



My College. Right from the Start.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 30, 2016
President's Office Conference Room**

The following Trustees were present:

Tyler Fairbank, Chair
Mohan Boodram
Lisa Chamberlain
JD Chesloff
William Dudley
Susan Gold
Denise Marshall
Nick Hernigle, Student Trustee

Others present:

Dr. James Birge, President
Denise Richardello, Executive Vice President

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

Board Appointment Update:

Chair Fairbank welcomed the board members and asked President Birge and Trustee Chesloff for an update on the new board appointment process. To date, MCLA has not received notification from the DHE relative to new trustee appointments. Secretary Peyser indicated to Trustee Chesloff that two of the three appointments should be made this week to MCLA's Board of Trustees. President Birge will follow up with DHE to ascertain the status of the BOT appointments and inform the board appropriately. Trustee Dudley also offered to provide recommendations for potential board appointments from Williams College with consideration of diversity representation.

Board Retreat Planning:

Chair Fairbank complimented MCLA for past planning efforts and emphasized the importance of maintaining planning as an institutional and organizational priority. President Birge affirmed the need for thoughtful and deliberate planning and offered insight as to his prior experiences at previous institutions. Discussion ensued relative to the need for a two-pronged approach to

strategic planning. One, related to the institutional strategic planning process and how the Board of Trustees will contribute and be involved with that process as well as the need for an expanded board orientation activity, considering new College leadership as well as new board members joining the MCLA. Trustee Lord recommended a summer retreat as an orientation to provide necessary information to assist in getting new board members up to speed. Trustee Chamberlain recommended a brainstorming session to set the agenda for a board retreat. President Birge will follow up to form an ad hoc group of the Board to determine priorities and agenda items for strategic planning discussions with the board. Trustee Chesloff recommended an update to the Board on county-wide economic development potentially at a retreat or utilizing the board development sessions for such topics.

Trustee Boodram offered that the Board should be mindful of timing for strategic planning based on efforts to move the needle on enrollment relative to the admissions cycle.

Update from the President:

President Birge thanked the Board again for their support and offered his excitement and enthusiasm about being at MCLA. President Birge continued by updating the Board on relative COP and DHE activity, as well as the uncertain funding for the collective bargaining obligations. Dr. Birge gave an update on the Vice President of Institutional Advancement vacancy and reported that Lois Lindauer LLC, the search firm, is building the pool with hopes to have candidates on campus in mid-May. Other updates included new student enrollment and activities, and an overview of his recent meetings with faculty and staff during his first four weeks. Dr. Birge informed the Board that he would be sending periodic electronic updates to assist in keeping the Board members informed of relevant College information.

President Birge also informed the Board that a discussion related to an increase in fees would occur at the next Finance Committee meeting of the board on May 4th which will be based on the budget status as well as projected enrollment.

Lastly, President Birge took the opportunity to thank Chair Tyler Fairbank for his dedicated service to MCLA as a board member and his three year service as Board Chair. Dr. Birge specifically noted Chair Fairbank's unwavering commitment over the last year and a half as he provided leadership through two presidential searches and made sure that the College continued to move forward. Dr. Birge presented Chair Fairbank with a personalized gavel acknowledging him for his decade of service to the College. An MCLA Windsor chair will also be delivered to Chair Fairbank.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.