



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Thursday, May 3, 2018
87 Blackinton Street**

Members in attendance

Susan Gold, Acting Committee Chair
Mohan Boodram
Brenda Burdick, via teleconference
Rob Reilly
Mitchell Chapman, Student Trustee

Others in attendance

James F. Birge, President
Cathy Holbrook, Vice President of Student Affairs
Laura Mooney, Director, Athletics
Spencer Moser, Director, Center for Service and Citizenship
Ginger Menard, clerk

Chair Gold called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

Campus Food Bank Update

Spencer Moser provided an update on the Campus Food Bank project that was initiated by Sophomore Julie Gambill and Freshman Juliana Henault. There is a shelf in the Center for Service and Citizenship that has been designated for this use. They are still looking at other options on campus including mobile locations in various buildings such as the Wellness Center and RPS.

Spencer shared that as soon as students became aware of this project they asked how they could help which is reflective of our thoughtful and caring student body.

The committee discussed plans for a formal roll out with students and how to identify those in need. Trustee Boodram suggested working with Financial Aid. In the fall a campus-wide announcement will be made and Students in Center for Service received training on how to receive those coming in for food.

In addition to the food pantry there is a community meal card that can be used by those in need. Students can donate from their declining balances to this card and Aramark is graciously covering 50% of the cost of the card. Monetary donations to the card can be made through the Bursar's Office.

The committee discussed additional ways to share all support services available to low-income individuals while minimizing attached stigmas with these issues.

Athletics

Director of Athletics Laura Mooney provided an update on her department. The vision for all of athletics is "3-2-1"– 3.0 GPA, top 2 spot in the conference, and to work as one team. MCLA currently offers 14 NCAA Division III programs with 7 men and 7 women sports. Men's lacrosse will be added next season.

The Trailblazer Success Program has been implemented to help student athletes with their academics. PRIDE is new program for student development for more acceptance and awareness.

Two part-time coaches will be converted to full time positions. Full time coaches increase retention of student-athletes and they have other responsibilities throughout the year.

The committee discussed issues with athletic facilities and upcoming needs. The baseball field is the most pressing as it was only available for 2 games this year due to weather which impacts the number of games the team is able to play which also affects recruitment.

Director Mooney that the students behind the food bank project are also student-athletes. She also noted that division III athletes do not receive athletic scholarships only academic scholarships.

Tobacco Free Policy Implementation

Cathy Holbrook provided an update on the College's tobacco-free policy which is now in its implementation phase. Designated smoking areas are being eliminated. New signage is being prepared and some benches will be relocated that were previously placed to create smoking areas.

The community impact, including the effect on neighbors, is being addressed. The College will be notifying its neighbors and extending areas to provide clean up.

The tobacco-free task force has created a logo focused on clean air and created multi-media messaging to educate the campus community. Language is being added to contracts for those new to campus and print materials for students and staff will be updated.

A web page is being developed which will include resources to stop smoking. The goal is to offer support in all messaging, not pressure to quit.

Summer Initiatives

The College is working to enhance summer enrollment through residency programs. This summer a pilot program is being launched where students taking 8 credits or more will receive free housing – room only, not board. Currently anticipate that approximately 20 students will be taking advantage of this program.

Transportation will also be provided to North Adams, Williamstown, and Pittsfield for students so they can take advantage of internship opportunities.

Both programs will be evaluated at the end of the summer to determine future needs.

Trustee Reilly mentioned that there is a program required for teacher recertification that might provide an opportunity for MCLA. He will send more information to President Birge.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m.