



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
Minutes of the Meeting of December 10, 2020  
Audio/Video Conference**

**Members in Attendance**

JD Chesloff, Chair  
Mohan Boodram, Board Chair  
Susan Gold  
Justin Daniels

**Others in Attendance**

James F. Birge, President  
Cathy Holbrook, Vice President of Student Affairs  
Lisa Lescarbeau, Board Clerk  
Daniel Colonno, Chief of Police  
Shannon Prouty, SGA President

Trustee Chesloff called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m. and welcome newly appointed Student Trustee, Justin Daniels, and SGA President, Shannon Prouty.

**Clery Report**

Chief Colonno presented the College's annual Clery Report (2020 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report) for reporting year 2019. He provided a summary of the reporting requirements and the Clery Act and noted that the timeline to submit the report had been extended to January 14 2021 as a result of the pandemic. MCLA's report was filed on December 8 and provided to the campus community on December 9.

In response to questions regarding the growing number of sexual assault incidents, Chief Colonno stated that the numbers are not showing clear trends. The growing number is believed to be a result of the improved education and communications giving students clear direction on reporting the incidents, and students being less tolerant of the assault. MCLA is not necessarily experiencing more sexual assault incidents, but rather an increase in the reporting of these incidents.

Chief Colonna commented on the reporting of legal violations and student code of conduct violations noting that the two are not the same. A student can be of legal drinking age and in possession of alcohol, and still be in violation of conduct; this is not reportable for Clery Act purposes.

Trustees discussed the College's efforts to take actionable measures when using the sexual assault data gathered and reported. VP Holbrook outlined the College's orientation and messaging that's done for all students around sexual behavior. This education is not just on how not to be a victim. All first-year students are required to take an online title IX course before coming to campus, and all returning students must complete a refresher test. Typically, students also attend a large event focused on alcohol and other drugs, assault, and peer pressure. Other programming is provided by residence hall and Title IX staff, and the Student Government Association.

With regard to education for College faculty, President Birge noted that training is offered to faculty and staff, however union contracts do not allow the College to require employees participate in the training.

Chief Colonna departed meeting.

### **Student Introductions and SGA Goals**

Student leaders in attendance of this meeting introduced themselves.

Shannon Prouty is a senior from Worcester County majoring in biology and psychology with a focus on premed. She is also the President of Student Government Association. Ms. Prouty reviewed the goals of SGA for the academic year:

1. Improving and advocating for more student participation on campus and through SGA
2. Advocating and supporting Black Lives Matter and diversity in general on campus

Justin Daniels is a junior from Queens, NY studying sports management with a focus on a career as a sports agent with interest mainly in basketball. He also serves as Student Trustee to the Board of MCLA. Mr. Daniels goal in his role as trustee is to help students and provide the Board with insight from students.

### **End of Semester Update**

VP Holbrook provided an overview of the end of semester move out process. She commented on concerns for areas where COVID cases are on the rise, and the apparent strain the situation had placed on students.

Ms. Prouty related her experiences as students completed the semester remotely. Students expressed a desire to have a pass/no pass policy for their courses as the hybrid model was different and some had difficulty adjusting. Ms. Prouty also provided her perspective on vaccines as a pharmacy employee.

Mr. Daniels presented his experiences during the semester noting there were many ups and downs. He commented that there were a number of practices that were a result of the pandemic that would be good practices to retain post. He related concerns of a friend who had been in quarantine, and suggested thought be given to what can be offered to students in quarantine to keep them engaged.

Mr. Daniels also expressed concerns that students felt disconnected and lost interest in some ways given the challenges to keep students engaged during hybrid/remote learning. He commented on the rules MCLA established which he noted were consistent from beginning to end. Mr. Daniels suggested that more listening be done to students' experiences and their thoughts on decisions to be made that impact them. Over all, he felt it was a good semester that went smoothly from his perspective.

With regard to move-out, Mr. Daniels stated that having to bring home all personal effects was difficult, with many students struggling to pay for storage. He suggested the College consider ways to assist students with this aspect of residential living.

In response to a question regarding students returning to campus in the spring semester, VP Holbrook stated that it is too early to determine that figure accurately.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.