



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
Minutes of the Meeting of September 30, 2022  
President's Offices, 87 Blackinton St  
Tele/Video Conference**

**Members in Attendance**

Denise Marshall, Chair  
Taylor Hope  
Robert Reilly\*

\*Denotes remote participation

**Others in Attendance**

James F. Birge, President  
Jeannette Smith, Vice President of Student Affairs  
Lisa Lescarbeau, Board Clerk  
Laura Mooney, Athletics Director

Upon establishing a quorum of the Student Affairs Committee members, Trustee Marshall called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

VP Smith introduced Student Trustee Taylor Hope, and attendees introduced themselves to Trustee Hope.

**Student Trustee Update**

Trustee Hope began with a discussion of being a student leader at MCLA. She expressed the need for more assistants setting up for events so student volunteers avoid using time otherwise dedicated to homework. Trustee Hope questioned if students could receive credit for their work as student leaders as it is similar to work and time that would be given to a class.

With regard to student group sizes, it was noted that there is little participation. Members of the ALANA group solicit for members weekly at Hoosac Hall.

The Committee discussed ways that administration could assist student groups, and Trustee Hope suggested a central location for information noting that Presence is not accessible on all mobile devices. While a social media directory is available, it is likely outdated and difficult to locate. It

was suggested that Trustee Hope connect with Ms. Jasmine Gancarz, the College's social media professional.

VP Smith acknowledged the amount of work student leaders undertake, and noted that the division is looking into student leadership models. The division is also looking into technology applications as Presence is in its final contract year. Vendors will be solicited and presentations will be made to students in the spring.

In addition to event scheduling, new software considerations include how the application works with conference room scheduling.

### **Athletics Update**

AD Mooney presented for the Athletics Division reviewing the team's 3 2 1 Vision: **3.0** GPA, top **2** in the Conference, and **#OneTeam**, and the values student athletes are expected to live. There are currently 14 sports at MCLA including ice hockey which is slated to begin competing in fall 2023.

Fall sports are going well at this time. Volleyball has two conference wins, and cross-country had a student finish in 15<sup>th</sup> place. E-Sports, a new endeavor this year, is also under way, and is building community and creating another affinity group. The goal is to compete against other college E-sports programs in Spring 2023 as others also formalize their programs.

In response to questions regarding scholarship awarding for E-Sports, AD Mooney noted that there are currently no restrictions around award money. Donation potential from College alumni was mentioned.

AD Mooney next discussed recruiting metrics for baseball, basketball, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball, showing student visits, applications and deposits for each sport. Conversion rate goal is one third deposits to visits.

She reviewed the living and learning community in Hoosac stating that athletics will seek an additional floor in AY24 for athlete housing.

A graphic showing the states that MCLA student athletes hail from was presented. This graphic, created by student Sam Edge, will be updated and a layer showing where all MCLA students hail from will be added.

AD Mooney reviewed additional student athlete impacts including retention and graduation rates that are at 73% vs. 56% for non-athlete students. Professor Ann Billetz has chosen to attend the NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative Institute. Coach Amanda Beckwith had her 200<sup>th</sup> career win in volleyball during September. There were 34 student-campus visits as of September 30, 2022.

Recruitment for hockey is underway for both the women's and men's teams. AD Mooney and VP Ziomek will meet with North Adams Mayor Jennifer Macksey to discuss ice rink access and use. A virtual preview day is scheduled for October 11 and an on-campus preview day November 11.

The Amsler Campus Center gymnasium floor has been resurfaced using colored stains that wear better than paint. The Zavatarro Complex turf replacement project was reviewed and a site visit is expected to take place in the coming weeks.

Teams gathered at the Complex in early September to paint a Pride Flag on the driveway entrance, and plans are in place to create a Black Lives Mural this month or in spring 2023 depending upon weather.

The Committee discussed recruitment methods for athlete and non-athlete students. AD Mooney noted that coaches typically run their own visits and include admissions team members when they are available. At this time of year, admissions staff are on the road recruiting.

### **Staff Update**

VP Smith reviewed current staffing in the Student Affairs Division. Recruitment efforts are challenging as the talent pool is small, and professionals are experiencing high rates of burnout and re-evaluating careers and life choices. Changes in state and federal mandates are having a high impact on recruitment and retention of public safety professionals. Strong competition for skilled employees, housing and transportation are also impacting staffing efforts.

Student Affairs efforts for employee retention focus on conversations around the divisions core, goals and mission. Current job descriptions and compensation are reviewed for right-sizing, and communications efforts are increasing to ensure employees are aware of what is taking place. Other areas being addressed include recognition, support and emphasis on self-care, and increased recruiting efforts through HR and other contacts. The division has also reorganized departments where appropriate including reimagining the Athletics Communications Director's position, and Counseling Services staff with the resignation of the Counseling Services Director.

### **Upcoming Events and Programs**

VP Smith commented on upcoming events and programs and discussed the Presence app used for communicating events.

### **Other Business**

In response to a question regarding student surveying, VP Smith stated that NSSE had been done in the spring and that data has just been received for analysis by Institutional Research staff. Additional surveys are being considered including an internal one for residential life, JED healthy minds, the MA state mandated Title IX, and racial climate on campus. Of concern is the timing and support needed to conduct these surveys properly, and, more importantly provide analysis and action to address the outcomes.

Trustee Reilly requested an update on fire safety programs and what MCLA does for prevention at the next meeting of this Committee. He also asked to invite a representative from the fire association for which his spouse is a participant. VP Smith noted that a fire drill of the residential halls had been conducted already this semester.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 a.m.