



*My College. Right from the Start.*

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Thursday, March 21, 2013  
Murdock Hall Room 218**

**The following Trustees were present**

Tyler Fairbank, Vice Chair  
Mohan Boodram  
JD Chesloff  
James Clemmer  
William Dudley  
Shirley Edgerton  
Buffy Lord  
Denise Marshall  
Dan Peluso, Student Trustee

**The following Trustees were absent**

Stephen Crowe  
Susan Gold

**Others present**

Mary Grant, President  
Cynthia Brown, Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Charlotte Degen, Vice President of Student Affairs  
Monica Joslin, Dean of Academic Affairs  
Denise Richardello, Vice President of Enrollment/External Affairs  
James Stakenas, Vice President of Administration & Finance  
Curt King, Chief Information Officer  
Theresa O'Bryant, Associate Dean of Students  
Jason Brown, Student  
Catherine Chaput, Student  
Alex Mukendi, Student  
Stefan Rochefort, Student  
Alyson Stoltz, Student  
Michael Vogt, Student  
Bernadette Lupo, Director of Marketing and Communications  
Roberta McCulloch-Dews, Web Communications Manager  
Thomas Bernard, 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 March 21, 2013 with Vice Chair Fairbank presiding.

### **Approval of the Minutes of the December, 2012, Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

The Board requested that the minutes be amended to reflect Trustee Clemmer's absence at the meeting.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the December 21, 2012, meeting of the Board as amended and all actions contained therein.

### **Report of the January 15, 2013, Executive Committee Meeting**

Trustee Fairbank delivered the report on behalf of the committee. At the meeting, the committee received an update on MCLA's New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation self-study process, and the work being done to update the College mission statement. The committee also discussed several Board of Higher Education initiatives including the proposal to establish an Office of Trustee Relations within the Department of Higher Education, the Vision Project, and the new funding formula for Massachusetts community colleges.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the January 15, 2013, meeting of the Executive Committee and all actions contained therein.

### **Report of the March 6, 2013, Fiscal Affairs Committee Meeting**

Trustee Clemmer delivered the report on behalf of the committee. The committee heard updates on the College mission statement project, budget and fee planning for FY 2014, and campus projects including the Ashland Street warehouse and Center for Science and Innovation.

CIO Curt King presented an overview of the proposal to migrate MCLA to a voice over IP (VOIP) telephone system. The cost of the system will be \$767,000 over five years (\$153,400 annually).

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To authorize President Grant to commit \$767,000 in college funds to the purchase or lease of voice over IP phone system.

The committee received an update on MCLA's A133 Federal Financial Aid Audit. Treasurer Desmarais reported that the audit results were unqualified, but the auditors identified three minor findings; changes to correct these findings have already been implemented.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To accept MCLA's A133 Federal Financial Aid Audit.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the March 6, 2013, meeting of the Fiscal Affairs Committee and all actions contained therein.

### **Report of the March 6, 2013, Academic Affairs Committee Meeting**

Trustee Dudley delivered the report on behalf of the committee. The committee heard a presentation from Vice President Brown and President Grant on the development of an updated mission statement for the College. Prior to its presentation to the Board, the statement was reviewed and endorsed by the MCLA All-College Committee.

The new mission statement, which is supported by a series of complementary values statements, reads as follows:

*Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) is the Commonwealth's public liberal arts college and a campus of the Massachusetts state university system. MCLA promotes excellence in learning and teaching, innovative scholarship, intellectual creativity, public service, applied knowledge, and active and responsible citizenship. MCLA prepares its graduates to be practical problem solvers and engaged, resilient global citizens.*

The Board discussed the new mission statement. Trustees commented that the statement was a clear, concise, and substantive outline of MCLA's mission and purpose. President Grant thanked the members of the faculty, staff, and student committee who worked on the development of the new mission statement.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To accept MCLA's new mission statement.

The committee also received an update on faculty personnel actions, including reappointment, promotion, and tenure actions. President Grant noted that reappointments and promotions do not require a Board vote. The only personnel action that requires a formal vote of the Board is

tenure. However, it is important that the Trustees get to know the faculty and their progression during the reappointment process.

The committee discussed recommendations that three members of the faculty be granted tenure. They recommended these candidates to the full Board for approval.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** Unanimously to award tenure to Dr. Sharon Claffey, Psychology; Dr. Peter Hoyt, Biology (Athletic Training); and Melanie Mowinski, Fine and Performing Arts (Art).

The Board offered its congratulations to these faculty members. President Grant and Trustee Dudley offered their thanks to the faculty members who served on the Committees on Promotion and Tenure this year.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the March 6, 2013, meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee and all actions contained therein.

### **Report of the March 7, 2013, Student Affairs Committee Meeting**

Trustee Fairbank presented the report on behalf of the committee. The committee heard an update on the College mission statement project.

President Grant then introduced Michael Vogt, in attendance on behalf of the Students for a Sensible Drug Policy group, which advocated for the adoption of a Good Samaritan policy within the College's disciplinary system.

Trustee Peluso and Associate Dean O'Bryant explained the policy. The proposal reflects recommendations included in a Dear Colleague letter that the United States Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights issued in April 2011 with reference to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. The proposed change would grant students amnesty from formal disciplinary action or sanction for alcohol and/or drug possession violations when reporting that an intoxicated or impaired student requires immediate medical attention. As a provision of receiving amnesty, students must agree to participate in and complete educational activities, assessments, or treatment as directed; failure to do so would violate the amnesty policy and subject students to disciplinary sanction for the alcohol and/or drug possession violations related to the reported incident.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To support the recommendation that MCLA adopt an Amnesty and Good Samaritan Policy as part of the college code of conduct.

President Grant thanked Associate Dean O'Bryant and VP Degen and student leaders for their work on this policy issue.

The committee also heard an update from counseling director Heidi Riello on national trends and MCLA services in the area of college student mental health. The committee noted that providing a high level of consistent service and support is consistent with MCLA's mission and values.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the March 7, 2013, meeting of the Student Affairs Committee and all actions contained therein.

### **Chair's Report**

Chair Crowe reported on the Presidents and Trustees dinner that was held on December 11<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner of Higher Education Richard Freeland spoke about the Vision Project, the Office of Trustee Relations, and the proposed change to the guidelines for hiring and evaluating Presidents at the dinner. Chair Crowe noted that it was a frank discussion as well as a good opportunity to meet with trustees from across the state university system and to build a professional and advocacy network for the system. He encouraged all members of the Board to attend future meetings of the group.

### **President's Report**

President Grant updated the Board on student study experiences during spring break, including travel courses to Ireland, Japan, and Spain. She also noted there was an Alternative Spring Break service project in Kentucky.

The president commented on the state budget process and the encouraging news coming out of the House budget process about increased support for public higher education.

President Grant noted that a group of MCLA students attended a public higher education advocacy day in early March. She reported that MCLA recently was named to the President's Honor Roll for Service, and acknowledged the work of Spencer Moser and the Center for Service in securing this recognition.

President Grant reported on a recent meeting she co-hosted with mayors Alcombright and Bianchi about life sciences opportunities in the region, and opportunities to connect the MCLA Center for Science and Innovation with this work.

President Grant thanked the members of her senior team and all the MCLA faculty and staff for their work on behalf of the institution. She thanked the Trustees for their stewardship of 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 6:25 p.m.