



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Thursday, October 20, 2016
Fitzpatrick Room, Murdock Hall Room 208**

The following committee members were present:

Susan Gold, Chair
JD Chesloff, Vice Chair
Mohan Boodram
Buffy Lord
Denise Marshall

Others present:

Dr. James Birge, President
Harmony Birch, Editor, *The Beacon*
Ginger Menard, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Strategic Planning Process

President Birge shared information on the Strategic Planning process to be launched in the coming weeks. The goal is to have a final draft of the plan to submit to the Board at the annual meeting in late May. Once the plan is approved it will be shared with the Board of Higher Education at their meeting in fall 2017.

He shared that the strategic planning steering committee will be co-chaired by Adrienne Wootters, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, and Gina Puc, Director of Admission. The committee members include:

Faculty: Mariana Bolivar, Zachary Finch, Ryan Krzyzanowicz, Nancy Ovitsky, Graziana Ramsden, Diane Scott, and Dan Shustack

Staff/Administrators: Amanda Beckwith, Jason Canales, Barbara Chaput, Charlie Cianfarini, Jake Eberwein, Liz Manns, and Denise Richardello

Students: Brianne O'Rourke and Adazae Sheppard-Edwards

Board of Trustees representative: Buffy Lord

Consultant Linda Campanella of SOS Consulting Group, LLC. will facilitate the process. She has extensive experience in strategic planning and has worked with other MA state universities so she is familiar with the Vision Project and other BHE priorities.

President Birge reviewed the past strategic planning processes. For this plan he would like to include metrics and set benchmarks that will allow for a clear measurement of outcomes and accomplishments. The process will be open and inclusive for the campus community as the plan will be more readily embraced if people feel their voices are reflected.

Diversity Task Force and Title IX overview

President Birge provided an update on the Diversity Task Force. A new committee has been formed and the campus has engaged consultant Cathryn Turrentine. She will work with the committee to create a campus climate survey that will be distributed to students, faculty, and staff.

The timeline is to have the survey results early in spring term which the task force will then review and evaluate and provide recommendations to the President. The committee has been tasked with addressing and offering recommendations on issues such as hiring practices, board appointment practices, student recruitment practices, diversity support structures, curricular reform, promotion of structured dialogue and/or common readings, crafting institutional strategies, and faculty/staff preparation. A discussion regarding campus diversity followed. President Birge noted that he hopes it is also an issue that emerges during the strategic planning process.

The committee then reviewed the Title IX law. As trustees are counted as responsible employees they must receive annual training which will take place following the meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m.