



*My College. Right from the Start.*

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Thursday, March 20, 2014  
Murdock Hall Room 208**

**The following Trustees were present:**

James Clemmer, Vice Chair  
Mohan Boodram  
JD Chesloff  
Stephen Crowe (via conference call)  
William Dudley  
Shirley Edgerton  
Susan Gold  
Buffy Lord  
Denise Marshall  
Alyson Stolz, Student Trustee

**The following Trustee was absent:**

Tyler Fairbank, Chair

**Others present:**

Mary Grant, President  
Richard Freeland, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Higher Education  
Cynthia Brown, Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Charlotte Degen, Vice President of Student Affairs  
Marianne Drake, Chief Advancement Officer  
Monica Joslin, Dean of Academic Affairs  
Bernadette Lupo, Director of Marketing and Communications  
Joshua Mendel, Associate Director of Admissions  
Theresa O'Bryant, Associate Dean of Students  
Brendan Peltier '15, Coordinating Vice President, SGA  
Jennifer Perkins, Director, BHE Office of Trustee Relations  
John Powers '14, President, MCLA Student Government Association (SGA)  
Gina Puc, Director of Admissions  
Denise Richardello, Executive Vice President  
James Stakenas, Vice President of Administration & Finance  
Thomas Bernard, Director of Business Affairs  
Roberta McCulloch-Dews, Clerk

Complying with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30 and 15A, Section 9, and with a quorum present, the Board of Trustees of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts met at 5:36 p.m. in the Room 208 of Murdock Hall on March 20, 2014 with Board Vice Chair Clemmer presiding.

Vice Chair Clemmer opened the meeting by welcoming the Trustees and staff in attendance and acknowledged the success of the Board Retreat as a time to dive more deeply into issues and ideas.

### **Chair's Report**

The Board held its annual retreat on Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. The Board was joined at the retreat by Senator Downing and Representative Cariddi from the Berkshire legislative delegation, Vincent Pedone from the state office of the Council of Presidents (COP), members of the MCLA senior staff, and other members of the College faculty and staff.

At the beginning of the retreat, President Grant shared a presentation she delivered to the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education at their January meeting. The presentation provided an overview of the work of the College, and emphasized the role of MCLA's strategic plan in advancing the work of the College.

MCLA faculty and staff presentations included:

- Biology professor Anne Goodwin and academic technology coordinator Gerol Petruzella discussing role of technology in the advising process;
- History professor Anthony Daly sharing an overview of best practices for demonstrating, documenting, and showcasing students' academic and co-curricular experiences using MCLA's e-portfolio;
- Vice Presidents Brown and Degen outlining student success and retention efforts at the College, and the work of the Student Success and Retention Task Force;
- Director of Admission Gina Puc highlighting admissions team recruitment efforts; and
- Vice President Stakenas offering an overview of the state and campus budget processes for FY 2015.

### **Approval of the Minutes of the December 12, 2013, Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the December 12, 2013, meeting of the Board and all actions contained therein.

## **Conversation with Commissioner Richard Freeland**

President Grant introduced Commissioner Freeland and thanked him for his work on behalf of public higher education.

Commissioner Freeland discussed his experiences meeting with faculty, staff, and students during his visit at the College that day. He acknowledged the work and initiatives of MCLA, specifically noting the College as a “jewel in the crown” of the state university system, for advancements in the areas of civic engagement, STEM education, student success, closing the achievement gap, and diversity.

The commissioner thanked the Board for their service to the state and discussed initiatives for continuing to advance the work of the Commonwealth’s public higher education institutions.

The commissioner also acknowledged the participation of MCLA Trustees in the Statewide Trustee Conference held in November 2013.

President Grant shared a NEASC update with the Commissioner and the Board. President Grant and visiting team chair Dr. Theo Kalikow met with the NEASC Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (CIHE) on March 6, 2014.

Trustee Clemmer thanked the Commissioner for his visit to MCLA and for sharing his thoughts with the Board.

## **Report of the January 14, 2014, Executive Committee Meeting**

Trustee Clemmer presented the formal report on behalf of the committee.

President Grant provided a NEASC update to the committee. One of the recommendations in the team report was that MCLA enhance its multi-year enrollment plan. This work will be strengthened by the new Enrollment Management committee composed of Trustees Boodram (chair), Clemmer, and Edgerton, as well as Admissions and Financial Aid staff.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the January 14, 2014, meeting of the Executive Committee and all actions contained therein.

## **Report of the March 5, 2014, Fiscal Affairs Committee Meeting**

Trustee Clemmer presented the formal report on behalf of the committee. The committee reviewed the campus and statewide budget processes for FY 15; discussed MCLA's internal control processes and procedures; received and update on the Bowman Hall renovation and campus Master Plan projects; and reviewed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter financial report. There also were two action items presented for consideration at the meeting.

### **Ashland Street Warehouse project**

As a result of additional required site preparation work, technology installation, and challenges posed by winter conditions, the final project cost for the Facilities building on Ashland Street is running slightly ahead of the amount authorized by the Board. The committee discussed a recommendation to approve borrowing an additional \$95,000 to complete the new Facilities building.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To approve borrowing an additional \$95,000 to complete the Ashland Street Warehouse project.

### **Co- Generation Project**

A study is underway on a proposed electrical co-generation project, which will use steam from the College's heating system to generate electricity. Vice President Stakenas outlined the cost of the system, funding commitments received to support this work, scenarios for project scope, and the budget implications of the project for the College.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To authorize the College to continue working with the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) to advance a bid for an electrical co-generation system. Following a review of bids and project costs, the Committee and Board will review the project and make a determination about project approval and funding.

President Grant thanked Vice President Stakenas, Director Kimberling and Joe Santucci of Facilities for this work, which will reduce the College's carbon footprint.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the March 5, 2014 meeting of the Fiscal Affairs Committee and all actions contained therein.

## **Report of the March 5, 2014, Academic Affairs Committee Meeting**

Trustee Dudley delivered the formal report on behalf of the committee.

The committee received an update on faculty personnel actions, including reappointment, promotion, and tenure actions. President Grant noted that reappointments and promotions do not require a Board vote. The only personnel action that requires a formal vote of the Board is tenure. However, it is important that the Trustees get to know the faculty and their progression during the reappointment process.

The committee discussed the recommendation from Vice President Brown that seven members of the faculty be granted tenure. President Grant noted that she supported the recommendations and affirmed the faculty's commitment to scholarship and engagement.

The Committee reviewed the tenure recommendations for the following faculty members:

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To award tenure to Dr. Mark Cohen, Computer Science; Dr. Petra Hejnova, Public Policy; Dr. Ely Janis, History; Dr. Emily Mooney, Biology; Dr. Rita Nnodim, Interdisciplinary Studies; Dr. Dan Shustack, Environmental Studies; and Dr. Jennifer Zoltanski, Sociology.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the March 5, 2014, meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee and all actions contained therein.

## **Report of the March 6, 2014, Student Affairs Committee Meeting**

Trustee Edgerton delivered the formal report on behalf of the committee.

- Spencer Moser, Coordinator of the MCLA Center for Service and Citizenship, informed the committee about civic engagement opportunities at the College and the committee listened to the experiences of five students who are service project coordinators. Trustee Crowe underscored the significance of these programs on the students' lives, as well as the personal satisfaction and growth that comes from these experiences.
- Psychology professor Timothy Jay, who serves as the College's Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) and as a member of the NCAA's Faculty Athletics Representative Association (FARA), provided the committee with an overview of MCLA's Student Athlete Mentors (SAMs) program.

- Human Resources director Mary Ellen Olenyk and Associate Dean of Students Theresa O’Bryant provided the committee with an update on the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which went into effect March 7, 2014.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the March 6, 2014, meeting of the Student Affairs Committee and all actions contained therein.

## **President’s Report**

Bernadette Lupo presented two commercials that are part of a new marketing campaign to promote the Massachusetts State University System. Communications staff among all nine state universities contributed to the development of the commercials. Trustee Chesloff noted that the commercials would be especially helpful to create awareness among the business community on the state university system and its role in the innovation economy.

President Grant noted that she and Marianne Drake traveled to Florida for three days during spring break to meet with alumni and support the MCLA softball and baseball teams during their annual tournament play in Florida.

The president noted that the March 4<sup>th</sup> public policy lecture featuring Gloria Steinem was highly successful and was among the most widely attended lectures ever presented at the College.

President Grant thanked the Admissions team, including Director Puc and Associate Director Mendel for their strategic and comprehensive approach toward MCLA’s current recruitment efforts.

The College will celebrate two ribbon-cutting ceremonies in April. The opening of the Veterans Resource Center will be held April 16<sup>th</sup>. The president thanked Associate Dean O’Bryant, Associate Director Mendel, and Vice President Stakenas for their collaborative work on this important resource for the College’s veterans. On April 18<sup>th</sup>, there will be a ribbon-cutting and tour of the new Facilities Building on Ashland Street. The president thanked Vice President Stakenas and Director Kimberling for their work and commitment to this project.

The president reported that MCLA would hold *Scholar Saturday* on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, a day dedicated recognizing the work and achievement of MCLA students. The president noted the day’s program would include induction ceremonies for Lambda Iota Tau (English/Communications), Delta Mu Delta (Business Administration), and an Academic Recognition Brunch. Moving forward, *Scholar Saturday* will be an annual event.

President Grant noted that the College would host a presentation on Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup> featuring NASA astronauts and musicians Cady Coleman (an MCLA honorary degree recipient) and Dan Burbank. Their lecture and musical performance will focus on the blending of STEM with the arts. This program has been organized by an MCLA parent.

The president provided a brief overview on the FY15 budget and noted the need for continued advocacy for funding collective bargaining and other priorities.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED** to adjourn the meeting at 6:02 p.m.