



My College. Right from the Start.

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

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Admissions Office Conference Room

The following Trustees were present:

Tyler Fairbank, Chair
Jaynelle Bellemore
Shirley Edgerton

Others present:

Mary Grant, President
Charlotte Degen, Dean of Students
Joseph Charon, Director of Public Safety
Theresa O'Bryant, Associate Dean of Students
Thomas Bernard, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Trustee Fairbank.

Title IX Policy Update

Theresa O'Bryant updated the committee regarding a standard "dear colleague" letter that MCLA, along with colleges and universities across the United States, received in the spring of 2011 from the Office of Civil Rights of the United States Department of Education. The letter informed the institutions about an expansion of the right to know requirements under Title IX legislation. Dean O'Bryant noted that while Title IX often is commonly understood in the context of athletics, the law concerns gender equity across all dimensions among educational institutions that receive federal funds.

The dear colleague letter received by MCLA pertained to campus responses to allegations of sexual assault. Dean O'Bryant noted that MCLA's existing affirmative action plan meets the right to know requirements stipulated in the letter.

The committee discussed the roles and responsibilities of campus staff relative to cases of conduct and disciplinary action, staff training and community education related to sexual assault, and notification to students of campus policies through the student handbook.

President Grant thanked Dean O'Bryant for her legal expertise in helping to understand the requirements of the dear colleague letter, and for the standards she has helped establish to support a safe, respectful, and equitable campus community.

Clery Report briefing and Public Safety Update

Public Safety Director Joseph Charon presented an overview of MCLA's annual Clery report and annual fire safety report filings. These are federally-mandated documents that contain campus safety, security, and fire procedures, as well as statistics related to criminal offenses and fires reported to the police and college officials for the last three consecutive years.

Director Charon noted that the 2011 report is consistent with past reports. President Grant noted that MCLA's record of campus safety reflects the good work and practices established by Director Charon and the public safety team.

Director Charon updated the committee on the conversations he has held with campus groups about the potential for arming MCLA campus police officers. He noted that there has been a range of responses and opinions expressed at these meetings, with good input received from participants. President Grant noted that these conversations will continue, with another update to the full Board of Trustees at an upcoming meeting.

During discussion, Trustee Fairbank expressed concern about potential College liability that could arise from not having armed officers in the event of a critical incident on campus. Trustee Bellemore noted that while there is strong feeling both in favor and in opposition to this issue, the majority of students have a neutral opinion.

President Grant thanked Director Charon for his research work, as well as his role in facilitating campus meetings and conversations. She noted that people have strong feelings around the issue of arming campus police.

Strategic Planning

President Grant presented an update and overview of the College's strategic planning process. She informed the committee that a Strategic Planning Task Force has been working on a new plan since January. She outlined the process of campus input that informed the development of the plan. Finally, she outlined the goals that will guide MCLA over the next cycle of planning:

- Excellence in Teaching and Learning
- Supportive and Inclusive Community
- Responsive and Intentional Stewardship
- Public Purpose and Engagement

An initial series of strategies and tactics have been developed to support these goals. It is understood that the strategies and tactics will evolve over time.

President Grant acknowledged the good work and dedicated participation of the task force. She thanked Trustee Leibowitz for representing the Trustees on the task force.

The strategic plan will be presented to the campus at a meeting on October 26, and will then be shared with the Board for endorsement at the October 27 meeting.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: Unanimously to advance the MCLA Strategic Plan to the full board for approval at the October 27 Board of Trustees meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.