



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting of November 21, 2019
87 Blackinton Street**

Members in Attendance:

Frederick Keator, Chair
Mohan Boodram (telephonic)
Denise Marshall, Board Chair
Jacob Vitali, Student Trustee

Others in Attendance

James F. Birge, President
Cathy Holbrook, Vice President of Student Affairs
Lisa Lescarbeau, Board Clerk
Amanda Beckwith, Coach - Volleyball
Tessa Sestito, MCLA Student, Senior
Houa Xiong, MCLA Student, Junior

Chair Keator called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Student Spotlight: Volleyball

VP Holbrook introduced, Ms. Beckwith, Coach, and Ms. Sestito and Ms. Xiong, members of the women's volleyball team.

Coach Beckwith reviewed the volleyball team's season, which ended at 19 wins and 11 losses. She outlined the team's player makeup, and their accomplishments, both as individuals and as a team.

Ms. Sestito and Ms. Xiong each introduced themselves and provided a brief bio including where they hail from, their high school volleyball playing experience, how they came to select MCLA and their college experience with MCLA.

Coach Beckwith discussed her recruiting process and provided additional information on efforts to broaden the student body's diversity.

Title IX/Sexual Assault

VP Holbrook provided a summary of an incident that occurred on campus on October 26. This incident involved a sexual assault on a student and was both reported through Title IX and to campus police. Aspects of the process and the communication alert provided to the campus community were discussed. She also commented on the need to protect the privacy of the victim and the investigation.

Members discussed the Title IX process, and the lack of understanding around reporting through Title IX and to campus police.

Discussion further centered on the language used in the communications to campus community members, and specific terminology with regard to race and ethnicity that was felt could lead to racial profiling issues. Timing of communications and the sharing of information relative to the incident and resources were discussed.

Reference was made to two emails sent to Trustees by two MCLA students, which lead to discussion of locks on residences, reporting of broken locks, and the repair process. The contents of the alerts and the student's concern with the same were also discussed.

Committee members discussed the protocol that is followed with regard to safety, reporting to campus police and reporting through Title IX, as well as how the trauma that results from an incident on campus is identified and handled.

VP Holbrook stated that there are currently no Title IX issues that have not been addressed, nor are there reports that have gone uninvestigated.

With regard to claims that reports by students to facilities were remaining unaddressed, VP Holbrook stated that this was investigated and all reports made had been addressed. The reporting process has been, and continues to be, improved to make it easier for students and staff to report and respond.

Student Shawn Loftus, who joined the meeting in progress, addressed the committee with concerns that students are frustrated with the perceived use of race as the only describing factor for the suspect in the sexual assault case being discussed.

Communication amongst community members and SGA's role in facilitating the conversations was acknowledged. Chair Marshall thanked the groups for being open to listening to what the community has to say, and noted that a resolution would not be reached quickly. Efforts will continue through education of faculty, staff and students, and in partnership with SGA.

Update on Fitness Center Project

The Fitness Center Project update was tabled until the next meeting of the Student Affairs Committee.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.