



*My College. Right from the Start.*

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Student Affairs Committee**

**Thursday, March 10, 2011**

**Admissions Office Conference Room**

**Members in attendance:**

Tyler Fairbank, Chair  
Stephen Crowe  
Mary K. Grant, President

**Others in attendance:**

Charlotte Degen, Dean of Students  
Dot Houston, Assistant Athletics Director and Senior Woman Administrator  
Chelsey Burke '11  
Samantha Miller '11  
Danielle Parenteau '11  
Thomas Bernard, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Trustee Fairbank.

President Grant opened the meeting by distributing an article from the North Adams Transcript highlighting the strength of the athletic program at MCLA, an in particular the focus on academics as a cornerstone of the student-athlete experience.

**Student Athletic Advisory Committee Overview**

Assistant Athletic Director Dot Houston provided an overview of NCAA Division III athletics, and the role of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) at the national, conference, and campus level.

The purpose of SAAC is to promote communication between athletic administration and student-athletes, and to strengthen the connections and sense of community for student-athletes as members of the campus community. The members of the MCLA SAAC meet regularly to talk about issues affecting student-athletes, and to organize programs to promote athletics on campus.

SAAC members Chelsey Burke '11 (Vice President), Samantha Miller '11 (Secretary), and Danielle Parenteau '11 (Treasurer) spoke about their roles and their experiences as members of

the group. The students discussed the role that student-athletes play as peer advisors, assisting new students and helping them with the transition to MCLA. Peer advisors are resources for their fellow students, and organize academic and social events for them during the year.

The Trustees asked the students about their MCLA experiences and their future plans. Trustee Fairbank noted that a strength of the institution is the opportunity students have for engagement, involvement, and participation.

Other areas of engagement for SAAC members and other student-athletes include;

- Serving as Admissions Ambassadors.
- Student-athlete seat on the Student Government Association (SGA) senate.
- Review and awareness of NCAA regulations.
- Mentoring connections with the College's NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative, Professor Tim Jay (Psychology).
- Attendance and NCAA leadership conferences and coaches forums.
- Participation in local and conference-wide community service projects.
- Communication through e-portfolio and SAAC newsletter.
- Team competition through the Blazing Trails award, which emphasizes SAAC participation, community service, on-field performance, and team academics.
- Networking with alumni and community members through the annual golf tournament.

President Grant noted the dedication Assistant AD Houston brings to her work, and her enthusiasm for supporting student-athlete development. She also acknowledged Dean Degen's leadership in working to integrate athletics so closely into student life.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.