



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Thursday, March 7, 2013
President's Office Conference Room**

Members in attendance:

Tyler Fairbank, Chair
Shirley Edgerton (via conference call)
Dan Peluso, Student Trustee

Others in attendance

Mary K. Grant, President
Cynthia Brown, Vice President of Academic Affairs
Charlotte Degen, Vice President of Student Affairs
Theresa O'Bryant, Associate Dean of Students
Heidi Riello, Director Counseling Services
Tom Bernard, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Trustee Fairbank.

MCLA Mission Statement Update

President Grant and Vice President Brown provided an update on the process to revise the MCLA mission statement. The update is being advanced in parallel with MCLA's accreditation self-study efforts, and there is close alignment between the mission statement and the MCLA strategic plan.

Vice President Brown led a small team of faculty, staff, and students in drafting the new mission statement. Several campus groups – including the President's Council, accreditation self-study steering committee, the Student Government Association, faculty chairs and the student affairs division leadership team – provided comment on the development of the mission statement. The statement was presented to and endorsed by the All College Committee. The trustees had the opportunity to review an earlier draft of the statement at their February retreat. The Academic Affairs Committee of the Board will present it to the Board of Trustees for acceptance at the March 21st meeting of the Board.

Committee members discussed the statement and offered their support for the statement and the work involved in developing the statement. They commented that it was a clear and concise representation of MCLA and the values of the College. Trustee Fairbank commented on the

clarity of the language, and the fact that the statement was engaging and reflected his idea of the College.

President Grant thanked Vice President Brown and the members of the working group for their efforts in developing the new mission statement.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: To support the recommendation of the Academic Affairs Committee that the Board of Trustees approve MCLA's new mission statement.

Amnesty and Good Samaritan Policy

Theresa O'Bryant provided an overview of proposed changes to guidelines in the student handbook to align them with Amnesty and Good Samaritan practices. The proposal reflects recommendations included in a Dear Colleague letter that the United States Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights issued in April 2011 with reference to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

The proposed change would grant students amnesty from formal disciplinary action or sanction for alcohol and/or drug possession violations when reporting that an intoxicated or impaired student requires immediate medical attention. As a provision of receiving amnesty, students must agree to participate in and complete educational activities, assessments, or treatment as directed; failure to do so would violate the amnesty policy and subject students to disciplinary sanction for the alcohol and/or drug possession violations related to the reported incident.

This change brings MCLA's policy in line with current practices, and aligns with best practices at other campuses. The change also creates an educational opportunity around safe practices as information about the amnesty policy is disseminated among students and the campus community.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: To support the recommendation that MCLA adopt an Amnesty and Good Samaritan Policy as part of the college code of conduct.

Athletics update

President Grant informed the committee that efforts are underway to establish women's lacrosse as a club sport at MCLA as first steps to advancing a Division III women's lacrosse team. As part of this work, athletics and advancement are collaborating on fundraising efforts to support installation of lighting at the athletic complex.

College Student Mental Health

Hiedi Riello presented an overview of national trends and MCLA services in the area of college student mental health. She noted that nationally, student mental health professionals report increased numbers of students seeking treatment. The experience of MCLA's Counseling Services team reflects these national trends.

The committee discussed the national trends and MCLA experience, and noted that providing a high level of consistent service and support is consistent with MCLA's mission and values.

Adjournment

With no other business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:16 a.m.