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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Thursday, April 24, 2014
President's Office Conference Room**

Members in attendance:

Shirley Edgerton
Stephen Crowe (via conference call)
Alyson Stolz, Student Trustee

Others in attendance

Mary K. Grant, President
Charlotte Degen, Vice President of Student Affairs
James Stakenas, Vice President of Administration & Finance
Celia Norcross, Director of Student Development
Chris Cozzaglio, Class Senate Representative
Alexandra Kadell, Parliamentarian, SGA
Brendan Peltier, Executive Vice President, SGA
Roberta McCulloch-Dews, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m. by Trustee Edgerton

Fiscal Year 2015 Budget and Student Fees

Vice President Stakenas presented an update on the state budget process for FY 2015.

If the increase appropriate to the state university system is not funded at the requested level, the College anticipates a fee increase will be necessary. The Fiscal Affairs committee will advance a fee recommendation to the Board for consideration.

President Grant noted the College strives to maintain a balance that takes into consideration the financial impact of any fee increase on students, as well as the needs of the College.

Student Government Association Goals & Scope of Work

President Grant shared highlights of the 2014 Student Leadership Award and Recognition Banquet held on Wednesday, April 23rd, which honored the College's student leaders, and of which Vice President Degen was awarded the Outstanding Advisor of the Year Award. Trustee Crowe offered his congratulations.

The students shared highlights of their campus engagement and their newly elected roles in Student Government Association (SGA), as determined by the SGA elections in April. The elections had the most votes in the 105 year history of SGA. The level of engagement was the result of student initiatives to foster increased participation including a “Meet the Candidates” panel and enhanced promotion campus wide and through social media.

Brendan Peltier, who was elected SGA President for 2014-2015, outlined SGA goals from this year, and spoke to a few initiatives for the coming year being considered. One highlight he noted was that funds from the annual Sam Gomez Classic 5k Charity Road Race, held in October 2013, will benefit the Windsor Lake Park Project, which is scheduled to begin this summer.

Alexandra Kadell, the current SGA parliamentarian and newly elected executive vice president, shared her yearlong work of meeting with teams from student clubs and organizations to update the student club constitutions.

President Grant affirmed Student Government Association’s commitment to good governance and their diligence with this work as well as management of the budget. The president noted that this work lays a solid foundation for future students. Vice President Stakenas also commended Student Government for its budget process.

Celia Norcross discussed the correlation between The Liberal Education and America’s Promise (LEAP) outcomes of the Association of America Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) and student co-curricular involvement.

She noted her ongoing work with students to help them understand that the skills they gain through participation in clubs and organizations, which can be included in both traditional resumes and ePortfolios is explicitly mapped to LEAP.

President Grant affirmed the value of these transferable skills, and cited the availability of internship information as a progressive out-of-class learning opportunity and other resources through the College’s Center for Student Success and Engagement (CSSE) to expand students’ skills and experiences.

Trustee Edgerton commended the students for their passion, commitment, and involvement toward their involvement in the Student Government Association. She noted that she looked forward to hearing about the students’ continued campus engagement in the next academic year.

Adjournment

With no other business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:03 a.m.