



*My College. Right from the Start.*

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Thursday, October 27, 2011  
Murdock Hall Fitzpatrick Room**

The following Trustees were present:

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

Others present:

Mary Grant, President  
Charlotte Degen, Dean of Students  
Marianne Drake, Chief Advancement Officer  
Monica Joslin, Dean of Academic Affairs  
Denise Richardello, Vice President of Enrollment/External Affairs  
James Stakenas, Vice President of Administration & Finance  
Bernadette Lupo, Coordinator of Marketing and Communications  
Thomas Bernard, Clerk

Joseph Charon, Director of Public Safety  
Gerald Desmarais, Treasurer  
David DiIulis, O'Connor & Drew P.C.  
John Durkan, MCLA Beacon  
Todd Foy, MCLA Student Government Association President

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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 5:31 p.m. in the Fitzpatrick Room of Murdock Hall on October 27, 2011 with Board Chair Crowe presiding.

Chair Crowe opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees and acknowledging visitors to the meeting including Auditor David DiIulis, Public Safety Director Joseph Charon, Student Government Association President Todd Foy '12, and *MCLA Beacon* reporter John Durkan.

### **Approval of the Minutes of the September 27, 2011, Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the September 27, 2011 meeting of the Board and all actions contained therein.

### **Presentation on Student Referendum**

Student Government Association (SGA) President Todd Foy informed the Board that as part of the campus conversations around the question of arming MCLA campus police officers, SGA was developing a referendum to gather information about student opinions on the issue. The Board thanked Mr. Foy for sharing this information.

### **Report of the October 5, 2011, Fiscal Affairs Committee Meeting**

Trustee Clemmer delivered the report on behalf of the committee. There were two action items presented at the meeting.

David DiIulis, auditor with O'Connor & Drew P.C., was in attendance. He noted that O'Connor & Drew recently participated in the state's open bidding process for audit providers. As part of this process, he met with the Fiscal Affairs Committee and the full Board in May 2011. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to review the company's audit practices and services.

Mr. DiIulis summarized the MCLA audit for Fiscal Year 2011. The audit provided an unqualified opinion of the College's financial position. Mr. DiIulis had already done a thorough presentation to the Fiscal Affairs Committee at the October 5, 2011 meeting.

President Grant thanked Mr. DiIulis, and also acknowledged the work of Vice President Stakenas, Treasurer Desmarais, and the team in Administration & Finance for their work to support a successful audit process. She also acknowledged the work of Trustee Clemmer and the Committee for their careful review of the services provided by O'Connor & Drew which affirmed the relationship between the College and the firm.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** Unanimously to accept the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts Fiscal Year 2011 audited financial statements.

Trustee Clemmer and Vice President Stakenas summarized the FY 2012 budget for the Board. They noted that the budget includes projections to cover a variety of contingencies, including staffing, project costs, and costs associated with collective bargaining that get passed on to the institution by the Commonwealth. The College is being very careful about managing expenses and continues to identify opportunities to increase revenue. Budget models for FY 2013 are already in progress. Based on this thorough overview, Trustee Clemmer expressed the confidence of the committee in the budget as presented.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** Unanimously to approve the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts budget for Fiscal Year 2012.

The committee also discussed the College's financial reports for the fourth quarter of FY 2011, and received an update on the MCLA strategic planning process.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the October 5, 2011, meeting of the Fiscal Affairs Committee and all actions contained therein.

### **Report of the October 5, 2011, Academic Affairs Committee Meeting**

Trustee Dudley delivered the report on behalf of the committee.

The committee received an update on the MCLA strategic planning process. Trustee Dudley commented on the strength of MCLA's planning process, and the quality of the planning document.

The committee also heard an update from faculty members Maria Bartini (psychology), Ann Billetz (biology), and Rosanne Denhard (English/communications) who provided an overview on undergraduate research at MCLA. Trustee Dudley commended the faculty for this important work, and particularly for the strength of MCLA's undergraduate research conference.

The committee received updates on faculty searches and on the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education's Vision Project.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the October 5, 2011, meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee and all actions contained therein.

## **Report of the October 11, 2011, Student Affairs Committee Meeting**

Trustee Fairbank delivered the report on behalf of the committee.

The committee received an update on a standard “dear colleague” letter that MCLA, along with colleges and universities across the United States, received in the spring of 2011 from the Office of Civil Rights of the United States Department of Education. The letter pertained to campus responses to allegations of sexual assault; MCLA’s existing affirmative action plan meets the right to know requirements stipulated in the letter.

The committee heard from Public Safety Director Joseph Charon about the College’s annual Clery report and annual fire safety report filings. Director Charon updated the committee on the conversations he has held with campus groups about the potential for arming MCLA campus police officers.

The committee also received an update on the MCLA strategic planning process.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the October 11, 2011, meeting of the Student Affairs Committee and all actions contained therein.

## **Acceptance of MCLA Strategic Plan**

President Grant presented an update and overview of the College’s strategic planning process. She noted that the College has made great progress under the previous plan, and that the planning process provided an opportunity to be reflective about this progress, and how it positions the College to plan for the future from a stronger perspective.

She informed the committee that a Strategic Planning Task Force has been working on a new plan since January. She outlined the process of campus input that informed the development of the plan. Finally, she outlined the goals that will guide MCLA over the next cycle of planning:

- Excellence in Teaching and Learning
- Supportive and Inclusive Community
- Responsive and Intentional Stewardship
- Public Purpose and Engagement

An initial series of strategies and tactics have been developed to support these goals. It is understood that the strategies and tactics will evolve over time.

President Grant acknowledged the good work and dedicated participation of the task force. She thanked Trustee Leibowitz for representing the Trustees on the task force.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To accept the MCLA Strategic Plan.

### **Acceptance of Proposed Naming Opportunity**

Trustee Crowe informed the Board that a proposal was made to name the annual fall presentation of the MCLA Public Policy Lecture Series in honor of former Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis and his wife, Kitty Dukakis. This naming opportunity would highlight and advance the work MCLA has done in recent years around public policy through the lecture series, the political science and public policy major, and other initiatives. The proposal was presented to the Executive Committee on September 12, and the Board voted at the September 27 meeting to approve the proposed naming of the fall Public Policy Lecture, contingent upon receipt of a signed pledge to provide the necessary funds for the annual speaker and all expenses associated with the lecture. The College has a signed pledge in hand from the donor, along with a long-term commitment to fund the lecture series.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To name the fall MCLA Public Policy Lecture in honor of Governor Michael S. Dukakis and Kitty Dukakis. The event will be known as the Michael S. and Kitty Dukakis Lecture beginning with the November 1, 2011, lecture.

### **President's Report**

President Grant noted that the fall semester to date had been very busy, with many great events. She acknowledged the work of the senior staff in managing the many events and programs that have taken place, as well as in maintaining normal operations.

The president mentioned a recent campus visit and community conversation with new University of Massachusetts President Robert Caret, the groundbreaking ceremony for the Center for Science and Innovation, an upcoming meeting of the Berkshire Compact on October 31, and the opening of the MCLA-Berkshire Community College (BCC) education center at the Conte Federal Building in downtown Pittsfield. She also acknowledged the upcoming retirement of BCC President Paul Raverta.

President Grant noted that both she and Vice President Brown were participating in NEASC accreditation visits at other institutions during the fall. This work helps to provide insight and information as we look ahead to our next accreditation visit in the fall of 2013.

### **Chair's Report**

Chair Crowe informed the Board about the state university Presidents and Trustees association dinner that was held at Framingham State University on October 19<sup>th</sup>. He attended the dinner

along with President Grant and Trustees Allen and Edgerton. Lieutenant Governor Murray and Judith McLaughlin, chair of the Public Education Nominating Council, also attended the event. He encouraged the Trustees to attend future events of this nature as their schedules permit.

**Adjournment**

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

**VOTED** To adjourn the meeting at 6:23 p.m.