



**Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday, November 27, 2018**  
**87 Blackinton Street**

**Members in Attendance:**

Brenda Burdick, Chair  
Mohan Boodram (telephone)  
Eva Weeks, Student Trustee  
Frederick Keator

**Others in Attendance**

James F. Birge, President  
Denise Marshall, Board Chair (telephone)  
Cathy Holbrook, Vice President of Student Affairs  
Lawrence Behan, Vice President, Administration & Finance  
Michael Obasohan, Assistant Director, Multicultural Education Resource Center (MERC)  
Dale Osef, Career Development Specialist  
Anthony Napolitano, Employer Relations/Internship Coordinator  
Laura Mooney, Athletics Director  
Kerri Leyda Nicoll, Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work

Chair Burdick called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

**Athletic Facilities Improvement/Fitness Center Project**

Ms. Mooney provided an update on athletics beginning with the 3-2-1 vision:  
Athletes must maintain a **3.0** or higher GPA; place in the top **2** spots in the conference; and work as **1** team. She reviewed highlights relative to athletes including retention, diversity, PRIDE program, and graduation rates.

Enhancements made to MCLA's athletics programs include the addition of a men's lacrosse team and full-time head coach, full-time women's lacrosse and baseball coaches, and upgrades to the Zavattaro Athletic Complex. Access to the complex was also improved with the paving of the roadway and parking lot, and improved ADA accessibility.

Facilities upgrades included the renovation of the women's locker room and installation of new scoreboards for baseball and softball. Branded windscreens have been strategically placed at the complex to improve visibility. Future enhancements include renovations to the men's locker room, additional turf field seating, upgraded tennis benches and addition of a turf field scoreboard.

In response to a questions regarding funding for athletic improvements, it was stated that a portion is allocated in the annual facilities budget and the majority is done through Athletic department fundraising events such as the golf classic.

Trustees discussed the baseball fields and the cost of altering it to correct drainage issues. The cost of this upgrade is estimated to be approximately \$1.5mm and Ms. Mooney noted that discussions continue toward finding a solution to field issues.

Mr. Behan provided additional comment on the baseball field topography and the challenges to correct drainage issues.

Mr. Behan presented an update on the campus center renovation project including the fitness center and sports medicine room. Construction is anticipated to start during holiday break and run through summer 2019 with a goal of opening in fall 2019. Discussion followed regarding the interruption to and use of existing offices and other space.

## **Internship Program**

Mr. Osef introduced himself and Tony Napolitano to the Trustees. He began his presentation of the careers and internships at MCLA with an overview of the industries in which 2018 interns are serving. Career Services is focused on developing a culture of career on campus with direct outreach to students. Assistance with resumes and cover letters is provided to students. An increase in the number of students seeking out Career Services is increasing as is faculty participation.

Mr. Napolitano provided a summary of interests and opportunities feedback gathered from the November career fair which was attended by over 100 students. Businesses and employer participation in the fair were discussed. Many students were interviewed on site at this fair and nearly 30 students are signed up for spring internships as a result of participating in the career fair. Data and results tracking relative to the career fair were discussed.

High impact practices were reviewed. For the fall 2019 career fair, the goal will be to have 50 employers participating. Additional events will be held in the spring with participating employers being invited to campus in spring 2019 for themed weeks to recruit students for

employment. A resume, cover letter and networking series for student athletes will be held. Additional interview preparation for education majors will be completed.

Methods of communicating these planned career events were discussed.

### **Day of Dialogue and Coates Lecture**

Mr. Obasohan and Ms. Nicoll presented an overview of the Day of Dialogue and Public Policy Lecture featuring Ta-Nehisi Coates. Ms. Nicoll began with preliminary data gathered from responses completed by FYE students and provided a review of the schedule for Day of Dialogue events. Attendance and participation were discussed. Plans for future Day of Dialogue events, the process for approving a day without classes and the impact it has on calendaring were presented. Mr. Obasohan commented further on student participation and response.

### **Other Business**

In response to questions regarding the food pantry, Ms. Holbrook noted that this student service is operating well. The new location is visible, but discreet, and is open every day for a couple hours staffed by volunteers. The card for hot meals is being used. Discussions among pantry staff are taking place with regard to maintaining a diverse array of food. Trustees and staff discussed tracking and efforts to reduce and eliminate the need for the food pantry.

In responses to questions regarding funding of the food supplement programs, Ms. Holbrook highlighted MCLA's community interest and support for both the meal card and food pantry.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.