

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES FISCAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, October 11, 2016  
87 Blackinton Street**

**Members in attendance**  
Denise Marshall, Chair  
JD Chesloff, via teleconference  
Will Dudley  
Kathy Therrien  
  
  
**Others in attendance**  
Dr. James F. Birge, President  
Larry Behan, Vice President of Administration & Finance  
Laura Brown, Director of Fiscal Affairs  
Dan Colonno, Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police   
Dr. Cathy Holbrook, Vice President of Student Affairs  
Ginger Menard, Clerk

David DiIulis, O’Connor & Drew P.C.

Trustee Marshall called the meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

**Annual Clery Report**

Chief Colonno provided an overview of MCLA’s Annual Security and Fire Safety Report, known as the Clery Report. This is a federally mandated annual report that includes safety and crime statistics from the previous three years from areas on campus as well as off campus areas for which the College is responsible, i.e. Gallery 51, the Advancement Office, and 87 Blackinton. Overall the report shows that MCLA is a very safe campus and this report reflects the College’s commitment to keep the MCLA campus community safe. A discussion of the report and the data followed.

**FY16 audit review**

David DiIulis of O’Connor & Drew provided the Committee with a report on the FY 2016 audit. The resulting unmodified opinion of the College’s financial statements shows that there are no Material Weaknesses or Significant Deficiencies identified within the report.

Mr. DiIulis reviewed a prepared document on required communications with the committee that outlined the auditors’ responsibilities as well as accounting policies and the various steps taken during the audit. He noted that due to last year’s adoption of GASB 68 the College’s allocation of the state’s unfunded pension liability at year end was $3.8 million, a significant increase of $1.6 million from last year. The pension numbers are not yet final as the audit of the state pension plan is not yet complete. Those numbers should be available before the October 20th Board meeting.

Mr. DiIulis then reviewed the Management’s Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) as well as the Audited Financial Statements and Footnotes for the year ending June 30, 2016. A general discussion with questions on the financial statements followed. He noted that the College’s net position increased from the previous year as well as its unrestricted net and its Capital assets.

Mr. DiIulis noted that one change in law which could have a significant affect in the coming years is GASB 75 which would require the assumption of liability for postemployment health benefits. Final determination has been made as to whether each College will have to assume liability as with GASB 68 but it could happen in FY 2018.

Mr. DiIulis extended his thanks to the Larry Behan, Laurie Brown, and the Administration & Finance staff for their team effort in compiling all the information required for the audit.

Trustee Marshall called for a vote to accept the FY 2016 audit for advancement to the full Board at the October 20 meeting. Once accepted by the board, the audit will be filed with the state Comptroller.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** Unanimously to accept and advance the FY 2016 audited financial statements to the full board for acceptance at the October 20 Board of Trustees meeting.

**Other Business**

Vice President Behan provided a brief update on Facilities. The renovations to the Brewer Perkins building should be completed by the end of November. He met with EDM Architecture to advance a feasibility study on the redesign of the campus pool area to house a new fitness center, suspended walking track, athletic training space, and offices. He and his colleagues have been gathering feedback from campus constituents and the response has been positive. EDM will produce renderings of the proposed changes. The search for a Facilities Director is still ongoing.

Finally, Information Technology is working with the Title III grant team to advance the purchase and rollout of DegreeWorks software.  
  
  
**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at   
10:19 a.m.