



*My College. Right from the Start.*

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

**Executive Committee**

**Tuesday, January 15, 2013**

**President's Office Conference Room**

**Members in attendance:**

Steve Crowe, Chair  
James Clemmer (via conference call)  
Tyler Fairbank  
Susan Gold  
Dan Peluso

**Members absent:**

Will Dudley

**Others present:**

Mary K. Grant, President  
Cynthia Brown, Vice President of Academic Affairs  
James Stakenas, Vice President of Administration and Finance  
Thomas Bernard, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by Trustee Crowe.

**NEASC and Mission Statement Update**

Vice President Brown provided a brief update on the progress of MCLA's New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation self-study process. Teams from across campus are working on drafts of the 11 Standards that make up the self-study. This work will continue with the goal of sharing a draft of the self-study with the campus and with the Board during the spring semester.

Vice President Brown also reported on the work to update the College mission statement. The current mission statement was approved in 1997, and there is an opportunity to update the statement to reflect the progress that has been made, and MCLA's present identity and aspirations. The Board will have the opportunity to review a draft of the statement at the February Board retreat.

## **Board of Higher Education**

The committee discussed several Board of Higher Education (BHE) initiatives, including:

- Proposed presidential compensation and evaluation guidelines – the committee considered the implications of this proposal, and the potential that information within the guidelines has the potential to constrain the autonomy and statutory responsibility of local boards of trustees.
- The proposal to establish an Office of Trustee Relations – in particular, the committee discussed how the Board might respond to the request for feedback about this proposal, including efforts to understand what deficits in trustee relations the proposal seeks to address.
- The Vision Project – the committee discussed the alignment of resources with Vision Project goals through the Performance Incentive Fund program.
- The new funding formula for Massachusetts community colleges – the committee expressed concern that the formula reflects a reallocation of fixed resources and that increasing funding to some campuses comes at the expense of others. The committee also considered the implications of the community college formula for the state university system.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.