



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Thursday, October 15, 2015
Bowman Hall 217**

Members in attendance

Lisa Chamberlain, Chair
Mohan Boodram

Others in attendance

Jim Clemmer, Interim President
Cynthia Brown, Vice President of Academic Affairs
Cathy Holbrook, Vice President of Student Affairs
Monica Joslin, Dean of Academic Affairs
Dan Colonno, Interim Director of Public Safety
Gerol Petruzella, Academic Technology Coordinator
Jenna Sciuto, Professor, English/Communications Department
Ginger Menard, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

Dr. Gerol Petruzella presented an overview of 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.

Academic Technology began holding workshops on this technology with faculty in June and they continue to work with them to identify how the technology can best serve and enhance their teaching.

Trustees then discussed the impact of technology on students in terms of learning and class interaction.

Professor Jenna Sciuto then provided an overview 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.

Dean Joslin noted that MCLA has received a grant from the Davis Educational Foundation to support this technology. This is the third year in a row that funding has been received and the foundation stressed that this is unusual but funding has continued because of the College’s impressive work to-date with their previous grants.

Professor Sciuto shared an example of course itineraries and assignments in Canvas. Many of her classes incorporate online discussions through this program. She also utilizes the projection technology to share student work and take notes that can be shared with the class afterwards which allows students to focus on discussion during the formal class period.

Currently only FYE faculty are using “Dropout Detective” to test its capability and usefulness. This program provides an easily accessible list of names in red for students missing assignments and/or classes. From there the professor can click on a name and send an email to contact the student regarding any issues.

Campus Safety Report

Interim Public Safety Director Dan Colonno provided an update on MCLA’s annual security and fire safety report, also known as the Clery Report, a federally mandated annual report. This report reflects statistics on campus property only and not the neighborhoods surrounding campus. Changes in the report this year include more specific categories and definitions related to sexual offenses. Colonno noted that liquor and drug law violations were down as a result of a concerted effort on education, prevention, and enforcement that has been employed. Additionally, Public Safety has been working in conjunction with Student Affairs to educate students on safety protocols and their shared responsibility in community safety. This report reflects the College’s commitment to keep the MCLA campus community safe. A discussion of the report and the data followed. Trustee Chamberlain asked if other state universities are reporting the same downward trends in campus crimes. As the most current reports were released on October 1 Vice President Holbrook noted that Public Safety will review those statistics as well.

Faculty Search Update

Vice President Brown provide an overview of the faculty searches approved for 2015-2016, for faculty who would begin service in September 2016

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:58 a.m.