



My College. Right from the Start.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Thursday, November 15, 2012
President's Office Conference Room**

The following Trustees were present:

William Dudley, Chair
Mohan Boodram (via conference call)
JD Chesloff (via conference call)
Steve Crowe
Susan Gold

Others present:

Mary Grant, President
Cynthia Brown, Vice President of Academic Affairs
Monica Joslin, Dean of Academic Affairs
Joseph Charon, Director of Public Safety
Deb Foss, Associate Dean and Director, Center for Student Success and Engagement
Thomas Bernard, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Trustee Dudley.

Campus Police Advisory Group Update

Director Charon updated the committee on the work that has been done to prepare for the arming of MCLA campus police officers. This has included updating departmental policies and procedures, screening and training officers, purchasing equipment, and upgrading the campus police headquarters to allow for secure storage of firearms when officers are not on duty. Following additional training, he will update the president. It is anticipated the president will authorize campus police officers will begin to carry firearms by the end of 2012.

Director Charon also noted that Framingham State University recently voted to arm their campus police officers, and that the officers already have begun carrying firearms in the course of their duties.

The director noted that a search is underway to hire a new campus police officer. This officer's screening, training, and preparation will be consistent with what has been provided to and expected of MCLA's current campus police officers.

Center for Student Success and Engagement (CSSE) Overview

Deb Foss presented an overview of the Center for Student Success and Engagement (CSSE). She noted that CSSE unites several student-centered services – Academic Support (previously Learning Services), Advising, and Career Services – in a single location.

Associate Dean Foss discussed several CSSE initiatives, including a program to support students to ensure they earn 30 credits by the beginning of their sophomore year to help keep them on the path to graduation in four years; data analysis to support student persistence and retention; a mentoring program to provide additional guidance for undeclared students; and an expanded alumni career networking program.

The committee thanked Associate Dean Foss for her presentation, and requested the opportunity to learn more about MCLA's retention and graduation rate data.

Sabbatical Requests 2013-2014

Vice President Brown presented faculty sabbatical requests for 2013-2014. Two applicants submitted proposals for semester long sabbaticals:

Dale Fink, Assistant Professor of Education, Spring 2014

David Johnson, Professor of Philosophy, Spring 2014

In addition, Physics Associate Professor Emily Maher applied for a sabbatical for the full 2013-2014 academic year.

Following a discussion of all requests, the committee agreed with the recommendation to support these requests, subject to funding. Vice President Brown will work with the Department Chairs concerning the budget implications of the sabbatical requests. While these are all very strong proposals and faculty, some of these requests could be deferred in recognition of budget implications.

A key part of the MCLA sabbatical program is having faculty share their experiences and findings with their colleagues and the campus community. The Brown Bag lecture series is an important component of this process.

Berkshire Readiness Center Update

Vice President Brown provided an overview of the Berkshire Readiness Center. Berkshire County hosts one of six readiness centers statewide. The Berkshire Readiness Center works in conjunction with the Berkshire Compact for Education on educator preparation and assessment initiatives.

Currently, the Berkshire Readiness Center is engaged in efforts to support the development of the state's common core for K-12 education, mapping existing frameworks in English, math, and science to the new core standards.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.