



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Thursday, March 9, 2017
87 Blackinton Street**

Members in attendance

Buffy Lord, Chair
Mohan Boodram, via teleconference
Brianne O'Rourke, Student Trustee

Others in attendance

Susan Gold, Board Chair
Dr. James Birge, President
Cathy Holbrook, Vice President of Student Affairs
Cindy Brown, Vice President of Academic Affairs
Ginger Menard, Clerk

Trustee Lord called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Smoke-Free Campus update

VP Holbrook reported that this issue will be brought before College governance for input and ideas on the implementation of the Smoke Free Campus policy as it is important to garner support and involve the campus community in this important anticipated transition. The College also received a grant from the American Cancer Society to aid with smoking cessation which is an important component of advancing this initiative. The implementation goal is Fall 2018.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion update

VP Holbrook shared that conversations around diversity, equity, and inclusion have increased following the November 2016 presidential election.

A "Supportive & Inclusive Community" survey was created and with input from a small group of faculty, staff, and students, in conjunction with consultant, Cathryn Turrentine. The survey was launched in January and sent to student, faculty, and staff – each was version specific to its target audience. The response rate to the survey was significant enough to provide statistically

valid results. The survey results will support the work of Strategic Planning and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force.

Following the close of the survey, VP Holbrook and VP Brown have begun meeting with various groups on campus to disseminate the results. The results have provided evidence of areas in which the College is doing well and areas that are in need of significant improvement.

Areas to be improved upon include non-binary, LGBTQIA+ and students and employees of color who struggle to feel supported, welcome, and safe. Current campus conversations about diversity are sometimes described as uncivil and students tend to feel less safe, welcome, and respected when off campus.

Next steps involve sharing the survey results broadly with the MCLA community and identifying issues to be addressed immediately and in the long term. The results will also be shared with North Adams community leaders to address the issues that extend beyond the College campus.

Other Business

VP Holbrook shared that Student Affairs is bringing the “Dear World” project to campus on April 12 and 13. Trustees will receive additional information about this special event.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:41 a.m.