



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Tuesday, March 31, 2015
The Stone Hill Center at The Clark Art Institute**

Trustees in attendance:

Tyler Fairbank, Chair
James Clemmer, Vice Chair
Lisa Chamberlain
JD Chesloff
William Dudley
Shirley Edgerton
Susan Gold
Buffy Lord
Denise Marshall
Alyson Stolz, Student Trustee

Trustees absent:

Mohan Boodram

Staff in attendance:

Cynthia Brown, Interim President
Denise Richardello, Executive Vice President
Jim Stakenas, Vice President of Administration & Finance
Marianne Drake, Chief Advancement Office and President, MCLA Foundation, Inc.
Theresa O'Bryant, Interim Vice President of Student Affairs
Bernadette Alden, Director of Marketing and Communications
Ginger Menard, 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 5:31 p.m. in the Room 218 of Murdock Hall on December 18, 2014 with Board Chair Fairbank presiding.

Chair Fairbank called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

Chairperson's Report

Chair Fairbank shared the news that Dr. Greg Summers is not able to assume the role of President. The Board discussed this at its retreat earlier today and is in the process of determining next steps.

In the meantime, MCLA continues to be well-led and well-managed and Interim P Brown has agreed to continue in this role while the situation is being assessed.

Chair Fairbank asked Vice Chair Clemmer serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee to address succession planning in terms of Board leadership as his term as Chair is due to expire in June. Trustee Clemmer met with Trustee Chamberlain and Trustee Chesloff to discuss this issue.

Vice Chair Clemmer also shared that due to his changing schedule and geographic location he felt it he should step down as Vice Chair though he will remain on the Board. The ad hoc committee met to discuss this change and recommended that Chair Fairbank continue in his leadership role for the coming year if Trustee Fairbank and the Board were in agreement. Initially the committee reached this decision based on having a new president beginning in July. With the news today, however, it seems that continuity is especially important now that the transition period has been extended. Chair Fairbank indicated his willingness to remain as Chair for his last year of service noting that this position serves as a leader among peers and that he is grateful and honored to continue in this role.

As Trustee Clemmer will be stepping aside from a leadership position, the committee put forth a nomination for Trustee Will Dudley to serve as Vice Chair. Chair Fairbank noted that during a time of transition the skills and capability of the Board leadership are especially important. As a former CEO, Trustee Clemmer brought a depth of business and oversight experience. Trustee Dudley, Provost of Williams College, also brings leadership experience as well academia experience. All agreed that Trustee Dudley would be the right choice as the next Vice Chair and thanked him for his willingness to serve. This Board succession plan will be presented at the full Board meeting later today day for an official vote.

The Nominating Committee recommended to the Board that Trustee Fairbank be nominated as Chair, and Trustee Dudley be nominated as Vice Chair for a one-year term.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: Unanimously to approve the nominations of Tyler Fairbank as Chair and Will Dudley as Vice Chair of the MCLA Board of Trustees for a one-year term.

Approval of the Minutes of the December 18, 2014, Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the December 18, 2014, meeting of the Board and all actions contained therein.

Report of the February 25, 2015, Executive Committee Meeting

Chair Fairbank shared that the committee discussed the agenda for the Board Retreat as well as the status of the presidential search. There were no action items from this meeting.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the February 25, 2015, meeting of the Executive Committee and all actions contained therein.

Report of the March 4, 2015, Fiscal Affairs Committee Meeting

Trustee Marshall reported on behalf of the Committee and shared that the 2nd quarter report is on target. Vice President Stakenas updated the committee on the renovation of Bowman Hall which is on target. He also shared a draft of the Master Plan which will be presented again in final form for approval at the next Fiscal Affairs Committee meeting.

Governor Baker's 9c budget reduction was reviewed. For MCLA and all of the state universities, the result was a 1.5% reduction of state appropriations. Permission was given to send in this amount from a trust account in lieu of reducing our appropriation allowing us to maintain the benefit amount provided by the state when it is used for payroll. A total of \$222,814 was returned to the state. Sources from the current operating budget were identified from which to draw this repayment including monies previously allocated for advertising, debt service, open positions, and discretionary spending. All college divisions have been asked to reduce spending and open positions were held to save additional payroll expenses. These actions will have no immediate impact on programmatic activities. There was also discussion of the FY 2016 budget being release later that day. Of concern was the likelihood that collective bargaining costs would not be included.

MCLA has also been working with PACE (Partnership to Advance Collaboration and Efficiency) in conjunction with the other state universities to obtain bids for one bookstore vendor to service all of the state universities. We also received a Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) grant in the amount of \$440,000 to improve community access to the Church Street Center It is a matching grant that must be completed within two years to receive the funds. The co generator is scheduled to be installed in November/December. Finally, the College is working with Lighthouse Consultants to apply for the next round of Title III grants which, if successful, could result in up \$2.5 million over five years.

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the March 4, 2015, meeting of the Fiscal Affairs Committee and all actions contained therein.

Report of the March 12, 2015, Academic Affairs Committee Meeting

Trustee Dudley reported on behalf of the Committee.

The committee received an update on faculty personnel actions including reappointment, promotion, and tenure. It was noted that only tenure requires a formal Board vote. Promotions and appointments do not require a vote but information is shared to allow the committee to become familiar with the faculty. Trustee Chamberlain also suggested that additional opportunities be identified for Trustees to get to know the faculty in person.

Trustee Dudley shared that the eligibility for tenure marks a significant point in a professor's academic career and is the culmination of multi-year review processes. The Committee discussed the recommendation from Interim Vice President Joslin that Dr. Ingrid Castro and Dr. Lisa Donovan be granted tenure. Interim President Brown noted that she supported the recommendations and affirmed the faculty's commitment to scholarship and engagement.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: To unanimously recommend tenure for Dr. Ingrid Castro, Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work Department; and Dr. Lisa Donovan, Fine and Performing Arts Department – Arts Management

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the March 12, 2015, meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee and all actions contained therein.

Report of the March 23, 2015, Student Affairs Committee Meeting

Trustee Edgerton reported on behalf of the Committee. Residence Director, Griffin Labbance, provided an overview to the committee on Residential Programs & Services (RPS) and reported on opportunities for student engagement and three students - Elizabeth Doughty, NRHH Member; Rachel Durgin, Hoosac Hall Advisory Board President; and Brendan Peltier, President, Student Government Association, shared their stories of opportunities provided by RPS for leadership, engagement, and community development both on campus and in the greater community.

Human Resources Director, Mary Ellen Olenyk, provided an update on the campus-wide Violence Against Women (VAWA) training as required for compliance with new state requirements regarding training and investigation. Training is required for everyone on campus via an online training module. Two thirds of the campus community has completed the training including 75% of the student body as of today. Reminders are currently being sent to those who have not yet responded.

HR Director Olenyk also provided an update on the Vice President of Student Affairs search noting that it is entering the campus interview phase.

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the March 23, 2015, meeting of the Fiscal Affairs Committee and all actions contained therein.

Interim President's Report

Interim President Brown extended her thanks to Trustees and her appreciation for their stewardship of the College. She noted that though we now have another challenge, we are united by how deeply we care about MCLA and our focus is on the success of our students, the implementation of our mission, and our commitment to the community. She also thanked the staff as well for their good work and support.

Special thanks were offered to Student Trustee, Alyson Stolz, as this is her final Board meeting after serving a two year term. The Board is very appreciative of her dedication over the past two years and will miss having her as a part of the team. Student Trustee Stolz thanked everyone for their support. Serving on the Board has been an amazing experience and allowed her the opportunity to advocate for and serve her peers as well as the College.

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 5:39 p.m.