



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
Thursday, July 9, 2015  
President's Office Conference Room**

**Trustees in attendance:**

Tyler Fairbank, Chair  
William Dudley, Vice Chair  
Mohan Boodram (via conference call)  
Lisa Chamberlain  
JD Chesloff (via conference call)  
Jim Clemmer  
Shirley Edgerton  
Susan Gold  
Denise Marshall

**Trustees absent:**

Nicholas Hernigle, Student Trustee

**Others present:**

Cynthia Farr Brown, Interim President  
Cathy Holbrook, Vice President of Student Affairs  
Ginger Menard, Clerk  
Tammy Daniels, iBerkshires

Chair Fairbank called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Interim President Brown introduced MCLA's new Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Catherine Holbrook. Dr. Holbrook joined the College on July 1. She provided the Trustees with an overview of her background and expressed her commitment to student engagement and her thankfulness for this opportunity to be part of the College.

Dr. Brown shared an update on the state budget which was recently sent to the Governor after being approved by both the House and Senate. It appears that the line item funding for Gallery 51 is included and we hope that it will remain in the final budget. Collective Bargaining is not fully funded and a fee increase will be required if it remains unfunded or only partially funded.

Bowman Hall renovations remain on schedule and MCLA will take possession of building by the end of July. Some structural repairs are being completed on Freel Library and the College is

investigating options for the Brewer Perkins building (Public Safety/Shipping & Receiving) as it is in need of repairs.

Student Affairs hosted three orientation programs to date and will have an additional session in August. The Leadership Academy is underway as well as the CAGS and IEP programs. The STEM and LEAD Academies will begin in the coming weeks.

Dr. Brown recently spoke on behalf of PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers). This new assessment for the Commonwealth's K-12 student, which the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education will vote on this fall, is meant to be summative and formative and could have use in identifying college and career readiness. MCLA faculty have been involved in reviewing PARCC and engaging with BCC faculty and K-12 educators to learn more about the assessment and its connection to Massachusetts curriculum frameworks.

MCLA also became an institutional member of the new Makers' Mill in North Adams. This membership will allow students to participate for free, in conjunction with some volunteer hours, and will allow staff and faculty to receive half price memberships.

The Trustee Reappointment process (PENC) is still being finalized. Chair Fairbank has been working on this issue the past few months as Trustees Edgerton, Gold, and Dudley are all up for reappointment.

An ad hoc nominating committee will need to be formed as Chair Fairbank's final five year term on the Board ends in March 2016.

Trustee Marshall requested an update on the Director of Public Safety position. The job has been reposted and Lt. Dan Colonno will serve as interim director for the fall semester. Resumes are being reviewed for the position of Vice President of Administration & Finance. The search committee will determine those who will be interviewed. The College is working with the executive firm Spelman Johnson and on this search.

### **Presidential Search Review**

Trustee Gold, co-chair of the Search Committee, presented the list of Search Committee members for approval. In addition to co-chairs, Trustees Gold and Boodram, Trustees Edgerton and Chesloff will serve again on behalf of the Board. Faculty representatives are Carolyn Dehner, Frances Jones-Sneed, and Dana Rapp. Staff representatives are Bernadette Alden, Ian Bergeron, and Tom DeGray. Student representatives are Idalis Foster and Alexandra Kadell. The Alumni representative is Kathleen Therrien and the BHE representative is Katy Abel. In addition to these members Chair Fairbank and Mary Ellen Olenyk, director of human resources, will serve as *ex officio* members.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To approve the slate of appointees for the Search Committee.

Chair Fairbank noted the strength of this committee and that there is a strong balance of new members with those who served on the previous search committee. He extended his thanks to the co-chairs and the trustees on the committee for their continued service and commitment to this process.

Co-Chair Boodram explained that updated proposals were requested from search firms that had previously bid for the job, including Archer~Martin Associates. Four proposals were received with Archer~Martin choosing not to submit a proposal again. The co-chairs will interview two of firms whose proposals included standardized methods of candidate assessment beyond the interview process. The goal is to hire a firm in the coming weeks in order to begin building the pool of candidates at the beginning of the semester so that on campus visits can take place in November.

As co-chairs Boodram and Gold have been deeply involved with the presidential search, Chair Fairbank requested that a motion be put forth to again grant them the authority on behalf of the Board to select the search firm.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To approve that the authority to select the search firm be designated to Trustees Boodram and Gold.

### **Executive Session**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, and a roll call vote of the Board, it was

**VOTED:** To go into executive session at 10:12 a.m.

During the Executive Session Trustee Fairbank led a discussion on the positioning and leadership of the College during the upcoming transition.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was,

**VOTED:** to proceed with the search in accordance with the BHE guidelines.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, and a roll call vote of the Board, it was

**VOTED:** To reconvene in open session at 11:20.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, and upon a unanimous roll call, it was

**VOTED** to adjourn the meeting at 11:22 a.m.