



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 25, 2012

President's Office Conference Room

Members in attendance:

William Dudley, Chair
Jane Allen
Joelle Collins
Susan Gold
Dick Lamb

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
Thomas Bernard, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. by Trustee Dudley.

Student Fees FY 2013

The FY 2013 budget process is underway. While the College continues to budget conservatively, an increase in student fees will be part of MCLA's FY 2013 budget plan. Vice President Stakenas noted that the Student Government Association voted to raise the student activity fee in recognition of the number of clubs and organizations active on campus that request funding support. A portion of overall college fee increase for FY 2013 will be allocated to the student activity fee increase.

With any fee increase, the goal will be to ensure that MCLA remains affordable to the maximum number of students.

President Grant noted that setting fees is an important statutory function of the Board of Trustees. Each committee of the board has received a briefing on the FY 2013 fee recommendation, but it is the Fiscal Affairs Committee that will carry the motion to the full board for approval at their May meeting.

Vision Project Overview

Vice President Brown presented an overview of the Department of Higher Education (DHE's) Vision Project. She highlighted two initiatives in particular. Advancing a Massachusetts Culture of Assessment (AMCOA) is a statewide working group that meets periodically to review campus and statewide assessment practices. Associate Dean of Assessment and Planning Kris Bendikas and faculty members David Langston (English/Communications) and Elena Traister (Environmental Studies) represent MCLA on the AMCOA group. 30 Credits in 3 Semesters is an MCLA initiative aimed at helping first year students complete 30 credits in their first three semesters to remain on track for graduation in four years. This project is funded in part through a grant from the Vision Project Performance Incentive Fund.

President Grant and Vice President Brown informed the committee that there have been numerous requests for campus response on the Vision Project in the past year, but expressed concern about the degree to which this feedback is actually being incorporated into Vision Project planning.

Faculty Promotions

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

Associate Professor:

Dr. Anthony Daly, History Department

Dr. Michael Dilthey, Fine & Performing Arts Department

Professor:

Dr. Maria Bartini, Psychology Department

Dr. Michael Birch, English/Communications Department

Gregory Scheckler, Fine & Performing Arts Department

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.

Faculty Hiring Update

Vice President Brown noted that searches were completed successfully for faculty in biology, business, psychology and sociology. The sociology position involved adjusting what had previously been a terminal position to a tenure track faculty position. In addition, a new digital services librarian also was hired. A faculty search in arts management is in process.

Educator Recognition Award

Vice President Brown noted that MCLA will host the second annual Berkshire County Educator Recognition Award ceremony on Thursday, April 26. MCLA presents the award in collaboration with the Berkshire Compact for Education and Berkshire County K-12 superintendents.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.