



My College. Right from the Start.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Student Affairs Committee
Thursday, March 8, 2012
87 Blackinton Street Conference Room**

Members in Attendance:

Tyler Fairbank, Chair
Shirley Edgerton
Steve Crowe

Member Absent:

Jaynelle Bellemore

Others present:

Mary K. Grant, President
Charlotte Degen, Dean of Students
Joseph Charon, Director of Public Safety
Spencer Moser, Coordinator of Service Programs & Activities
Jason Brown '13
Daniel Celentano '13
Lyndsay Isham-Morton, Note taker

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Trustee Fairbank.

MCLA Athletics Mascot Project Update

Dean Degen provided the committee with an update regarding the mascot selection process. The mascot submission process is ongoing, with 24 suggestions submitted to date. Once the submission process is closed, the mascot committee will work with the Advancement office to contact alumni with design expertise and invite them to create mascot character and costume designs for the MCLA community to consider.

Campus Police Advisory Group

Director Charon provided the committee with an overview of the mission and goals of the newly-established Campus Police Advisory Group. The goals include a review of departmental operations including firearms implementation, review of standards of training, and an ongoing partnership

with the campus police department to communicate the duties, roles and responsibilities of MCLA Campus Police Officers.

The first meeting of the group was held on March 2, 2012. It is expected that the group will meet at least once a month throughout the implementation process. President Grant and Director Charon offered that the focus of the group will be on education and communication throughout the firearms implementation process, and that they would also review the broader aspects of campus safety.

The committee also discussed the campus climate in the aftermath of the Board's authorization in February to arm MCLA Campus Police Officers. President Grant stated that community members are continuing to pay attention to the issue and express their opinions. Student Jason Brown '13 said that the student body has begun to move on regardless of individual opinions and are interested in offering input and continued involvement as the process moves forwards. Trustee Fairbank said that he noticed at a recent Student Government Association meeting he attended that students were professional, engaged, and interested in the issues. Trustee Crowe said he appreciated students' response to the decision as it demonstrated that they are thoughtful and engaged. The committee also discussed the media coverage of the process and decision (both on and off campus). President Grant offered that the MCLA student newspaper, *The Beacon*, provided fair, even coverage of the decision and subsequent campus response. She noted that off campus media did their best to cover the topic providing information about the process. Trustees Fairbank and Edgerton commended the College on its process.

MCLA Bicycle Share Pilot Program

Dean Degen, Spencer Moser, Jason Brown '13, and Dan Celentano '13 provided an overview of the MCLA Bike Share Pilot Program including information on its background, research, operations, liability, and implementation.

The Bike Share Program will provide students and staff with a mode of transportation around the local community. The program was initially proposed as part of the College's strategic planning process. The Center for Service partnered with the Dean of Students Office and student organizations to develop the program. The model MCLA has adopted is closely based on the program at Keene State College, including partnerships with the campus library and local community.

In the fall of 2011, an implementation plan was developed. Ongoing collaboration with the city of North Adams has resulted in a map of bike rack locations in downtown North Adams and encourages the establishment of downtown bike lanes.

The committee then discussed the logistics of the program. The College purchased seven bikes; six of the bikes will be available for check-out at the library, and one will be available at MCLA Gallery 51 downtown. Students and staff interested in using the bikes will be required to complete a waiver form and will receive bike safety information. The committee was interested in the issue of liability. Dean Degen reiterated that those who use the program will be provided with information on the prime risk factors of riding a bike, important safety information, and

information on what to do if an issue arises. She also noted that the waiver form was reviewed by College counsel.

President Grant thanked the bike share group for their good work on a well thought out program. She offered to continue providing support as the group continues to work with the City of North Adams.

A program kickoff event is being planned following spring break.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.