



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
October 15, 2020
MS Teams Audio/Video**

Committee members in attendance:

Brenda Burdick, Committee Chair
Robert Reilly
Susan Gold

Others present:

Mohan Boodram, Board Chair
James F. Birge, President
Adrienne Wootters, Interim VP of Academic Affairs
Lisa Lescarbeau, Clerk
Tara Barboza, Assistant Professor of Accounting, Business and Economics Department
Eric Doucette, Assistant Professor, Biology Department
Anna Jaysane-Darr, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Department of Sociology,
Anthropology and Social Work
Samantha Pettey, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Department of History and
Political Science
Jerome Socolof, Associate Professor of Arts Management, Fine and Performing Arts
Department
Jeremy Winchester, Associate Professor of Theatre, Fine and Performing Arts
Department

Trustee Burdick called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. beginning with introductions of Trustees in attendance.

Tenure Candidacy

Tenure candidates presenting at this session were:

- Tara Barboza, Assistant Professor of Accounting, Business and Economics Department
- Eric Doucette, Assistant Professor, Biology Department
- Anna Jaysane-Darr, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work
- Samantha Pettey, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Department of History and Political Science
- Jerome Socolof, Associate Professor of Arts Management, Fine and Performing Arts Department
- Jeremy Winchester, Associate Professor of Theatre, Fine and Performing Arts Department

Each tenure candidate introduced themselves to the Committee members, provided an overview of their background, scholarly work including publications and major presentations, and service, and responded to questions from the Trustees.

Faculty departed the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

Students on Campus

Dr. Wootters provided an overview of how students are performing on campus. The technology employed to conduct hybrid courses has worked, and students are participating in their course work. With regard to following guidelines instituted as a result of the pandemic, students are wearing face masks and complying with social distancing rules.

With regard to online course delivery, some students have had a difficult time adjusting to this method of class participation. Engagement concerns have arisen with these students, and CSSE, advising, and faculty are working together to reengage these students. Time management is most often the area needing attention, but some students are also struggling with how to move forward amid the pandemic.

The course withdrawal rate is on par with prior years. Academic Affairs continues to work with students who express a need to participate in courses in an online only method.

The holiday weekend has, at this time, had no impact on virus transmission with zero positive results being reported for the current seven-day period. Students were asked to provide their travel plans and to quarantine and be tested for COVID-19 upon return to campus.

Dr. Wootters expressed her appreciation for students who are working hard at complying with guidelines amid the pandemic, and participating and completing their course work. Faculty have done great work, teaching through masks and learning technology to continue to provide our students with a quality education.

Core Steering Committee

Dr. Wootters presented an update on the core curriculum, which is now ready to move to governance for review. A steering committee consisting of about 13 members will review every course in the core, and discuss each course with the respective faculty members. This committee will put forward to governance all courses that will carry the core designation. The new core curriculum is expected to be operating by fall 2021. Any courses not reviewed at that time will be granted a one-year pass and reviewed in the next year.

Spring Registration and Calendar

Dr. Wootters provided an update on spring registration and calendar. The spring term will mirror the fall in terms of course delivery in a hybrid manner. Exceptions for faculty to teach fully remote were due on September 24. The schedule for the fall semester is being developed with a mix of online and on-campus courses, breaking the classes into two groups as was done in the spring semester.

Spring registration will end in early November. Academic Affairs will work to accommodate those students who need medical accommodations, and those who need to be in specific courses in order to graduate on time.

With regard to the spring semester academic calendar, the Academic Policies Committee met and proposed the elimination of spring break and beginning classes on January 27. This proposal had unanimous support among faculty committee members.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee the meeting was adjourned at 9:46 a.m.