



*My College. Right from the Start.*

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

**Student Affairs Committee**

**Thursday, April 28, 2011**

**Admissions Office Conference Room**

**Members in attendance:**

Tyler Fairbank, Chair  
Shirley Edgerton  
Jameek Clovie, Student Trustee

**Others in attendance:**

Mary K. Grant, President  
Charlotte Degen, Dean of Students  
James Stakenas, Vice President of Administration and Finance  
Joseph Charon, Director of Public Safety  
Scott Nichols, Director of Athletics  
Thomas Bernard, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. by Trustee Fairbank.

**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.

### **Sports Sponsorship**

Due to a rules change at the NCAA, Division III schools now must offer a minimum of six men's' and six women's' sports to maintain eligibility. MCLA currently hosts five men's sports and six women's sports.

The committee discussed the importance of ensuring that the process of adding a new sport supports and enhances the success the College has experienced with its existing programs, and the overall experience for student-athletes at MCLA.

In response to the MCLA requirement, the College will add men's tennis as a new sport, and will also invest in strengthening the women's cross country program. As we add new sports, it is important to continue to invest in facilities to support programs such as baseball and softball.

Over the long term, there is interest in adding men's and women's lacrosse. The cost and facility implications of adding these programs is currently under consideration.

## **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.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED** to recommend that MCLA continue research regarding the steps that would be necessary to inform and develop a recommendation to arm campus police officers.

## **Other Business**

President Grant and Trustee Fairbank acknowledged the many positive contributions throughout the year of Trustee Clovie, in his role as MCLA student Trustee.

## **Adjournment**

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