



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 8, 2014
President's Office Conference Room**

Members in attendance

Shirley Edgerton, Chair
Susan Gold
Alyson Stolz, Student Trustee

Others in attendance

Mary K. Grant, President
Charlotte Degen, Vice President of Student Affairs
Theresa O'Bryant, Interim Vice President of Student Affairs
Joseph Charon, Director of Public Safety
Jenn Craig, Coordinator of Student Activities
Brendan Peltier, President – Student Government Association
Ginger Menard, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 12:33 p.m. by Trustee Edgerton.

President Grant opened the meeting by extending her gratitude to Charlotte Degen as she will be retiring this week after 40 years of service to the College. She also thanked Associate Dean Theresa O'Bryant who will be stepping into the role of interim Vice President of Student Affairs as the search for the next Vice President will begin next semester after the Presidential search is underway. President Grant also acknowledged the work of the entire Student Affairs team and noted that their commitment to the students and their good work will be integral during this transition.

Theresa O'Bryant reported further on the shift in responsibilities during the transition period which includes the Center for Service reporting to Celia Norcross, student conduct issues and fraternities and sororities being handled by Lyndsay Isham-Morton, with Theresa continuing with compliance work. A notice will be sent to the campus regarding these transitional realignments.

Campus Safety Report

Public Safety Director Joseph Charon began with a report on the bomb threat earlier in the week and noted that the investigation into this incident is still ongoing. There will be follow up meetings to review emergency procedures.

Public Safety Director Joseph Charon updated Trustees on campus safety best practices, and provided an update on MCLA's annual security and fire safety report, also known as the Clery report, a federally mandated annual report. Additional categories this year include domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. 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.

The Clery report is available online and Director Charon has notified the campus community that it has been posted.

Director Charon noted that the referrals for alcohol and drug violations have decreased. This positive shift is the result of a concerted effort on education, prevention, and enforcement that has been employed based on data from previous reports.

Student Government Association

Brendan Peltier shared information regarding the work of the Student Government Association (SGA). SGA meets each fall meet to set goals for the coming year. This year's goals include a commitment to connecting with the campus community through involvement with athletics, clubs, and other student groups; building relationships between SGA and the Student Senate; supporting incoming students; and representing themselves on campus professionally and serving as role models.

Charlotte commended the students for their dedication noting that the SGA E-Board meets weekly to prepare and manage their work in addition to full SGA meetings held each Monday evening. SGA works closely with the student clubs and organizations and leads by example with their philanthropic efforts. Examples include the SGA scholarship, created in 2000, and the planning of the Sam Gomez race during Fall Family weekend. This year's proceeds will be donated to the local YMCA. In 2013 a donation was made to the Windsor Lake park project resulting in the creation of a beach volleyball court. Jenn Craig noted that SGA is the umbrella organization for all student groups as well as the four class councils including the respective class President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. As Student Activities Coordinator, Jenn assists each class council with fundraising and community building.

The Trustees offered their appreciation to SGA and the Student Affairs staff for their hard work and especially for the students' demonstrated commitment to community involvement.

Adjournment

With no other business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.