

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Thursday, October 13, 2016
87 Blackinton Street**

**Members in attendance**
Buffy Lord, Chair
Mohan Boodram, via teleconference
Brianne O’Rourke, Student Trustee

 **Others in attendance**
Dr. James Birge, Interim President
Dr Cathy Holbrook, Vice President of Student Affairs
Dan Colonno, Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police
Jenn Craig, Coordinator of Student Activities
Susan Edgerton, Director of Honors Program
Tim Williams, Student Government Association (SGA) President
Nicole Hastry, Mary Kate Lynch, and Jackie Ordway, Honors Student Council members
Ginger Menard, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 9:29 a.m.

**Residential Learning Communities**Vice President Holbrook, Professor Edgerton, and student Jackie Ordway shared information about the success of the inaugural Honors Living and Learning Community (LLC). This program grew out of the well-attended honors overnight visits that the College hosted last spring. The initial goal was to have 30 students but there are now 46 residents as part of the LLC as well as 50 students that are part of the honors program but not living in the LLC.

The staff, faculty, and student leaders have created programming and trips for those in the LLC. As a result the students have bonded and created a network of friendship and support with each other.

Vice President Holbrook reported that Student Affairs will assess the impact of the LLC by comparing first year honor students involved with the LLC to honors students not in the LLC as well as the engagement and retention of freshmen in the LLC with other non-LLC freshmen. They will identify what worked within the community and what should be added or changed in future programs.

Next year the program will be expanded to include an LLC for undeclared students as well as one with a focus on students in the STEM fields and those involved in the summer STEM Academy.

Trustee Lord thanked Susan Edgerton and the students for presenting to the committee and she congratulated them on the success of this program.

**Campus Safety Report**

Chief Colonno provided an overview of MCLA’s Annual Security and Fire Safety Report, known as the Clery Report. This is a federally mandated annual report that includes safety and crime statistics from the previous three years from areas on campus as well as off campus areas for which the College is responsible, i.e. Gallery 51, the Advancement Office, and 87 Blackinton. Overall the report shows that MCLA is a very safe campus and this report reflects the College’s commitment to keep the MCLA campus community safe. A discussion of the report and the data followed. Trustee Lord asked about the reporting structure for Title IX offenses and Chief Colonno shared the various pathways available for students that include Public Safety, the Title IX Coordinator, Associate Dean of Students Theresa O’Bryant, and Health Services and Counseling Services. VP Holbrook also noted that extensive Title IX training is being conducted throughout campus with students, staff, and faculty. Additionally, Campus Safety actively tracks crime statistics and will send out an alert to the campus community whenever necessary.

Trustee Lord thanked Chief Colonno and his department for all they do to keep the campus safe.

**Student Government Association (SGA) update**

SGA President Tim Williams provided an overview of upcoming SGA events including the ChowderFest and Sam Gomez Road Race that are part of Fall Family and Alumni weekend. The proceeds of this year’s Sam Gomez race will benefit the Pittsfield Boys and Girls Club.

He also shared some of SGA’s goals for the academic year which include increasing collaboration with student clubs, increasing voter turnout for SGA elections – possibly utilizing the “Check I’m Here” app – and increasing community involvement in North Adams and the surrounding areas. He also plans to increase SGA’s constituent services by providing venues for students to be informed about campus plans and issues and an opportunity to provide feedback. President Birge suggested that Tim meet with Francesca Shanks, MCLA’s Social Media and Marketing Manager to discuss the use of social media to increase voter turnout

**Campus Climate Survey**

As a response to President Birge’s charge at Opening Breakfast to focus on diversity and inclusion, a consultant has been engaged to assist in conducting a campus climate survey. President Birge has appointed members to a newly formed Diversity Task Forces and next week they will meet the consultant, Cathryn Turrentine, who will provide guidance and help in the formation of survey questions. The survey will be launched in January with a goal of having the task force present a summary of what needs to be done along with actionable items to the President by mid-spring.

VP Holbrook also noted that she is working with Chief Colonno to provide training regarding diversity and working with a student population as many of his officers are new to MCLA.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at
10:39 a.m.