



MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Thursday, April 6, 2017
Fitzpatrick Room, Murdock Hall Room 208**

The following committee members were present:

Susan Gold, Chair
JD Chesloff, Vice Chair
Mohan Boodram
Lisa Chamberlain
Buffy Lord
Denise Marshall

Others present:

Dr. James Birge, President
Rob Reilly, Trustee
Linda Campanella, consultant
Ginger Menard, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

Presidential evaluation for DHE

Chair Gold noted that the ad hoc presidential evaluation committee will meet on Thursday, April 20. The committee is comprised of Chair Gold, Vice Chair Chesloff, and Trustee Lord. President Birge will also provide the committee with a self-evaluation.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Task Force

President Birge provided an update on this task force which is being led by VP of Student Affairs, Cathy Holbrook, and VP of Academic Affairs, Cindy Brown. Vice Presidents Holbrook and Brown have reviewed and culled the results of the Supportive and Inclusive Community survey which they have shared with the Board committees and will be sharing with groups on campus. An Executive Summary of the survey will be written and distributed to the entire campus community. Based on survey feedback the DEI Task Force will invite someone from the North Adams community to participate as well. The Task Force will be also review the results and offer suggestions to address issues that have been identified.

As a result of the many campus conversations the need for MCLA to hire a Chief Diversity Officer (CDO) has emerged. Dr. Will Lewis, a consultant who has served as a CDO came to campus for two days and with a number of groups faculty, staff, and student groups. He will provide suggestions for the structure and responsibilities of the CDO position and will generate a report based on his visit which will be shared with the DEI Task Force.

Strategic planning

Linda Campanella provided a recap of the Strategic Planning process to-date. Task forces have been engaged for each of the 8 goals to develop both short- and long-term strategies as well as metrics that align with DHE priorities. Initially there were 7 goals but a goal specific to communication was added by the task force.

The strategies and metrics were then reviewed by the senior staff. Two main questions were considered when evaluating these strategies: 1. Are they broad enough to remain relevant for a 5-year period? 2. Were they clear enough to suggest continued steps for implementation and to provide a road map for achieving the goals with which they are aligned?

The next step in the process is to present the plan to-date to the DHE Strategic Planning Committee on May 30. They will review the process to ensure it has been sufficiently inclusive and the emerging plan and provide feedback for final plan. Materials need to be submitted to the DHE by May 12.

Following this important step, the plan will continue to be edited over the summer months and a final draft will be brought before the Board meeting at its first meeting in the fall. The final plan must also be in alignment with the DHE priorities which include access, closing the achievement gap, workforce alignment, and increases in retention and graduation. Metrics must also be finalized to provide a roadmap to measure and evaluate progress.

The committee reviewed and discussed the 8 goals of the Strategic Plan. Trustee Chesloff noted that MCLA is a key economic driver in the region and this must remain an important component of goal 1.

Linda stressed that these goals need to be owned by every department on campus. She has also requested that each task force member submit their top 5 overarching priorities.

Linda requested that the trustees review the document in detail and share with President Birge any any theme or idea that they feel is missing.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.