



My College. Right from the Start.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Thursday, October 3, 2013
President's Office Conference Room**

Members in attendance

Shirley Edgerton
Alyson Stolz, Student Trustee

Others in attendance

Mary K. Grant, President
Charlotte Degen, Vice President of Student Affairs
Cynthia Brown, Vice President of Academic Affairs
Celia Norcross, Director of Student Development
Joseph Charon, Director of Public Safety
Suzanne Hunger, Associate Dean, Center for Student Success and Engagement (CSSE)
Manat Wooten, Assistant Director CSSE/Career Services
Thomas Bernard, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Trustee Edgerton.

MCLA NEASC Accreditation Update

Cynthia Brown and Celia Norcross provided an update on the College planning process related to the 10-year accreditation visit by a team representing the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) which will take place November 3rd-6th, 2013. The self-study document that forms the foundation of the visit was submitted to NEASC and the visiting team members in late September; a copy of the self-study also was provided to each member of the Board. Cindy and Celia thanked the committee and the Board for their engagement with the NEASC process over the past two years of planning.

President Grant noted that the self-study reflects a thorough process of campus engagement. She informed the committee that the NEASC self-study is closely aligned with the College strategic plan, itself an outgrowth of MCLA's 2003 NEASC review. It highlights both the accomplishments and progress that MCLA has made over the past decade, but also the areas where there are opportunities to do additional work and provide additional focus. In particular, the self-study identifies opportunities to build on MCLA's progress in the area of learning outcomes assessment.

She thanked Cindy and Celia for their leadership as MCLA's NEASC co-chairs. She also acknowledged the work of the more than 100 members of the campus community who contributed to the development of the self-study by serving on Standard teams.

President Grant informed the committee that there will be opportunities for the Board to connect and engage with the visiting team at a welcome reception and dinner on the evening of Sunday, November 3rd, and also noted that the Board is invited to attend the team chair's report that closes out the visit on Wednesday, November 6th.

Campus Safety

- Public Safety Director Joseph Charon updated Trustees on campus safety best practices, and provided an updated on MCLA's annual security and fire safety report, also known as the Clery report. He expressed the belief that the report reflects a commitment to keep the MCLA campus community safe.
- The committee discussed the report and the data.
- President Grant noted that the Clery report is available online, and that Director Charon has sent an announcement to the campus community to draw attention to its being posted.
- Director Charon noted that the Clery report for 2012 shows an increase in campus disciplinary referrals for alcohol and drug violations. Vice President Degen informed the committee that MCLA's report reflects national higher education trends in these areas. She noted that one event might involve multiple disciplinary referrals, which increases the overall number of violations reported, and also suggests that student use of alcohol reflects increased social use. She informed the committee that the College is employing several ways to provide additional health education about the use and risks associated with alcohol and other drugs.

Health Services Update

Vice President Degen informed the committee of the recent retirement of the College's health services director, and the successful search for a new director. The new director previously worked with North Adams Regional Hospital (NARH), and this relationship provides an opportunity to look at ways to enhance the relationship between the College and the hospital.

Enrollment Update

President Grant informed the committee that MCLA has 30 fewer new students in fall 2013 compared to fall 2012. She noted that the recruitment plan for the coming year has identified opportunities to deepen outreach and increase enrollment. She also discussed outreach through the Center for Student Success and Engagement (CSSE) and the Student Success and Retention Task Force to complement admission and enrollment efforts with initiatives focused on

enhancing student retention. Suzanne Hunger and Manat Wooten, recent hires in CSSE, discussed additional opportunities for CSSE to contribute to this important work.

Adjournment

With no other business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.