



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Thursday, October 12, 2017
87 Blackinton Street**

Members in attendance

Buffy Lord, Chair
Mohan Boodram, via teleconference
Rob Reilly
Stephanie Collins, Student Trustee

Others in attendance

James F. Birge, President
Susan Gold, Board Chair
Cathy Holbrook, Vice President of Student Affairs
Amanda Beckwith, Head Volleyball Coach,
and Coordinator of Women's Center and Identity & Gender Equality Resource Center
Dan Colunno, Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police
Christopher Hays, HR Generalist
Jackie Krzanik, Director of Health Services
Laura Mooney, Director of Athletics
Theresa O'Bryant, Associate Dean of Students
Students: Mele Enomoto, Brooke Querpiel, and Tayler Wiese

Trustee Lord called the meeting to order at 8:27 a.m.

Student Athlete Discussion: Women's Volleyball

VP Holbrook thanked Mele Enomoto, Brooke Querpiel, and Tayler Wiese for being at today's meeting and sharing their thoughts about their experiences at MCLA. Mele, a senior from Hawaii; Brooke, a sophomore from Alaska; and Tayler, a senior from Nevada all talked about their respective journeys to MCLA and the connection they established with Coach Beckwith during the recruitment process. Brooke and Mele shared that they had not planned to attend college so far from home, but decided to take the chance after talking to Coach Amanda Beckwith. Tayler said that she

knew she wanted to attend a college in the Northeast so she could experience living in a different area from where she grew up. All three appreciate the education and experiences they have gained while at MCLA. Tayler believes that taking the risk of being so far from home was invaluable and being in a different environment helped her figure out how to be on her own, how to find a support system, and made her truly commit to her independence while still having the structure of a college setting. She would encourage other students to do the same.

It was noted that MCLA has strong athletic programs that provides wonderful opportunities to recruit students from across the United States. Special thanks were given to Coach Beckwith for her recruitment efforts and success.

Clery Report

Chief Colonna provided an overview of MCLA's Annual Security and Fire Safety Report, known as the Clery Report. This is a federally mandated annual 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, the Advancement Office, and 87 Blackinton. 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.

Smoke free MCLA 2018

Associate Dean O'Bryant provided an update on the plans to implement a smoke-free policy on the MCLA campus beginning September 2018. The College received an American Cancer Society grant for \$15,000 that will provide resources, including a part-time health services coordinator in support of this effort, as well as educational materials and access to smoking cessation tools.

Policy work is underway and a draft policy will be shared with the Student Affairs Committee and the full Board later this year. There are a number of issues to be considered as there are various stakeholders on campus including students (residents and non-residents), faculty, and staff so a balance between policy and expectations must be established. Other state universities and UMass policies and best practices are being reviewed as well.

It was agreed that the manner in which the policy is implemented and messaged is of utmost importance. The effort should focus on a commitment to clean air and providing an environment that is free from the dangers of secondhand smoke rather than simply prohibiting smoking. Becoming a smoke-free campus will require a shift in culture more than just an implementation of policy.

A committee made of a representative group of students, faculty, and staff will be formed to meet weekly to discuss implementation and education of this new policy as well as to determine how it might affect the immediate community around campus.

Trustee Lord suggested working with someone from athletics who might be able to offer physical outlets/alternatives for those who want to quit smoking. Student Trustee Collins shared that SGA is in support of this policy as well as “smoke-free” is more of the norm on college campuses these days.

2017 Diversity/Inclusion Initiatives

VP Holbrook reviewed the many activities/changes that have taken place to-date including the option of adding a “preferred” name and preferred pronoun in Banner as well as the addition of at least one all-gender restroom in each campus building. Workshops/training 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.

VP Holbrook shared that two faculty members have received APRs for the coming year to work more closely with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) group and the new Chief Diversity Officer when that position has been filled. The position has been posted and President Birge is assembling the search committee which faculty have agreed to participate on despite the current “work to rule” status due to contract negotiations.

Trustee Lord inquired about a non-binary option on college applications and staff will check with Common App to see if this issue has or will be addressed. Trustee Boodram mentioned the upcoming MA Transgender Anti-Discrimination Veto Referendum and the impact it might have on the College depending on the outcome. VP Holbrook and President Birge noted that the College will continue to focus on protecting the rights of its students regardless of laws that are passed or vetoed as has been the case with national issues as well.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.