



My College. Right from the Start.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Thursday, May 26, 2011
Murdock Hall Fitzpatrick Room**

The following Trustees were present:

Jane Allen, Chair
Stephen Crowe, Vice Chair
James Clemmer
William Dudley
Shirley Edgerton
Tyler Fairbank
Susan Gold
Richard Lamb
Dr. Eugene Leibowitz
Joelle McDonough

The following Trustees were absent:

Jameek Clovie, Student Trustee

Others present:

Mary Grant, President
Cynthia Brown, Vice President of Academic Affairs
Charlotte Degen, Dean of Students
Marianne Drake, Chief Advancement Officer
Bernadette Lupo, Coordinator of Marketing and Communications
Denise Richardello, Vice President of Enrollment/External Affairs
Jaynelle Bellemore, Student Trustee Elect
Joseph Charon, Director of Public Safety
Gerald Desmarais, Treasurer
Dr. Robert Harris, Associate Professor of Chemistry
Mark Berman, Chief Information Officer
Thomas Bernard, 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 5:05 p.m. in the Fitzpatrick Room, of Murdock Hall on March 24, 2011 with Board Chair Allen presiding.

Chair Allen opened the meeting by welcoming the Trustees. She also welcomed CIO Berman, Public Safety Director Charon, Dr. Harris from the Chemistry Department, and Student Trustee Elect Jaynelle Bellemore.

Approval of the Minutes of the March 24, 2011, Meeting of the Board of Trustees:

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: Unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2011, meeting of the Board and all actions contained therein.

Report of the April 13, 2011, Executive Committee Meeting:

Trustee Allen delivered the report on behalf of the committee.

She noted that many of the topics discussed at the meeting would be addressed in more detail in subsequent committee reports. She noted that Public Safety Director Joseph Charon facilitated a discussion about the potential of arming campus police officers. She highlighted the new Educator Recognition Award established by MCLA that was scheduled to be awarded on June 15, 2011.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: Unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2011, meeting of the Executive Committee and all actions contained therein.

Report of the April 28, 2011, Student Affairs Committee Meeting:

Trustee Fairbank delivered the report on behalf of the Committee.

He noted that the committee heard a briefing from Public Safety Director Charon on the question of arming campus police officers. President Grant informed the Board that every committee received a briefing on the question. In addition, Director Charon presented three campus input sessions for faculty, staff, and students, and also gave a presentation to the Student Government Association. The mayor and public safety commissioner of North Adams have also been informed that these conversations are ongoing.

The good feedback from the input sessions will inform work over the summer to review policies and statewide best practices, identify training needs and cost implications, and develop plans for ongoing input and discussion. There also will be a briefing to MCLA campus neighbors. Additional campus input will be scheduled in the fall before a recommendation is advanced to the Board for consideration.

President Grant noted that this is a complex topic, and there has been much thoughtful discussion at the committee and campus levels. She thanked Director Charon for his work in facilitating these conversations.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: Unanimously to recommend further study and developmental work around the potential for arming campus police officers.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: Unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2011, meeting of the Student Affairs Committee and all actions contained therein.

Report of the April 27, 2011, Academic Affairs Committee Meeting:

Trustee Lamb delivered the report on behalf of the Committee.

At the meeting, Public Safety Director Joseph Charon facilitated a discussion about the potential of arming campus police officers.

The Committee heard a presentation on the proposal being developed to reestablish the Chemistry Major at MCLA. Faculty have developed the major to include different tracks, with one sequence of electives intended to prepare them for graduate study, and another designed to complement a double major in education for those interested in careers as science teachers. The program and all courses have been through the curriculum approval process. Following approval by the Board of Trustees, the proposed major will be submitted to the Board of Higher Education (BHE) for acceptance.

President Grant thanked Dean Joslin and Dr. Harris for their work in developing the proposal. She also acknowledged Dr. Harris on his recognition by the Class of 2011 as Faculty Member of the Year.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: Unanimously to approve the recommendation that MCLA offer a major in Chemistry.

At the April 27 meeting, the Committee also discussed and approved recommendations that three members of the faculty be granted tenure. They recommended these candidates to the full Board for approval.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED To award tenure to Dr. Anthony Daly (History), Dr. Anne Goodwin (Biology), and Dr. Emily Maher (Physics).

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: Unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2011, meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee and all actions contained therein.

Report of the May 9, 2011, Fiscal Affairs Committee Meeting:

Trustee Crowe delivered the report on behalf of the Committee.

At the meeting, Public Safety Director Joseph Charon facilitated a discussion about the potential of arming campus police officers.

The Committee heard a presentation from David DiIulis, a principal with O'Connor and Drew, MCLA's current auditor. The College's contract with the firm has expired, but they were among the firms selected as service providers for the state universities and community colleges following a statewide bidding process. Mr. DiIulis provided an overview of O'Connor and Drew's qualifications and the services they offer public higher education clients, as part of MCLA's due diligence in affirming the relationship with O'Connor and Drew under contract for the next 3 years, with options to extend the contract for two additional years.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: Unanimously to retain O'Connor and Drew as the College's auditor.

The Committee discussed the renovation work at the Ashland Street warehouse property. The cost of planned demolition and renovation of the property will be more than initially estimated due to a variety of factors, including the collapse of one section of the roof due to heavy winter snow. The Committee is recommending that the Board approve available funding to complete the demolition, replace rather than repair the remaining roof, rebuild the north wall, and pave parking to replace spaces that will be lost through the construction of the Center for Science and Innovation. Ultimately, this will be an important property, but it is also expected that as detailed plans for the building are finalized there will be a request for additional funding.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: Unanimously to authorize President Grant to transfer funds from MCLA to the MSCBA not to exceed the amount of \$425,000 to fund demolition, parking and exterior construction work at the Ashland Street warehouse.

The Committee advanced a motion relative to student fees for the academic year beginning in September 2011. This is an annual responsibility of the Board. All committees of the Board received a briefing on proposed fee increases, and President Grant, Vice President Stakenas and Dean Degen briefed the Student Government Association of the proposed fee increase as well. This is a matter of great concern for SGA and the student body. When setting fees, the College looks at the state budget as well as data from other state universities. An important goal is that MCLA remains affordable to the maximum number of students. However, with continued reduction in state funds it is inevitable that additional costs will be passed along to the students.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: Unanimously to authorize President Grant to increase the Campus Support Fee by an amount not to exceed \$500 for the academic year beginning September 2011.

The Committee heard and approved a recommendation to write off student accounts totaling \$26,000. The College has completed its due diligence to collect these funds, and has deemed them uncollectable. While the accounts will be written off, a hold will remain on the records of the students who owe these balances against future collection opportunities.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: Unanimously to approve the recommendation to write-off \$26,000 in uncollectable accounts receivable.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: Unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2011, meeting of the Fiscal Affairs Committee and all actions contained therein.

Action: Approval of By-laws

Review of the by-laws has been an ongoing piece of Board business. Revised by-laws have been reviewed by the Board, as well as by the counsel for the State University System Council of Presidents.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: Unanimously to accept the amended by-laws as presented.

Action: Continuation of Presidential Authority

Chair Allen reminded that Board that this is an annual action taken at this time of year as the Board heads into recess for the summer.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: Unanimously to continue the President's authority to make such appointments and decisions that are necessary for the normal operation of the College during periods when the Board does not conduct regularly scheduled meetings.

Action: Report of Nominating Committee

Trustee Lamb thanked Trustees Clemmer and Edgerton for their service on the Nominating Committee. He noted that it was important to appoint a new board chair to help manage the transition as four trustees coming to the end of their terms of service in the coming year.

The Nominating Committee recommended to the Board that Trustee Crowe be nominated as Chair, and Trustee Fairbank be nominated as Vice Chair for a one-year term.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: Unanimously to approve the nominations of Steve Crowe as Chair and Tyler Fairbank as Vice Chair of the MCLA Board of Trustees for a one-year term.

Trustee Lamb thanked Chair Allen for her dedication and the passion she brought to her tenure as chair.

President's Report

President Grant provided an update on the MCLA strategic planning process. Faculty, staff, students, and alumni had opportunities over the past several months to provide input into the process, and the Strategic Planning Task Force has been working with this feedback to define the goals and high level strategies that will inform the next cycle of planning.

President Grant and the task force presented a draft framework of these goals and strategies to the campus community at MCLA's annual strategic planning retreat on May 25th. Senior staff will work during the summer to refine and expand the framework based on comment during the retreat and will then review the draft of the plan with the task force before presenting it to the campus, and ultimately to the Board, in the fall.

Trustee Leibowitz, who represents the Board on the task force, commented on the exciting level of engagement and involvement in the process from faculty, staff, and students.

President Grant thanked the Trustees for being part of this year's Commencement celebrations, and to the staff for their work in organizing and ensuring a successful ceremony.

The president informed the Board that the annual faculty TechFest professional development program was held on May 24th. She acknowledged the work of CIO Berman, Vice President Brown, and academic technology coordinator Mary Kavanaugh in presenting the program.

President Grant announced that MCLA was named to the Corporation for National and Community Service President's Honor Roll for Service in recognition of the important work

taking place through Student Affairs in collaboration with faculty and the Academic Affairs division.

The president reported that two MCLA students from the class of 2011, Ashton Darrett and Michael Obasohan, attended an event in North Carolina sponsored by PBS in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Freedom Rides, and the new PBS documentary Freedom Riders. Ashton and Michael – facilitators with MCLA’s Campus Conversations on Race program – were two of six students from across the United States selected to facilitate discussions at the event.

President Grant informed the Board that the Athletic department is exploring opportunities to partner in new ways with the City of North Adams.

The president thanked the members of her staff for their talent and dedication on behalf of the College and its students.

President Grant thanked the Board for their service during the past year, and Chair Allen for her leadership.

Chairperson’s Report

Chair Allen thanked the Board for their dedication and commitment to the College. She acknowledged the staff for their hard work throughout the year, and thanked President Grant for her transformational leadership of MCLA.

Trustee Crowe thanked Chair Allen for her leadership, and presented her with a gift on behalf of the Board.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.