



MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, May 3, 2017  
87 Blackinton**

**Trustees in attendance:**

Lisa Chamberlain, Chair

John Barrett

Denise Marshall, *via teleconference*

**Others present:**

Susan Gold, Board Chair

Dr. James Birge, President

Cynthia Brown, Vice President of Academic Affairs

Monica Joslin, Dean of Academic Affairs

Prof. Amber Engelson, English/Communications

Prof. Justin Golub, Biology

Prof. Diane Scott, Arts Management

Ginger Menard, Clerk

Trustee Chamberlain called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

**Faculty Introductions**

As a follow up to the committee's request to get to know faculty who will be applying for tenure in the near future, Vice President Brown invited three faculty members to share information on their areas of expertise and their work with the students: Prof. Amber Engelson, Prof. Justin Golub, and Prof. Diane Scott.

Prof. Engelson teaches first year writing and is the director of the Writing Studio. She will also be taking over the coordination of the First Year Experience (FYE) program next fall. The Writing Studio is a resource for all students can bring in their work and work with writing associates. In the fall of 2015 the center had 46 in-person hour-long appointments for writing assistance and most recently in the spring of 2017 they had 179 student appointments. Prof. Engelson has also held workshops throughout the year on cover letter and resume writing.

Prof. Golub discussed his background in animal behavior and evolution. He teaches Bio-Techniques that are necessary for those working in the lab or in the field as well Bio-Statistics and Bio-Informatics in conjunction with computer science. He is the Chair of the Undergraduate Research Program and travels with students to the national research conference as well as plans MCLA's conference. Prof. Golub also oversees in-house animal care internships of which there are currently 3 students. He is currently working with students on a research project involving Zebra fish, on a local project to study owls and patterns in migration, as well as a project with alpacas to understand the genetics of coat coloring.

Prof. Scott is an arts management professor with a focus on business courses within that major. She noted that her students have used the services of the Writing Center and have presented at the Undergraduate Research Conference. She talked about her background transitioning from her undergraduate degree in theater to a graduate degree in business which led her to working with artists to develop entrepreneurial skills. Within arts management students focus on one of four areas: performing arts, curation, community engagement, or business. Prof. Scott shared that along with her colleagues they teach a broad range of a skills so that students have the ability to choose a wide variety of career paths within the arts. The Berkshires is especially beneficial because of the many cultural connections in all disciplines which provide internship and career opportunities. She noted that there are many graduates employed locally at places such as MASS MoCA, The Clark, and Berkshire Museum. She also shared that all of last year's graduates are employed in the field.

Trustee Chamberlain thanked Professors Engelson, Golub, and Scott for attending the meeting. She noted that it was especially beneficial for trustees to hear directly from the faculty about the work they are doing.

### **Faculty Emeritus Designation**

Vice President Brown reviewed the Faculty Emeritus/a policy that was approved by the Board at the October 20 meeting. Following that approval, VP Brown sent out invitations to all retired faculty who met certain criteria regarding this new policy. Individuals could self-nominate or be nominated to receive this new designation. As Faculty Emeritus/a they will maintain specific connections to the College including a college email address and library resources. Academic Affairs worked with IT and the Freel Library to ensure there would be no additional cost to the College.

The Committee was provided with a summary of those who were nominated or self-nominated to be voted on and forwarded to the full Board. These retired faculty members will also be invited to the Board reception following the annual meeting in May.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To approve the slate of nominees to be advanced to the full Board on May 25 for designation as Faculty Emeritus or Emerita.

VP Brown noted that in the future faculty will receive information on how to apply for this status when retire.

Dean Joslin extended her thanks to the committee for their support of the two new biology majors. They are being presented to the Board of Higher Education on June 20 and we will receive final word following that meeting.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 a.m.