



My College. Right from the Start.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Thursday, August 28, 2014
President's Office Conference Room**

The following Trustees were present:

Tyler Fairbank, Chair
James Clemmer, Vice Chair (via conference call)
Mohan Boodram (via conference call)
Lisa Chamberlain
JD Chesloff (via conference call)
William Dudley
Shirley Edgerton (via conference call)
Susan Gold
Buffy Lord
Denise Marshall (via conference call)
Alyson Stolz, Student Trustee

Others present:

Mary Grant, President
Mary Ellen Olenyk, Director of Human Resources
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 2:06 p.m. in the conference room of 87 Blackinton Street on August 28, 2014 with Board Chair Fairbank presiding.

The meeting was called to order at 2:06 p.m. by Chair Fairbank.

Chair Fairbank welcomed the Trustees. He extended his thanks for their willingness to convene this additional meeting as the Board looks ahead to the coming semester and prepares to initiate a search for a new President.

Chair Fairbank asked President Grant for an update on the coming semester.

President Grant began by welcoming everyone and also thanking them for their time. She offered a special welcome to Trustee Chamberlain as this was her first Board meeting.

President Grant reported that some upperclassmen have already returned to campus. This includes student athletes as well as the "Helping Hands" volunteers who provide invaluable assistance and a welcoming spirit on move-in day to new students and their families. The class of 2018 arrives on Sunday, August 31 and includes 500+ students including transfer students. Opening Breakfast for Faculty and Staff will take place on Tuesday, September 2 followed by Convocation that afternoon at 4:00 p.m. This year's Convocation speaker is Kevin Barbary '85. Kevin is an Alumnus of the College and serves on the MCLA Foundation Board. The annual hike up Mount Greylock will take place on Sunday, September 7.

Chair Fairbank noted that this is the first opportunity the Board has had to convene since the announcement on August 1 of President Grant's appointment as Chancellor of UNC Asheville, effective January 5, 2015.

As the process of engaging a search firm for the a new President needs to happen in a timely manner, Chair Fairbank has acted upon his authority as Board Chair to appoint two Trustees to Co-Chair the Search Committee, a critical role in advancing the work of the Search Committee. Trustee Gold and Trustee Chesloff have agreed to serve in this capacity. In addition, Trustee Edgerton and Trustee Boodram have also agreed to serve as members of the Search Committee. The remaining members of the committee will be representative of the campus and include Faculty and Students along with Alumni and other constituencies. Each member will bring a unique perspective and skill set to this process.

As Co-Chairs, Trustees Gold and Chesloff will work with Chair Fairbank to manage the transition, assemble the Search Committee, and work with staff to oversee this important work. Staff liaisons for this process will be Executive Vice President, Denise Richardello; Director of Human Resources, Mary Ellen Olenyk; and Executive Assistant to the President, Ginger Menard.

Chair Fairbank reviewed the MA Department of Higher Education Presidential Search Guidelines distributed to all Trustees. The input required from the Board of Higher and Commissioner will be reflected on the finalized search timeline. He reminded all of the importance of an open process as there are many constituencies vested in the outcome. He also reminded the Trustees that the selection of the Search Committee is an open process and anyone interested in serving may put forward their name for consideration.

The current timeline has a goal of bringing forward the new President for approval at the April 28 Board of Higher Education meeting.

Request for Proposals (RFPs) will be sent to search firms with experience in Higher Education in the coming weeks. Proposals will be reviewed and firms will be vetted. Trustee Dudley agreed to participate in this process along with the Search Committee Co-Chairs. Per DHE guidelines the Board of Trustees is given the authority to contract with a search firm. Campus focus groups will be convened to allow opportunity for the MCLA community to provide input and thoughts on the Presidential Prospectus.

With the new email system in place, the MCLA Board of Trustees email addresses are now active. Board Clerk, Ginger Menard, reviewed instructions to access email and will be available to offer any assistance.

Due to the timing of the Presidential Search, President Grant reported that the search for the Vice President of Student Affairs will be launched in the spring. Associate Dean of Student Affairs, Theresa O'Bryant, will serve as interim Vice President, as Vice President Degen retires this fall after 40 years of service. Theresa is a graduate of MCLA and holds a JD from Northeastern University School of Law, and an MBA from Western New England University.

Chair Fairbank provided an overview of next steps:

- Review RFP with input submitted by Friday, August 29;
- Trustees Chesloff and Gold to work with President Grant to finalize the search committee and bring slate to the Board meeting on Thursday, September 11, for approval;
- Selection of search firm will be advanced by Search Committee Co-Chairs and Trustee Dudley.

Chair Fairbank addressed the timing regarding the appointment of an interim President. As Chair he is tasked with this responsibility and is still in the process of evaluating individuals in conjunction with the needs of the College. He hopes to speak more on this at the September meeting. The interim appointment must also be approved by the Commissioner of Higher Education.

Chair Fairbank noted that the College has an exceptionally strong and experienced senior team that will work together in support of the campus and the Board of Trustees. He has complete confidence in them and in the strength of the Faculty and Staff across campus and added that the College has never been in as a strong a place as it is now to manage such a transition.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:19 p.m.