



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 21, 2018
87 Blackinton**

Committee members in attendance:

Lisa Chamberlain, Chair
Frederick Keator
Kathy Therrien

Others present:

Susan Gold, Board Chair
James F. Birge, President
Cynthia Brown, Vice President of Academic Affairs
Monica Joslin, Dean of Academic Affairs
Shawn McIntosh, Assistant Professor, English/Communications
Mitchell Chapman, Student Trustee
Ginger Menard, Clerk

Trustee Chamberlain called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

New Communications major

Asst. Prof. McIntosh shared plans regarding the establishment of a Communications major. Currently, students who wish to focus on Communications receive a bachelor of Arts in English with a concentration in Communications. The establishment of this new major is in response to students interested in a stronger focus on studying broadcast and journalism and was vetted through focus groups involving all students in that department. This new major will provide more opportunity for selective crossover by students in their studies.

McIntosh also shared that Communications as a major is one of the fastest growing programs nationally and the #1 skill that employers are looking for is communication skills. The goal is to prepare students for the changing media and broadcast landscape by providing a comprehensive liberal arts background along with an understanding of the dynamics and trends behind technology. The importance of writing will also be stressed in the Communications major. In addition to the Communications major a concentration in Digital Media Innovation has been added as well which will include courses in digital production and management.

Dean Joslin reviewed the process necessary to have a new major approved by the Board of Higher Education. The next step in the process is to have two peer reviewers evaluate the College's proposal. The goal is to have the new major voted on at the June Board of Higher Education meeting.

Faculty Reappointments/Promotions/Tenure

Vice President Brown reminded the committee that reappointment and promotion are discussion items and only tenure requires a vote to advance the names to the full Board meeting on April 5. The requirements for each step are designated in the faculty contract with the Massachusetts State College Association (MSCA).

Reappointments are required each year until the sixth year when faculty must apply for tenure. Faculty can apply for tenure early, before their sixth year of service. There is also an option for early promotion based on the so-called exceptional clause, and this option applies to Prof. Justin Golub who is seeking promotion to Associate Professor as well as applying for tenure.

The committee reviewed the list of faculty for reappointment and had no questions. The following faculty have been recommended to the President for fifth, fourth, third, and second year reappointments.

Reappointment to a 5th year

Kerri Nicoll, Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work – Social Work
Jenna Sciuto, English/Communications

Reappointment to a 4th year

David Cupery, History, Political Science and Public Policy - Public Policy
Shawn McIntosh, English/Communications
Ruby Vega, Psychology
Kebra Ward, Physics

Reappointment to a 3rd year

Eric Doucette, Biology
Anna Jaysane-Darr, Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work - Anthropology
Erin Kiley, Mathematics
Chali Nondo, Business Administration
Samantha Pettey, History, Political Science and Public Policy - Political Science

Reappointment to a 2nd year

Tara Barboza, Business Administration
George Hamaoui, Biology
Hannah Noel, English/Communications
Victoria Papa, English/Communications
Nicole Porther, Biology - Community Health Education

The committee then reviewed the list of faculty for promotions and had no questions. The following faculty have been recommended to the President for promotion:

Promotion to Full Professor

Ann Billetz, Biology

Sharon Claffey, Psychology

Michael Dilthey, Fine and Performing Arts – Music

Dale Fink, Education

Melanie Mowinski, Fine and Performing Arts – Art

Elena Traister, Environmental Studies

Promotion to Associate Professor

Justin Golub, Biology

VP Brown provided a summary of the four professors applying for reappointment with tenure, and noted that the Committee on Tenure strongly supports all four of these applicants.

Trustee Chamberlain shared that it was very helpful to have met these individuals and heard about their work at previous Academic Affairs Committee meetings. As the annual tenure vote is an important component of the committee's work, those opportunities to interact with faculty are very important.

VP Brown also reminded the committee that faculty who meet the minimum requirements in service and time at rank, can apply for tenure with automatic promotion rather than having to go through each process separately. Professors Amber Engelson and Diane Scott among this year's applicants meet these criteria, so that a vote to reappoint them with tenure will also result in their promotion to Associate Professor.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED Unanimously to recommend reappointment with tenure for Mariana Bolivar, Amber Engelson, Justin Golub, and Diane Scott

Trustee Chamberlain asked that these professors be introduced to the Board at the April 5 meeting in advance of the vote to approve their reappointment with tenure.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee the meeting was adjourned at 9:29 a.m.