



My College. Right from the Start.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Executive Committee

Wednesday, April 4, 2012

President's Office Conference Room

Members in attendance:

Steve Crowe
Jane Allen
Tyler Fairbank
Eugene Leibowitz

Members absent:

Jim Clemmer
Will Dudley

Others present:

Mary K. Grant, President
Cynthia Brown, Vice President of Academic Affairs
James Stakenas, Vice President of Administration and Finance
Kris Bendikas, Associate Dean of Assessment and Planning
Thomas Bernard, Clerk

Vision Project Overview

Vice President Brown and Associate Dean Bendikas presented an overview of the Department of Higher Education (DHE's) Vision Project. They highlighted the Advancing a Massachusetts Culture of Assessment (AMCOA) initiative. AMCOA is a statewide working group that meets periodically to exchange information, network, and share best practices related to campus and statewide assessment practices.

The committee had an in-depth discussion about the project and related activities. President Grant noted that while it is important to understand best practices it is equally important for campuses to not lose focus on their local assessment activities and measures.

President Grant and Vice President Brown informed the committee that there have been numerous requests for campus response on the Vision Project in the past year, but expressed

concern about the degree to which this feedback is being incorporated into Vision Project planning. Concern also was raised about additional demands on faculty and staff time.

Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Update

The House Ways and Means Committee budget recommendation for FY 2013 is expected to be released soon. While the College continues to budget conservatively, an increase in student fees will be part of MCLA's FY 2013 budget plan, with a recommendation to be presented to all committees during their April meetings.

Remote Participation in Board Meetings

MCLA Board of Trustees and Board committee meetings are conducted in accordance with the Commonwealth's Open Meeting Law. Under the regulations under the law established by the Attorney General's Office, Trustees may use technology to participate remotely in open meetings under the following circumstances:

- (1) Personal illness
- (2) Personal disability
- (3) Emergency
- (4) Military service
- (5) Geographic distance

Under these circumstances, remote participation is allowable, provided a quorum of the Board or committee is present at the meeting location, and that any votes conducted at the meeting are taken by roll call. Remote participation of any Board or Committee member, and the reason for this remote participation, must be announced by the chair at the start of a meeting, and recorded in the meeting minutes.

Before remote participation under any of these circumstances can be made available, the Board must adopt a motion approving remote participation by majority vote.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED That the MCLA Board of Trustees approves the remote participation of Board members in Board and Committee meetings providing such remote participation complies with the regulations of the Commonwealth, 940 CMR29.10.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:53 p.m.