



*My College. Right from the Start.*

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

**Executive Committee**

**Wednesday, April 13, 2011**

**Admissions Office Conference Room**

**Members in attendance:**

Jane Allen, Chair  
Richard Lamb  
Eugene Leibowitz  
Joelle McDonough

**Others present:**

Mary K. Grant, President  
Charlotte Degen, Dean of Students  
James Stakenas, Vice President of Administration and Finance  
Joseph Charon, Director of Public Safety  
John Furman, Director of Facilities  
Thomas Bernard, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 p.m. by Trustee Allen.

President Grant welcomed John Furman, the College's director of facilities, who joined MCLA on April 4<sup>th</sup>. She noted that he is well-qualified to move the College forward on the several capital projects planned or underway.

Trustee Allen welcomed Mr. Furman on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

**Center for Science and Innovation Update**

The Center for Science and Innovation project is moving ahead, and there are several critical milestones upcoming, including selection of a construction manager, and a meeting in May with to certify the proposed project design. An open meeting has been scheduled for May 4, and more information will be provided to the Board.

## **Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Update**

The House Ways and Means Committee budget recommendation is expected to be released on April 13. The College will continue to budget carefully while continuing to move forward.

## **Public Safety Discussion**

Public Safety Director Joseph Charon facilitated a discussion about the potential of arming campus police officers. President Grant noted that this is a conversation that is taking place across systems of public higher education, and reflects the evolving nature and scope of public safety work. Allowing campus police officers to carry firearms will require a decision by the Board.

The committee had a detailed discussion about the issues and their implications, as well as the training and certification process campus police officers would need to undergo as part of being approved to carry a firearm. Committee members raised a range of issues, questions, and concerns.

Each committee of the board will receive a briefing on the potential for arming campus police officers. Ongoing developmental work at MCLA will include a review of policies, identification of training needs, and cost implications, and developing plans for ongoing input and discussion. This work will inform additional campus conversations and discussion in the fall and, ultimately, a recommendation to the Board.

## **NCAA Sports Sponsorship**

In order to remain in compliance with NCAA guidelines, MCLA must add two NCAA Division III sports in 2012 – one men's sport, and one women's sport. Planning is underway to determine the sports to add to the roster. It is important that in adding sports the College continue to build on its strong athletics programs and invest in those programs that still need facilities support such as baseball and softball.

## **Educator Recognition Award**

President Grant reported that as a reflection of MCLA's history in educator preparation, the College has launched an educator recognition award program for educators in Berkshire County. Nominations and applications are in process, and honorees will be recognized at a ceremony to be held at MCLA in June. In addition to recognition as members of an educators hall of fame, honorees and their districts each will receive a cash award. We will also invite educator alumni to this event.

### **Strategic Planning Update**

Trustee Leibowitz provided an update on the MCLA strategic planning process. He noted that the work is progressing rapidly, and that the members of the College's Strategic Planning Task Force are engaged and enthusiastic. Through the work to date, the group has identified key themes and goals that will be refined and presented to the campus community at the annual strategic planning retreat in May.

President Grant thanked Trustee Leibowitz for his work on the committee, and noted the strong work of all the members of the task force.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:24 p.m.