



**Minutes of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Thursday, October 19, 2017
Fitzpatrick Room, Murdock Hall 208**

The following Trustees were present:

Susan Gold, Chair
JD Chesloff, Vice Chair
John Barrett III
Mohan Boodram
Lisa Chamberlain
Buffy Lord
Rob Reilly
Kathleen Therrien
Stephanie Collins, Student Trustee

The following Trustee was absent:

Denise Marshall

Others present:

James F. Birge, President
Denise Richardello, Executive Vice President
Larry Behan, Vice President of Administration & Finance
Cindy Brown, Vice President of Academic Affairs
Dan Colonno, Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police
Cathy Holbrook, Vice President of Student Affairs
Theresa O'Bryant, Associate Dean of Students
Molly Fannon Williams, Interim Vice President of Institutional Advancement
David DiIulis, O'Connor & Drew P.C.
Ginger Menard, Clerk

Complying with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30 and 15A, Section 9, and with a quorum present, the Board of Trustees of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts met at 5:30 p.m. at Murdock Hall on October 19, 2017 with Board Chair Gold presiding.

Chair Gold called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m. She noted that the Board would be entering into Executive Session after the President's Report and would not reconvene in open session. She then introduced Chief Colonno to present a summary of the 2017 Clery Report.

2017 Clery Report

Chief Colonno provided an overview and reviewed the statistics of MCLA's Annual Security and Fire Safety Report, known as the Clery Report. This is a federally mandated report that includes safety and crime statistics from the previous three years from areas on campus as well as off campus areas for which the College is responsible, i.e. Gallery 51 and the Advancement Office. This year's report includes statistics from 2014, 2015, and 2016. Overall the report shows that MCLA is a very safe campus and this report reflects the College's commitment to keep the MCLA campus community safe.

A discussion of the report and the data followed.

Approval of Minutes: September 14, 2017 Board of Trustees meeting

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the September 14, 2017, meeting of the Board and all actions contained therein.

Report on the Minutes of the October 11, 2017 Fiscal Affairs Committee Meeting

Trustee Chesloff reported on behalf of the committee. The committee heard from Chief Colonno regarding the Clery report and received an update on facilities from Vice President Behan.

He then introduced Dave DiIulis of O'Connor & Drew to present the audit report. Mr. DiIulis reported that the resulting unmodified opinion of the College's financial statements shows that there are no Material Weaknesses or Significant Deficiencies identified within the report. He then provided an overview of the Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) as well as the Audited Financial Statements and Footnotes for the year ending June 30, 2017.

Mr. DiIulis provided an update on GASB 75 concerning liability for postemployment benefits other than pensions that is required to be implemented next year and will impact the College's net position. An additional GASB Statement 87 regarding a reporting of leases will begin after December 15, 2019. The Board discussed the impact of these additional statements.

Mr. DiIulis offered his thanks to the staff of Administration & Finance for their excellent and efficient work. He noted that the lack of material weaknesses or significant deficiencies speaks to the quality of the staff.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: Unanimously to accept MCLA's FY 2017 audited financial statements.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: To approve the minutes of October 11, 2017 meeting of the Fiscal Affairs Committee and all actions contained therein.

Report on the Minutes of the October 4, 2017 Academic Affairs Committee Meeting

Trustee Chamberlain reported on behalf of the committee. The committee also received an overview of the Clery Report. They then reviewed current and upcoming faculty searches and discussed the search process and the procedures for establishing search committees for the open positions. The final agenda item was a review of faculty contract negotiations and the current "work to rule" status. VP Brown is the MCLA representative to the COP for Collective Bargaining and she provided an update on the negotiation process and shared some of the issues that are of concern to the faculty and administration.

President Birge shared that MCLA faculty have remained committed to delivering academic content and continuing some additional work in terms of Admission events during these budget negotiations. He extended thanks to Faculty Union President, Graziana Ramsden, for her open communication with the College administration during this period.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the October 4, 2017, meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee and all actions contained therein.

Report on the Minutes of the October 12, 2017 Student Affairs Committee Meeting

Trustee Lord reported on behalf of the committee. Three volleyball players attended the meeting and shared their stories of why they chose to attend school out-of-state, how they found MCLA, and their journey to-date. Trustee Lord noted that it is always inspiring to hear from our students and she offered special thanks to Coach Amanda Beckwith for her recruitment efforts with the Women's Volleyball team.

The committee then receive an update on the Clery Report followed by a discussion regarding the implementation of making MCLA a smoke-free campus beginning fall 2018. Policy work and messaging is in process. The College will be providing cessation and support programs to support students, staff, and faculty who wish to take advantage of this option.

The final update was on the College's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives. An example of a small but impactful change has been a change in the software that allows students, faculty, and staff to select a preferred name and pronoun. All gender restrooms have also been designated in all of the main campus buildings. Workshops and trainings on inclusive pedagogy have been held for faculty and will continue throughout the semester. A workshop was held for front line staff on how to create a more inclusive environment, as well as one for professional staff to consider how they can advance inclusion from their individual roles. Additionally, some faculty and staff attended intergroup dialogue training last semester and have begun implementing these techniques through workshops with faculty and staff as well with students as part of the Campus Conversations on Race.

A number of Trustees inquired about whether the Clery Report needs to be presented at each committee meeting. The College will review and determine if there is any policy on this.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the October 12, 2017, meeting of the Student Affairs Committee and all actions contained therein.

Report on the Minutes of the September 14, 2017 Enrollment Management Committee Meeting

Trustee Boodram reported on behalf of the committee. The meeting began with Gina Puc providing an overview of the incoming freshman and transfer students. She also shared results from the Admitted Student Questionnaire which revealed that students ranked MCLA high for personal attention, quality of campus housing, and value

Elizabeth Petri then provided an update on financial aid update. She shared that 92% of full-time undergrads applied for financial aid this year, in-line with past years and 42% enrolled as of September were Pell eligible. She also noted that cuts to state aid programs this year had a significant impact on MCLA which increased the average gap to \$6,000.

The committee then discussed enrollment strategies for the fall of 2018 and Dean Monica Joslin provided an update on total enrollment and retention and strategies to increase the latter.

Trustee Barrett inquired about the average total debt for an MCLA graduate which is \$27,000.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the September 14, 2017, meeting of the Enrollment Management Committee and all actions contained therein.

Chairperson's report

Chair Gold offered her thanks to all who were able to attend yesterday's Hardman lecture with Byron Pitts. She noted that we are extremely lucky to have such accomplished and respected speakers at MCLA. She encouraged everyone to attend the final two lectures of the semester:

- The Elizabeth and Lawrence Vadnais Environmental Issues Lecture with Joanna Ballantine on Thursday, October 26 at 7 p.m. in Murdock 218. Joanna is the Vice President of the Western Region for the Trustees of the Reservations.
- The 7th Annual Michael S. And Kitty Dukakis Public Policy Lecture with CNN Senior Analyst and best-selling author Jeffrey Toobin on Thursday, November 16 at 7 p.m. in the Church Street Center.

Additionally, there were a number of emails sent back and forth about a date for the winter Board retreat. The final date is Friday, January 19th with the location still to be determined.

Chair Gold then shared a note from former Trustee and President of Washington & Lee University, Will Dudley, thanking President Birge and the Board for the plant he received in celebration of his inauguration.

Finally, Chair Gold noted that a few people had not yet returned the Confidentiality Agreement and Disclosure Questionnaires and asked that those be completed as soon as possible.

President's Report

President Birge shared that the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights (OCR) has contacted some of the state universities regarding website accessibility. The College has not been contacted but has formed a task force and engaged an outside firm to provide an audit of its website.

He noted that Executive Vice President Denise Richardello has decided to delay her retirement until the end of the academic year.

The 75K Gallery 51 funding that had been vetoed by the Governor has been overridden by the House and restored in the budget. Action from the Senate is still pending.

Faculty remain on “work to rule” status due to ongoing collective bargaining. Dr. Birge thanked MCLA faculty for remaining cordial and cooperative throughout this process.

President Birge offered that as of last week 20 applications had been received for the Chief Diversity Officer position. The search committee is being formed and the plan is to invite three to four finalists to campus later this semester.

President Birge then shared that the budget is in good shape after the first quarter and reserve funds have not yet been accessed as approved by the Board.

President Birge will attend a meeting with the Board of Higher Education (BHE) Strategic Planning Committee on October 24 and then the BHE meeting on October 31.

Executive Session

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, and a roll call vote of the Board, it was

VOTED: To go into executive session to discuss collective bargaining strategies as meeting in open session could have a detrimental effect on the process.

Following the discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded it was

VOTED: To end executive session.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 p.m.