



My College. Right from the Start.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Academic Affairs Committee

Wednesday, April 27, 2011

Admissions Office Conference Room

Members in attendance:

Dick Lamb, Chair
Jane Allen
William Dudley
Susan Gold
Joelle McDonough
Eugene Leibowitz

Others in attendance:

Mary K. Grant, President
Cynthia Brown, Vice President of Academic Affairs
Monica Joslin, Dean of Academic Affairs
James Stakenas, Vice President of Administration and Finance
Joseph Charon, Director of Public Safety
Robert Harris, Associate Professor of Chemistry
Thomas Bernard, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Trustee Lamb.

Education department licensure program update

Vice President Brown reported that the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) delayed their planned April 2011 visit to MCLA to September. The delay, does not affect the standing of MCLA's licensure programs.

Educator Recognition Award

President Grant reported that as a reflection of MCLA's history in educator preparation, the College has launched an educator recognition award program for educators in Berkshire County. Nominations and applications are in process, and honorees will be recognized at a ceremony to be held at MCLA in June. In addition to recognition as members of an educators hall of fame, honorees and their districts each will receive a cash award. Educator alumni will be invited to this event as well.

Student Fees FY 2012

The FY 2012 budget process is underway. The House Ways and Means Committee budget recommendation provides level funding relative to last year's state appropriation. However, the budget recommendation does not fund collective bargaining for FY 2012, and federal stimulus dollars that were available in FY 2010 and 2011 will not be available for the coming year.

While the College continues to budget conservatively, an increase in student fees will be part of MCLA's FY 2012 budget plan. With any fee increase, the goal will be to ensure that MCLA remains affordable to the maximum number of students. In addition, scholarship dollars continue to be a fundraising priority in order to provide support to students.

President Grant noted that setting fees is an important statutory function of the Board of Trustees. Each committee of the board will receive a briefing on the FY 2012 fee recommendation, but it is the Fiscal Affairs Committee that will carry the motion to the full board for approval at their May meeting.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED to support the recommendation that President Grant be authorized to increase the MCLA Campus Support Fee by an amount not to exceed \$500 for the academic year beginning September 2011.

Public Safety Discussion

Public Safety Director Joseph Charon facilitated a discussion about the potential of arming campus police officers. President Grant noted that this is a conversation that is taking place across systems of public higher education, and reflects the evolving nature and scope of public safety work. Allowing campus police officers to carry firearms will require a decision by the Board.

The committee had a detailed discussion about the issues and their implications, as well as the training and certification process campus police officers would need to undergo as part of being approved to carry a firearm. Committee members raised a range of issues, questions, and concerns.

Each committee of the board will receive a briefing on the potential for arming campus police officers. Ongoing developmental work at MCLA will include a review of policies, identification of training needs, and cost implications, and developing plans for ongoing input and discussion. This work will inform additional campus conversations and discussion in the fall and, ultimately, a recommendation to the Board.

Chemistry Major Proposal

Vice President Brown and Dean Joslin provided an update on the proposal being advanced to reestablish the Chemistry Major at MCLA. Dr. Rob Harris attended to lead discussion and answer questions.

The major is being developed to allow students to structure their program along different tracks, with one sequence of electives intended to prepare them for graduate study, and another designed to complement a double major in education for those interested in pursue careers as science teachers.

Dean Joslin reminded the committee that approving a major is a thorough process. In addition to careful review at the department and campus governance levels, the major proposal received external review, the findings of which informed the final proposal.

The committee discussed staffing, accreditation, and equipment needs related to the major, as well as opportunities for collaboration with other institutions.

The proposed major must be approved by the Board of Trustees. It must then be submitted to the Board of Higher Education (BHE) for approval.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED to approve the recommendation that MCLA offer a major in Chemistry.

Faculty Promotions

Vice President Brown has recommended and the president has approved the following faculty for promotion.

Associate Professor:

Dr. Anne Goodwin, Biology Department

Dr. Emily Maher, Physics Department

Professor:

Dr. Susan Birns, Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work

The committee discussed the importance of hearing about the faculty and their accomplishments in teaching, scholarship, and service, and endorsed President Grant's approval of these promotions.

Tenure

In addition to their promotions, Dr. Goodwin and Dr. Maher also are candidates for tenure. Vice President Brown noted that according to the contract, faculty may advance tenure and promotion applications at the same time.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED unanimously to recommend tenure for Dr. Anne Goodwin.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED unanimously to recommend tenure for Dr. Emily Maher.

Dr. Anthony Daly, History Department, also was a candidate for tenure.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED unanimously to recommend tenure for Dr. Anthony Daly.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.