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

Executive Committee

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Admissions Office Conference Room

Members in attendance:

Steve Crowe, Chair
Jane Allen
William Dudley
Tyler Fairbank
Dick Lamb
Eugene Leibowitz

Members absent:

James Clemmer

Others present:

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m. by Trustee Crowe.

Status of Public Safety Arming Discussions

The committee discussed the process of campus input around the issue of arming MCLA campus police officers. Numerous meetings have been held with faculty, staff, and student groups over the course of the semester, including two moderated panel discussions held on November 16th and 17th. In addition, the administrative staff collective bargaining unit recently surveyed campus membership about the issue, but has not taken a position. The Student Government Association will hold a referendum on December 6th and 7th to assess student opinion about arming campus police.

The committee members indicated a preference to defer any recommendation until the board has time to review all the information, including recordings from the panel discussions, results of the student referendum, and the policy review and training that would be needed in order to advance

an arming decision. The committee would seek to review this information during their January 2012 meeting and potentially schedule a special Board meeting to take action on any recommendation that comes out of the committee.

Budget and Fiscal Outlook

President Grant provided the Committee with the executive summary of a Fiscal Survey of States prepared by the National Governors' Association. This report also was provided to the members of the Fiscal Affairs Committee. The data in the report indicate that funding support for public higher education is a national concern, but it is especially challenging in New England.

Budget projections for Fiscal Year 2013 are being developed. As always, the College is being very careful about budget planning, and is developing and modeling several budget scenarios as the budget process for FY 2013 continues to develop at the state level.

Trustee Nominating Process Update

MCLA has four trustees who will conclude their terms of service during the current academic year. The committee discussed the trustee nomination process through the Public Education Nominating Council (PENC).

Board retreat ideas

Committee members indicated they would share agenda item suggestions for the February 2012 Board retreat.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.