



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Thursday, December 1, 2016
Fitzpatrick Room, Murdock Hall Room 208**

The following committee members were present:

Susan Gold, Chair
JD Chesloff, Vice Chair
Mohan Boodram
Lisa Chamberlain
Buffy Lord
Denise Marshall

Others present:

Dr. James Birge, President
Ginger Menard, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m.

Post-Election Forums/Climate

President Birge discussed the post-election climate on campus and throughout the region. He shared that a student rally was held on November 15 and a subsequent campus forum was convened on November 28.

It is critical that the real and palpable fears and tensions of the students, faculty, and staff be addressed. The union heads were asked to speak at forum on November 28 and discussions and events will continue to be held. Student Affairs created a resource page for the MCLA community and Counseling Services will be hiring an additional part-time counselor.

This work will continue into the spring semester. In addition to continued campus events, we will look at inviting a consultant to campus to facilitate the often difficult conversations about race and privilege. We will also continue to seek out opportunities to address campus concerns and create an environment/community in which all students feel safe and secure.

The COP is working with the state legislature to create legislation in support of DACA students along with the work happening at the state level to determine if campuses can be “sanctuary campuses.”

Advancement transition

President Birge provided an update on the Advancement and the steps being taken to fill the position of Vice President of Institutional Advancement.

Presidential evaluation

Trustees Chesloff, Gold, and Lord have agreed to serve as an ad hoc presidential evaluation committee. The goal is to have a draft by the end of the summer. The Trustees will review material from the DHE to determine input needed for the evaluation.

Strategic Planning

President Birge noted that the would be receiving more detailed information on the Strategic Planning process during Board Development. The work is proceeding in accordance with the initial timeline.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m.