MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

President's Office – Large Conference Room and Audio/Video MS Teams

MINUTES

October 9, 2025

PRESENT: A. Bayer, T. Bernard, J. Clarke-Mitchell*
ABSENT: B. Burdick
STAFF PRESENT: J. Birge, D. Colonno, A. Hala*, K. Kozak, J. Mendel, L. Mooney, L. Morrill

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 Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees with Chair Bernard presiding was called to order at 8:33 a.m.

Enrollment – President Birge began with a discussion of enrollment. The Enrollment Committee met yesterday.

1. Undergrad enrollment is up about 41 students, due to dual enrollment.
2. Grad enrollment down by 16, NYS changed their professional development, also US Dept of Education grad study loans are gone.
3. 65% of students are from MA, 35% outside, including 28 states and 4 countries. International was buoyed by housing incentive.
4. 25% ALANA students, high PELL eligibility among our students
5. Total enrollment just under 1000, with top majors Business, Radiological Technology, Health Sciences and pre-Nursing.

Student Wellbeing – Ms. Hala then presented on Student Wellbeing

1. There has been a steady use of clinical services, mental health and medical – surge of covid right now, mental health is largely anxiety and interpersonal, compounded by trauma. We are proud to have a no wait list model with same day appointments. We are also offering a pilot program called Let's Talk – virtual counselors and it has been extremely beneficial.
2. Care team is an interdisciplinary team supporting students. Classroom success and support has been the most prevalent need.
3. MCLA Wellness campaign to include community-based support with faculty and staff. As part of this we have also developed a peer program with seven peer health support staff. There was discussion with the Committee of the success of peer health program. Also discussed cooperation of wellness and disability resources. Ms. Hala noted she sees a lot of roommate concerns and Wellness does also offer support for relationships. There was also discussion of an extensive amount of outside resources being provided as well including our UWILL telehealth counseling platform. Ms. Hala also noted our collaboration with Williams peer health program.

FY26 Plans for Student Life - Dean Morrill then presented on upcoming plans for Student Life.

1. Orientation program shifted from a summer program to an intensive pre semester program. It was very successful.
2. Spring Break service-learning trip to Belize has been resurrected through Spencer Moser's office. There was discussion with the Committee that student athletes may not be able to participate and should we look at offering more travel opportunities outside the spring sports schedule. Further discussion that administration or trustees could participate at their expense but should be part of the entire process.
3. Student Engagement – Multi-cultural Education Resource Center (MERC) and Gender & Sexuality Center (GSC) have been folded into student engagement which has been a very positive shift
4. Civic Programs has also been developed into a new role supporting student life including veterans resources, voter awareness, and volunteer center.

There was discussion with the Committee of non-traditional and commuter student programs during orientation that are being reviewed. The volunteer area does not yet have a digital tool but staff is looking forward to that process. Volunteer programming will also help with community relations. Discussion that there are 18-20 veterans services eligible students. Trustee Bayer is an admissions ambassador and is seeing many questions on veterans services. Civic programs is working with the Financial Services office.

How are we telling the success stories of Athletics?
Trustee Bayer is a student athlete and presented on how we are telling the success of our student athletes especially as we change through a new presidency.

1. AD Mooney noted the 3-2-1 philosophy – all athletes have a 3.0 GPA or above, top 2 team in the conference and all teams work as 1 team!
2. Coaches have goals for recruitment and player development. Student athletes should want to excel in sport and academics and coaches are accountable for those areas as well.
3. Facilities needs are critical to recruitment and the Campaign is supporting that as well as Coaches recruiting personally. We are also creative with our resources, scheduling and winning mindset.
4. Trustee Bayer offered commentary that big picture strategic planning and long-term investment is important to the future of the program and the college as well. AD Mooney noted that Athletics has been involved in the 10 year facility master plan and they have been involved in strategic planning and long-term financial planning. President Birge noted that the upcoming transition to a new President will be an opportunity for growth and strategic initiatives as well as donor cultivation to support these goals.
5. Retention is also critical to the program. This is accomplished through support of leadership and team development.

Future Student organizations - Trustee Bayer presented on opportunity for student growth and recruitment through student leadership opportunities including student government, Model UN, Speech & Debate, etc. She is asking how we further leverage student leadership opportunities. President Birge noted speech and debate, forensics, model UN, etc. are all great opportunities. SGA has a budget for funding programming, and this could be prioritized through that avenue as well. Chair Clarke-Mitchel noted her appreciation for the input of Student Trustee Bayer.

As Campus Police Chief Colonno was present, Chair Bernard asked for detail of the Clery Report process. The Clery Report has been submitted as required on October 1, and will be presented to the Trustees in October.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, via a roll call vote it was unanimously:

VOTED: to adjourn the meeting at 9:42a.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Kelli Kozak
Clerk