



MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

**Minutes of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
Thursday, October 20, 2016  
Fitzpatrick Room, Murdock Hall 208**

**The following Trustees were present:**

Susan Gold, Chair  
JD Chesloff, Vice Chair  
John Barrett III  
Mohan Boodram  
Lisa Chamberlain  
Will Dudley  
Buffy Lord  
Denise Marshall  
Kathleen Therrien  
Brianna O'Rourke, Student Trustee

**Others present:**

Dr. James F. Birge, President  
Denise Richardello, Executive Vice President  
Bernadette Alden, Director of Marketing & Communication  
Cynthia Brown, Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Larry Behan, Vice President of Administration & Finance  
Dan Colonno, Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police  
Cathy Holbrook, Vice President of Student Affairs  
Catherine McKeen, Associate Dean of CSSE  
Theresa O'Bryant, Associate Dean of Students and Title IX Coordinator  
Harmony Birch, Editor, *The Beacon*  
Lisa Birge  
David Dilulis, O'Connor & Drew P.C.  
David Langston, faculty  
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 5:30 p.m. at Murdock Hall on October 20, 2016 with Board Chair Gold presiding.

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Chair Gold called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. She noted that the order of the agenda would be changed and the meeting would begin with Chief Colonno's presentation on the 2016 Clery Report.

### **2016 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. Chief Colonno presented additional information on Title IX including national statistics from 2015 and shared the various reporting pathways available for students that include Public Safety, the Title IX Coordinator, Health Services, and Counseling Services. A discussion of the report and the data followed.

### **Approval of Minutes: September 15, 2016 Board of Trustees meeting**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the September 15, 2016, meeting of the Board and all actions contained therein.

### **Report on the Minutes of the October 11, 2016 Fiscal Affairs Committee Meeting**

Trustee Marshall reported on behalf of the committee. The committee heard from Chief Colonno regarding the Clery report and received an update on facilities from Vice President Behan. She then introduced Dave DiIulis of O'Connor & Drew to present the audit report.

Mr. DiIulis reported that the resulting unmodified opinion of the College's financial statements shows that there are no Material Weaknesses or Significant Deficiencies identified within the report. He then provided an overview of the Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) as well as the Audited Financial Statements and Footnotes for the year ending June 30, 2016. Mr. DiIulis noted that the College's net position increased from the previous year as well as its

unrestricted net and its Capital assets. The unfunded pension liability, however, almost doubled due to the results of the actuarial study in response to GASB 68.

Mr. DiIulis added that there is one upcoming change in the law which could have a significant affect in the coming years - GASB 75. This would require the assumption of liability for postemployment health benefits. Final determination has not been made as to whether each College will have to assume liability as with GASB 68, but there is the likelihood it could happen in FY 2018. The Trustees discussed potential issues if the College were required to fund either GASB 68 or GASB 75.

Mr. DiIulis offered his thanks to the staff of Administration & Finance for their excellent and efficient work. He noted that the lack of material weaknesses or significant deficiencies speaks to the quality of the staff.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** Unanimously to accept MCLA's FY 2016 audited financial statements.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the October 11, 2016, meeting of the Fiscal Affairs Committee and all actions contained therein.

### **Report on the Minutes of the October 11, 2016 Academic Affairs Committee Meeting**

Trustee Chamberlain reported on behalf of the committee. The committee also received an overview of the Clery Report from Chief Colonno. They also discussed program updates and timelines for the addition of a Community Health Education major, a Health Science major, and an accelerated 3-year business undergraduate degree. Additional programs being considered are electrical and/or software engineering as well a possible 18-month MBA program. The committee also reviewed current faculty searches in progress and the Faculty Emeritus Policy that is now before the Board for approval.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To approve the Faculty Emeritus Policy.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the October 11, 2016, meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee and all actions contained therein.

### **Report on the Minutes of the October 13, 2016 Student Affairs Committee Meeting**

Trustee Lord reported on behalf of the committee. In addition to receiving an overview of the Clery Report the committee received a report on the success of the Honors Living Learning Community (LLC) that was instituted this year. Initially there were 30 slots available which was increased to 46. There are also 50 other students in the Honors program who are not in the LLC. Next year 2 additional LLCs will be added – one for STEM majors and one for undeclared students.

Trustee Dudley asked about the requirements for the Honors program. Students must pass a specific number of designated honors courses as well as meet benchmarks along the way to remain in the program. Trustee Lord commended Prof. Langston for being an exceptional honors professor.

The committee also heard from SGA President Tim Williams who shared SGA's goals for the academic year and also discussed the Campus Climate survey which President Birge will address in his report.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the October 13, 2016, meeting of the Student Affairs Committee and all actions contained therein.

### **Report on the Minutes of the September 15, 2016 Enrollment Management Committee Meeting**

Trustee Boodram reported on behalf of the committee. They reviewed statistics on the incoming class as well as trends in admissions and ongoing and new challenges. There was an increase in students from New York as of result of deliberate additional outreach, and an increase in transfer students from New York Community Colleges due to implementation of a NY Transfer program similar to the MA transfer program. Also, Admissions held an overnight program specifically for honors students which resulted in a 54% yield.

One key recruitment challenge has been the added requirement by the state of a 4<sup>th</sup> year of math and a lab science requirement. These new parameters are having the greatest impact on out of state students because of differing state curriculum standards. Students without those

requirements, no matter how academically advanced, can only be admitted as part of the 10% exemption allowed by the state.

There has been a positive response to the redesign of materials that include greater focus on outcomes. Additionally, the parameters for presidential scholars were adjusted resulting in a higher yield. The admissions counselors are also working closely with students to offer credit analysis for any students with previous college courses, not just transfer students.

The Financial gap remains around \$5,000 which is a challenge. Admissions counselor, Kayla Hollins, attended a week-long workshop on financial aid through The College Board.

### **Chairs Report**

Chair Gold reminded the Trustees about the upcoming Statewide Trustee Conference on Thursday, October 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at UMass Lowell.

She offered congratulations on behalf of the Board to Trustee Lord who received the Distinguished Alumni Award for Outstanding Service to the College at last weekend's alumni event. She also extended thanks to the Advancement staff for their hard work in putting together all the alumni weekend events.

She then shared that Trustee Lord has agreed to serve as the Board representative on the Strategic Plan Steering Committee. President Birge will share more about this process during his report.

On Wednesday, October 26 at 5 p.m. MCLA will be hosting the 1Berkshire Business Salute. President Birge will be the keynote speaker and all are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Additionally, the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Michael S. and Kitty Dukakis Public Policy Lecture with Cokie Roberts is on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. A reception precedes the lecture at 6 p.m. in Murdock 218. The lecture is at 7 p.m. will be in the Campus Center Gym. Governor and Mrs. Dukakis will in attendance.

In closing, Chair Gold recognized Trustee Dudley for his service as this is his last Board meeting. His resignation from the Board is official as of December 1 and he will begin his new position as President of Washington and Lee University on January 1. She thanked Trustee Dudley for his commitment to MCLA throughout his tenure as a Trustee during which time he also served as Vice Chair. On behalf of his fellow Trustees he will receive an MCLA chair as a thank you for his dedicated service to the College.

### **President's Report**

President Birge offered his thanks and congratulations to Advancement and Student Affairs for the success of Fall Family and Alumni weekend.

He noted that the Strategic Planning process will kick-off in the coming weeks and that a steering committee comprised of faculty, staff, and students has been selected. The steering committee will be co-chaired by Adrienne Wootters, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, and Gina Puc, Director of Admission, and the College will be working with consultant, Linda Campanella of SOS Consulting Group, LLC.

In addition, a newly formed Diversity Task Force has been engaged comprised mostly of faculty and students with a few staff members as well. The Diversity Task Force will work with consultant Cathryn Turrentine to conduct a Campus Climate Survey in the beginning of the spring semester. The task force will then review and discuss the results and develop a concept paper for outlining recommendations on how to create a more diverse and inclusive MCLA community that will enrich our experiences as professionals and students.

President Birge reported that earlier today Governor Baker announced that higher education will not be included in initial budget cuts necessary due to state revenues coming in below projections. The College does have a budget model prepared if there is any shift and additional cuts become necessary.

SGA has approved the retro-fitting of the pool area in the Campus Center to the next step is to advance the feasibility study. The College has bond funds from MSCBA that are available for this project.

As Chair Gold mentioned MCLA will host the Berkshire Good News Business Salute next week on Wednesday, October 26. This is a good opportunity to engage local business leaders with the College. This weekend the College is hosting the COPLAC undergraduate research conference and all are welcome to attend.

President Birge offered his congratulations and thanks to Trustee Dudley as well.

### **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 6:39 p.m.