



My College. Right from the Start.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Tuesday, October 5, 2010
Admissions Office Conference Room**

The following Trustees were present:

Richard Lamb, Chair
Jane Allen
William Dudley
Dr. Eugene Leibowitz
Joelle McDonough
Mary Grant, ex-officio

Others present:

Cynthia Brown, Vice President of Academic Affairs
Monica Joslin, Dean of Academic Affairs
Thomas Bernard, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 p.m. by Trustee Lamb.

Academic Affairs Overview

Vice President Brown provided an overview of the Academic Affairs division to the committee.

She began by noting that faculty personnel actions – including promotion, reappointment, and tenure – are governed by the collective bargaining agreement with the Massachusetts State College Association (MSCA); it was also noted that tenure is the one personnel action that requires a formal board vote.

Academic Affairs encompasses all undergraduate majors and programs, MCLA's graduate programs in education and the new Professional Master of Business Administration program, and a number of academic support functions including the library; the Center for Student Success and Engagement (CSSE), which encompasses advising, career, and learning services; assessment and planning; the Berkshire Readiness Center; the Berkshire STEM Pipeline Network; the College's honor's program; the Susan B. Anthony Women's Center; and the Academic Technology Advisory Group (ATAG).

Many programs in Academic Affairs involve collaboration with other offices across the campus, as well as with external partners. These partnerships are essential to strengthen the College's academic program.

Vice President Brown discussed the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC) Northeast Regional Undergraduate Research Conference, which brought faculty and students from five regional COPLAC institutions to MCLA on October 1st-2nd.

Trustee Leibowitz acknowledged the quality and accomplishments of the MCLA faculty.

Promotions

Vice President Brown presented information on three pending promotion recommendations. These were cases under review by the committee on promotion last year which were not completed in time to present to the Trustees due to a greater number of promotion cases than the committee typically reviews. She brought the following promotions before the committee:

- David Eve, Computer Science, promotion to Associate Professor
- Thomas Byrne, Psychology, promotion to Professor
- Daniel (Dana) Rapp, Education, promotion to Professor

The committee discussed the importance of hearing about the faculty and their accomplishments in teaching, scholarship, and service, and endorsed President Grant's approval of these promotions.

President Grant acknowledged Vice President Brown's work in managing the personnel actions process.

Board of Higher Education Vision Project

Vice President Brown reported on the Vision Project conference held on September 30th. A team from MCLA attended the conference.

The Vision Project report released at the conference endorses a number of activities in which MCLA is already deeply engaged, including the American Association of Colleges and Universities' Liberal Education and American's Promise (LEAP) initiative, and the use of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE).

There will be campus engagement with the Vision project through open meetings during the month of October.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:57 p.m.