with a kick-off event followed by two weeks of tabling. During that period over 250 students signed the pledge to be an active bystander against sexual assault on campus. The Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) and SGA also partnered with the Women's Center to address this issue and shift the perspectives on campus so that students can become more aware and more actively involved in prevention. The goal is to include this training in fall orientation sessions.

"Safe Zone Training" took place on campus earlier in the semester in partnership with the Gay Alliance in Rochester. Training was primarily for staff members and included interactive workshops and discussions on language on how to create a welcoming environment for LGBTQ students. The next step in the process is to hold "Train the Trainer" workshops to share this with a larger constituency and create more safe zones.

Finally, MCLA will be hosting the 3rd annual "Live Out Loud Community Conference". The goal is to host the event at varying location throughout the Berkshires so this year it will be in Pittsfield at Berkshire Community College.

Campus Safety Updates

Director of Public Safety, Dan Colonno, provided updates on the structure of the Public Safety department, safety measures and programs that were implemented in the fall, and emergency management planning and procedures.

The safety measures and programs from the fall included forums that were held with adjacent neighbors to address concerns about local safety issues, strengthening the partnership and exchange of information with the North Adams Police Department (NAPD), and meeting with students residing off-campus to ensure they understood their responsibility for gatherings held at their residences.

SGA and Public Safety established a joint public safety committee to address student safety and evaluate areas of campus and pathways that needed more attention. As a result more lighting and blue lights have been added and walkways cleared. Additionally, as part of the Emergency Notification System, the "Guardian App" was rolled out for campus-wide use. This app functions as a "portable blue light" allowing the user to contact public safety with one touch. It also includes GPS which enables public safety officers to locate the user which is extremely helpful when staying in one location is not the safest option.

Finally, Director Colonna shared that the Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) has been restructured, the emergency manual updated, and additional emergency training is being provided to all members.

Other Business

VP Holbrook shared that it is challenging for students to find quick and accurate information on all campus events. Student Affairs is looking into a 3rd party app that will allow students to join groups, search for information based on interest, and track events and add them to their personal calendars. Further investigation into compatibility with other campus systems needs to be completed.

Student Trustee Nick Hernigle expressed concern with a lack of compliance regarding the smoking policy and use of designated smoking areas. It was noted that all other state universities are smoke-free. A discussion followed as to whether the College might want to pursue such a change in policy and what that process would look like as it is critical Important to provide education and sufficient notice when changing such a policy.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:01 a.m.