



**Minutes of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Thursday, October 22, 2015
Murdock 218**

The following Trustees were present:

Tyler Fairbank, Chair
Will Dudley, Vice Chair
Mohan Boodram
JD Chesloff
Shirley Edgerton
Susan Gold
Denise Marshall
Nicholas Hernigle, Student Trustee

The following Trustees were absent:

Lisa Chamberlain
Buffy Lord

Others present:

Jim Clemmer, Interim President
Denise Richardello, Executive Vice President
Cynthia Brown, Vice President of Academic Affairs
Laura Brown, Director of Fiscal Affairs
Dan Colonno, Interim Director of Public Safety
David Dilulis, O'Connor & Drew P.C.
Cathy Holbrook, Vice President of Student Affairs
Monica Joslin, Dean of Academic Affairs
Curt King, Chief Information Officer
Theresa O'Bryant, Associate Dean of Students
Ginger Menard, Clerk

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 5:00 p.m. at Murdock Hall on October 22, 2015 with Board Chair Fairbank presiding.

Chair Fairbank called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes of the September 10, 2015, Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the September 10, 2015, meeting of the Board and all actions contained therein.

Report of the October 7, 2015, Fiscal Affairs Committee Meeting

Trustee Marshall presented the report on behalf of the committee.

David DiIulis (O'Connor & Drew) provided the Committee with a report on the FY 2015 audit. Mr. DiIulis is here and will discuss the audit in more detail following her report. Of note this year is the implementation of GASB 68 that requires each State University to assume a share of the net pension obligation for the state of Massachusetts. Though it does not directly impact cash balances it is now included as a net liability on the College's financial statements. The amount allocated to the College was based on an audit of the State's retirement system by KPMG.

The committee also received an overview of the Clery Report from Interim Director of Public Safety, Dan Colonno as well as updates on Facilities and IT projects.

Mr. DiIulis reviewed the required communications on financials and internal controls and reported that MCLA received a clean audit report. This year was extremely challenging due to changes within the state system and the adoption of GASB 68 as the statewide system had to be audited as a stand-alone entity which had not been done before. KPMG conducted that audit and the final report has been received. There is no change in the state allocation as reported to the committee on October 7.

Also affecting the financial statements this year was the Governor's 9C cuts for the College. As the State appropriation was recognized as non-operating revenue the fund transfer for the 9C payment was recognized as a non-operating expense.

Mr. DiIulis then reviewed in detail the audited financial statements and footnotes for the year ending June 30, 2015. Changes due to the implementation of GASB 68 include two new account lines, "Deferred Outflows of Resources" and "Deferred Inflows of Resources" on the Statement of Net Position (page 13), an added footnote on pensions (page 21), and additional schedules on pages 43, 44, and 45. Another change is the referencing of a single year in the "Notes to the Financial Statements" (2015) rather than two years as a result of KPMG's audit only encompassing a two year period rather than three.

Mr. DiIulis noted that one change in law which could significantly affect next year is GASB 75 which would require the assumption of liability for OPEB (Other Postemployment Benefits).

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: Unanimously to accept MCLA's FY 2015 audited financial statements.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the October 7, 2015, meeting of the Fiscal Affairs Committee and all actions contained therein.

Report of the October 15, 2015, Academic Affairs Committee Meeting

Trustee Boodram reported on behalf of the committee.

The committee received a presentation from Dr. Gerol Petruzella on the most current classroom technology in the newly renovated Bowman Hall. This includes Ultra Short Throw Projectors that, along with a special wall covering, allow the classroom wall to function as a white board and also project documents/webpages from a computer. The interactive touch surface allows the user to manipulate the projected computer images with one finger, instead of a mouse, or a special stylus. Easy interactive tools are available giving the user the ability to annotate and mark up the image on screen – like a transparent overlay – which can then be saved as an image on the network drive. Trustee Boodram noted that the College is fortunate to have this technology and can be a leader in this area among the state universities. Interim President Clemmer added that the cost of retrofitting other classrooms with this technology is being researched.

Professor Jenna Sciuto also provided an overview for the committee on the use of Canvas and “Dropout Detective”, tools for advising students and monitoring issues with attendance and performance. All First-Year Experience (FYE) faculty are using these tools. Approximately a third of the faculty use Canvas for advising.

The committee also received an overview of the Clery Report from Interim Director of Public Safety, Dan Colonno.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the October 15, 2015, meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee and all actions contained therein.

Report of the October 15, 2015, Student Affairs Committee Meeting

Trustee Edgerton reported on behalf of the committee.

The committee received an overview of the Clery Report from Interim Director of Public Safety, Dan Colonno and discussed communications and procedures during emergency situations. The Trustees were impressed by the teamwork between SGA and Public Safety as they are working together to conduct campus safety walks and respond to, and anticipate, the needs of the campus community.

SGA president Alexandra Kadell reported to the committee on the results of the SGA elections and their goals for the academic year.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the October 15, 2015, meeting of the Student Affairs Committee and all actions contained therein.

Report of the September 10, 2015, Enrollment Management Committee Meeting

Trustee Boodram reported on behalf of the committee.

The College is in the midst of a challenging enrollment environment. Though applications and acceptances have increased the yield is declining due to financial gaps. Additionally there was a decrease in student retention. Staff is aware of these challenges and are working on plans to address both enrollment and retention concerns.

Financial aid is a critical component in terms of yield as students are not able to afford the balance between what they have received in financial aid or scholarships and the balance due. The committee discussed the possibility of a future campaign specifically for financial aid.

Trustee Fairbank remarked that it will be important for the Board to take a position on the issue of increased financial support and the fundraising required to support it. He suggests delving deeper into this topic at a future meeting.

Annual Security and Fire Safety (Clery) Report

Interim Director Colonna provided an overview of MCLA's 2015 security and fire safety report, also known as the Clery report. He summarized the reporting process and requirements for annually reporting campus security and fire safety data required to be publicly posted by October 1st every year. He noted that the sexual violence policy has been expanded which includes the addition of a Title IX coordinator. This is also the first year that unfounded crimes can be removed from the final statistics. There is decline in burglaries attributable to the key card access system along with general safety education for the campus community. Also, the consistent decrease in drug and alcohol violations reflects a deliberate and intentional effort on education, prevention, and enforcement. The true intent of the report is to be a safety and security guide and it reflects of the efforts of the campus police department and the College to provide the safest possible living and learning environment.

Interim President's Report

Interim President Clemmer provided an update on state issues and shared that UMASS Lowell would be waiving testing requirement for admissions and that Salem State will be piloting a similar program this year.

He also shared that MCLA has not yet received Collective Bargaining funding and that the FY16 budget is being calculated without these funds. This issue is still being debated between the House and Senate.

He then provided an overview of the Berkshire Towers evacuation that occurred in late September. In response to the number of staffing changes the College will be providing additional emergency management training next semester.

The College recently held an Open House and he was encouraged to see the staff and faculty fully invested in this event. Participation is critical as we look to increase our student body and these events also provide a window into what parents are looking for in a school as well as the students. When our liberal arts mission is articulated clearly he found it appeals to both our students and their families.

Chair's report

Chair Fairbank reminded everyone that the statewide Trustee conference is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4.

He shared that the presidential search is progressing on schedule and extended his thanks to the search committee and the Trustees involved in this process.

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 6:12 p.m.