



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

November 2, 2022

87 Blackinton St, North Adams

MS Teams Audio/Video

Committee members in attendance:

Frederick Keator, Committee Chair*
Brenda Burdick, Board Chair*
Robert Reilly*

Absent:

Jean Clarke-Mitchell

Others present:

James F. Birge, President
Richard Glejzer, Vice President, Academic Affairs
Lisa Lescarbeau, Clerk
Kayla Hollins, Executive Director of Student Success

*Denotes remote participation

As allowed by executive order of the Governor of Massachusetts, in compliance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30 and 15A, Section 9, and with a quorum present in-person and via audio/video-conference, the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees of November 2, 2022, with Committee Chair Keator presiding was called to order at 8:32 a.m.

Realignment of Student Success and Persistence

Executive Director Hollins introduced herself to the committee and provided a brief biography and how she has reached the position she now holds with the College.

VP Glejzer began the presentation with a review of Title III funds the College was awarded in 2016. The \$2.2M was paid out over five years and was used to strengthen MCLA by increasing student persistence rates, particularly for students of color and low-income students. He provided a list of Title 3 initiatives including Chatbot, Timesheet X, Center for Teaching and Learning, Success Coaching, and Math Drop-in Center.

ED Hollins reviewed the pandemic's impacts on student success citing information from the Department of Education and the Office of Civil Rights. These include challenges nearly all

students have had to their mental health and well-being, identity-based harassment and violence, and new barriers for many postsecondary students.

ED Hollins commented on the College's retention efforts highlighting strengths, weaknesses and retention percentages. Athletes, students with a high school GPA of 3.0 or higher, those who receive early action, and Massachusetts residents retain at higher rates. Female students, students of color, students who are Pell eligible, and those with a high school GPA below 3.0 retain at lower rates. Overall retention, pre-pandemic, was in the low to mid 70%, was 63% in fall of 2020, and is 68.3% for fall of 2021. Retention efforts focus on the latter areas of weakness.

The Academic Advising and Support Center has centralized to the first floor of Mark Hopkins Hall. Services available in the center include Academic Advising and Support, Disability Resources, and TRiO.

ED Hollins presented the Faculty Advising Fellows program and team consisting of Drs. Antonio Templanza, Paul, Nnodim, Mariah Hepworth and Whitney Gecker. These professors hold office hours through the Office of Academic Advising and Support, working with up to 30 advisees each. They monitor student progress with routine check-ins, scheduling meetings, proactive outreach, and communications related to academics and other areas of concern. These faculty also collaborate with other offices on campus to assist their advisees.

In response to a question regarding TRiO, it was stated that the program staffing includes a director, program coordinator and administrative assistant. As well, there is a partner in the Office of Admission assigned to assist TRiO.

VP Glejzer presented the Strategic Enrollment Management Council which is tasked with aligning retention efforts across divisions and offices with a focus on barriers to student success and persistence. SEM operates from an equity perspective and is focused currently on new student onboarding.

ED Hollins discussed the College's new student success management platform, EAB Navigate. The platform will streamline tasks such as communication flow, appointment setting, note taking, and clearing holds. This tool enables staff to do the work that is being done more efficiently with better attention. Implementation will be done in phases beginning in February 2023 through spring of 2024.

Committee members discussed what student success looks like coming out of these programs. ED Hollins stated that this looks different for each student depending upon their specific needs. The goal is to be adaptive and responsive to student needs.

Sabbatical Applications

VP Glejzer reviewed the AY 2023-2024 sabbatical applications submitted by faculty members who have completed six years of full-time service to the College:

- **Ms. Tara Barboza**, Associate Professor of Accounting, Fall 2023
- **Ms. Pamela Contakos**, Digital Services Librarian, Fall 2023
- **Dr. Hannah Haynes**, Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies, Spring 2024
- **Dr. Peter Hoyt**, Professor of Biology Fall 2023
- **Dr. Anna Jaysane-Darr**, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Spring 2024 (deferred from Fall 2022)
- **Dr. Erin Kiley**, Associate Professor of Mathematics, AY 2023-2024
- **Dr. Rita Nnodim**, Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies, Spring 2024
- **Dr. Victoria Papa**, Assistant Professor of English & Visual Culture, AY 2023-2024
- **Dr. Nicole Porther**, Associate Professor of Biology, Spring 2024
- **Dr. Graziana Ramsden**, Professor of Modern Languages, Fall 2023
- **Dr. Elena Traister**, Professor of Environmental Science, AY 2023-2024

In response to questions regarding the number of faculty applying and eligible for sabbatical, VP Glejzer stated that he will gather this information for the coming three to six years.

With regard to measuring outcomes, it was noted that detailed reports are submitted addressing the outcomes faculty outlined in their sabbatical application. Presentation of work is not required; however, some faculty choose to share in sessions with other faculty.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, with no further discussion, following a role call vote, it was unanimously:

VOTED: to accept the sabbatical applications as presented for advancement to the Board of Trustees.

Nursing Program

VP Glejzer presented an update on the nursing program. BORN has given initial approval of the program, and the internal governance process began immediately. Curriculum Committee approved the program curriculum and forwarded the program to All College Committee. All College is scheduled to meet on November 3 for consideration. Once the program has gone through the internal governance process, including review by the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board, President Birge will bring the recommendation on the program to the board of trustees.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.