



My College. Right from the Start.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Tuesday, May 7, 2013
President's Office Conference Room**

Member in attendance:

Tyler Fairbank, Chair

Members absent:

Stephen Crowe
Shirley Edgerton
Dan Peluso, Student Trustee

Others in attendance

Mary K. Grant, President
Charlotte Degen, Vice President of Student Affairs
James Stakenas, Vice President of Administration & Finance
OjaeMichal Beale, Interim Coordinator of Career Services
Wendy Guerra, Center for Student Success and Engagement
Kate Heekin, Assistant Director, Center for Student Success and Engagement
Thomas Bernard, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Trustee Fairbank.

Fiscal Year 2014 Budget and Student Fees

President Grant and Vice President Stakenas presented an update on the state budget process for FY 2014. President Grant noted that the University of Massachusetts system proposed to the legislature a plan to move the system toward a state appropriation level that would fund 50% of campus operations, with the university committing to not raise student fees for the coming academic year.

The state university system proposed a similar agreement to reach the 50% funding level over the course of several years – with additional funding appropriated to support negotiated collective bargaining increased – with a commitment not to raise fees for the upcoming academic year should the legislature appropriate additional operating funds for FY 2014. The CFOs of the system determined that the funding gap to reach 50% of campus operations across the system was \$45 million. The House Ways and Means Committee budget included an additional \$15 million for the state university system for FY 2014.

The state university system presidents and CFOs identified a formula for allocating the additional funds that provided each campus with a base amount, and divided the balance of the funding on a proportional enrollment basis. The presidents also agreed not to increase student fees for the coming academic year as a condition of this proposal.

Having passed the House, the FY 2014 budget proposal is under consideration by the Senate Ways and Means Committee, and it remains to be seen whether the Senate committee will support the increased proposal. If the additional funding for the state university system is not available, fee increases would be necessary at each campus.

In light of the House Ways and Means Committee budget proposal, and the uncertain state of this proposal in the Senate, the committee discussed fee options for FY 2014. Should the FY 14 budget include the proposed increase for the state university system, MCLA would not raise the campus support fee for the 2013-2014 academic year. However, if the proposed funding is not included in the final budget bill, we anticipate some level of fee increase will be necessary.

After discussion of these scenarios, the committee agreed to propose a fee range of \$0-\$500 for the coming year, based on the outcome of the state budget process.

Center for Student Success and Engagement Update

Kate Heekin provided an overview of the Center for Student Success and Engagement. The Center, located in Eldridge Hall, integrates the work of several campus offices, including advising, career, and learning services.

A signature accomplishment of CSSE has been the development of the “MCLA in 4” program, which provides students with a 4-year plan for completing a major and fulfilling graduation requirements. This program complements efforts to provide enhanced advising services to students. Another important area of focus for CSSE is serving as the “department” and point of engagement for undeclared students as they explore major options.

Wendy Guerra discussed the MCLA Individual Enrichment Program. The IE program is funded through a federal TRIO grant, and provides a range of student support services, including a summer bridge program for incoming students to support their academic preparation and transition to college. The program offers tutorials, financial aid support, and learning strategies workshops.

OjaeMichal Beale highlighted the work in career services. A search for a program coordinator is underway. The committee discussed the fact that external relationships and networking will be an essential part of the responsibilities of the person hired into this position. In addition to building these relationships, Dr. Beale works with students on major and career advising, resume and cover letter preparation, career fair attendance, and other activities.

Chair Fairbank noted the many opportunities and organizations that are available in the Berkshires, as resources for MCLA's career services office, and as potential employers for MCLA students and graduates.

Adjournment

With no other business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.