



My College. Right from the Start.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Thursday, September 12, 2013
Murdock Hall Room 218**

The following Trustees were present:

Tyler Fairbank, Chair
Mohan Boodram
JD Chesloff
William Dudley
Shirley Edgerton
Susan Gold
Buffy Lord
Denise Marshall
Alyson Stolz, Student Trustee

The following Trustees were absent:

Stephen Crowe
James Clemmer

Others present:

Mary Grant, President
Cynthia Brown, Vice President of Academic Affairs
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

Others present (continued):

Thomas Alexander, Coordinator of ALANA and International Programs and Services
OjaeMichal Beale, Counseling Services
Kristina Bendikas, Associate Dean for Planning and Assessment
Joseph Charon, Director of Public Safety
Jordan Cohen, Admission
Gerald Desmarais, Treasurer
Christopher Himes, STEM Coordinator
Kayla Hollins, Admission
Suzanne Hunger, Associate Dean, Center for Student Success and Engagement
Osakpolo Igiede, Undergraduate Student
Ely Janis, History Department
Annette Jeffes, Associate Dean of Enrollment
Frances Jones-Sneed, History Department
Charles Kimberling, Director of Facilities
Curt King, Chief Information Officer
Roberta McCulloch-Dews, Web Communications Manager
Meaghan McMahan, Admissions
Virginia Menard, Assistant to the President
Joshua Mendel, Assistant Director, Admission
Paul Miranda, Admission
Scott Nichols, Director of Athletics
Celia Norcross, Director of Student Development and Campus Activities
MaryEllen Olenyk, Director of Admissions
Jennifer Perkins, Director, Massachusetts Office of Trustee Relations
Gina Puc, Director, Admission
Courtney Shepard, Continuing Education
Chelsea Stokes, Residence Director, Berkshire Towers
Terrell Smith, Assistant Director, Admission
Jake Powers, MCLA Student Government Association President
Dayne Wahl, Admission

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 Room 218 of Murdock Hall on September 12, 2013 with Board Chair Fairbank presiding.

Chair Fairbank opened the meeting by welcoming everyone back for the new academic year. He introduced Alyson Stolz, Student Trustee for 2013-2014. He thanked the members of the faculty and staff in attendance for their presence at the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes of the May 23, 2013, Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the May 23, 2013, meeting of the Board and all actions contained therein.

Report of the August 15, 2013, Meeting of the Executive and Fiscal Affairs Committees

Trustee Fairbank delivered the report on behalf of the committee.

In July, Governor Deval Patrick signed into law the state budget for Fiscal Year 2014 (FY 14). This year's budget included the increased funding for the state university system that the House initially wrote into their budget proposal. This is the first increase in appropriation that the state university system has seen in many years. Included within this appropriation amount is funding to support negotiated collective bargaining increases for campus bargaining units.

In recognition of the opportunity for increased funding, the Board previously approved a motion to freeze the campus support fee for the 2013-2014 academic year.

The Executive and Fiscal Affairs Committees reviewed the budget at the August 15 meeting and recommended approval of the budget for FY 14. President Grant and Vice President Stakenas will continue to keep the Trustees informed about income and expenses through the cycle of upcoming Board and committee meetings, as well as the work to ensure the budget is fully balanced when we close out the fiscal year in June.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: Unanimously to approve the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts budget for Fiscal Year 2013.

The committee also heard information about a naming opportunity related to the MCLA Center for Science and Innovation.

Through *Sowing Seeds for Success: The MCLA Campaign for the Future*, MCLA has received a pledge from a private donor to support a new endowment.

In recognition of this generous pledge, and in accordance with the College naming policy, President Grant and Marianne Drake presented a proposal to the committee to name the Center for Science and Innovation in honor of the donor. The donor has requested that the gift not be made public until it is announced at the MCLA Center for Science and Innovation ribbon cutting on October 4th.

The Executive Committee of the MCLA Board of Trustees reviewed and approved this recommendation on August 15, 2013, and recommended to the full board acceptance of this naming opportunity proposal.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: Unanimously to accept the naming opportunity proposal for the MCLA Center for Science and Innovation.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the August 15, 2013, meeting of the Executive and Fiscal Affairs Committees and all actions contained therein.

Office of Trustee Relations

Chair Fairbank introduced Jennifer Perkins, Director of the state Office of Trustee Relations. She provided a brief overview of the office and its mission, and thanked Trustee Boodram for serving on the advisory committee for the Office. She also shared information with the Board on the statewide Trustee conference scheduled for November 7th.

MCLA Disclosure/Confidentiality

Chair Fairbank reminded the Trustees about two required annual forms they must complete: the MCLA Confidentiality Agreement and the MCLA Disclosure Questionnaire. He requested that all Trustees complete and return these forms to Tom Bernard in the MCLA President's Office.

President's Report: Campus Priorities and Goals 2013-2014

The president welcomed everyone to the meeting. She touched on some highlights of the opening of the academic year, including the Convocation ceremony held at the start of the semester and a faculty panel for first year students and members of the campus community on themes in the book *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, a book that is part of every First Year Seminar course during the fall semester.

President Grant reminded the Board of the updated mission statement they approved at their March, 2013 meeting, and of the close alignment between the mission statement and the College strategic plan.

President Grant noted the continued challenge of enrollment and the continued challenges and opportunities presented by the many projects on campus.

The president then informed the Trustees that the members of the MCLA staff would present information about college programs and services. These presentations were designed to give the board a sense of the issues in each division and to set the stage for some of the discussion and action items that would come before the committees of the Board during the course of the academic year.

Strategic Presentations

Administration and Finance: Vice President Stakenas provided an overview of the division, and spoke to specific initiatives in the finance, information technology, facilities, and human resources areas. He welcomed new HR director MaryEllen Olenyk to the team, and thanked Treasurer Jerry Desmarais for his 40-plus years of service to the College, in advance of his retirement in October. VP Stakenas noted that although the increased state appropriation was a great step forward, a smaller student body resulted in less revenue.

Institutional Advancement: Marianne Drake, Chief Advancement Officer and President of the MCLA Foundation, Inc., updated the Board on the progress of the *Sowing Seeds for Success* comprehensive capital campaign.

Enrollment Management: Vice President Richardello introduced the new members of the Admissions team, and provided an overview of divisional activities. Gina Puc, director of Admission, highlighted national enrollment trends, offered a profile of the class of 2017, and discussed the recruitment plan for the class of 2018.

Student Affairs: Vice President Degen introduced the new members of the Student Affairs team, and presented the divisional mission as a framework for the College's student development programs and services. Public Safety director Joe Charon updated the board on professional development in the Campus Police department and the College's emergency planning programs. Athletic director Scott Nichols discussed athletic programs and their connection to the College and departmental mission. Finally, Suzanne Hunger, new associate dean of the Center for Student Success and Engagement (CSSE) shared her initial impressions of CSSE and the opportunities to strengthen the strategic partnerships that support programs and services delivered through the Center.

Academic Affairs: Vice President Brown provided an overview of the division. She invited faculty members Ely Janis and Frances Jones-Sneed to update the Board on the *Creating Equality* series, a celebration and exploration of the legacy and the continued importance of movements for social justice and change. Dean Monica Joslin and STEM coordinator Chris Himes discussed MCLA's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) programs, and the first session of the College's STEM Academy Program that was presented in August 2013. Associate Dean for Assessment and Planning Kris Bendikas shared progress on MCLA's institutional assessment plan, and the connection between our campus planning efforts and statewide initiatives including the Vision Project and AMCOA. Vice President Brown and Celia Norcross, Director of Student Development, provided a progress report on progress and preparation for MCLA's NEASC visit, which will take place November 3rd-6th.

President Grant thanked the presenters for the great quality of their presentations, and acknowledged the dedication, energy, and spirit of the MCLA faculty and staff.

Trustees Fairbank and Chesloff emphasized the clear connection and alignment of the various presentation as evidence of the strength of the MCLA strategic plan. Trustee Fairbank acknowledged the progress that the College has made through the planning process, and thanked President Grant for her leadership.

Adjournment

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

VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m.