



My College. Right from the Start.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, January 14, 2014
President's Office Conference Room**

The following Trustees were present:

Tyler Fairbank (Chair)
Mohan Boodram (via conference)
J.D. Chesloff (via conference)
James Clemmer (via conference)
Steve Crowe (via conference)
Susan Gold
Buffy Lord (via conference)
Denise Marshall (via conference)

The following Trustee was absent:

Will Dudley
Shirley Edgerton

Others present:

Mary Grant, President
Denise Richardello, Executive Vice President
Roberta McCulloch-Dews, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m. by Trustee Fairbank.

NEASC Update

President Grant provided a NEASC update to the committee. The College received a draft of the NEASC draft report for a review of factual accuracy. The draft report outlines institutional strengths and opportunities at MCLA as identified by the team.

As the College continues to advance the strategic plan, the chair highlighted the engagement of faculty in the evolution of the Center for Student Success and Engagement (CSSE) as a model. MCLA also continues to advance student learning outcomes.

The College's multi-year enrollment plan will be strengthened by the new enrollment management committee composed of Trustees Boodram (chair), Clemmer, and Edgerton, as well

as Admissions and Financial Aid staff.

The report noted that regarding the library, the effective planning process must be matched with implementation efforts around materials, physical plant, and staffing. This work will require strategic decision making to manage resource constraints.

Additionally, the College's network access needs expansion; the report notes geography as a constraint. The president said that the College would continue to advance the discussion to broaden the system.

Presidents Grant and Kalikow will meet with the NEASC Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (CIHE) in spring 2014, after which the Commission will provide an accreditation decision to MCLA, along with recommendations for areas of focus and required reports to demonstrate progress in these areas.

Opening of Spring Semester

MCLA marked the opening of the spring semester with the College's annual Opening Breakfast on Monday, January 13, 2014, of which was attended by Senator Ben Downing. The breakfast offered the MCLA community an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the fall and a look toward the new semester.

Spring/fall enrollment

President Grant shared an update on financial aid. Executive Vice President Denise Richardello noted fall admission applications were 12-15% ahead of last year; the applicant pool demonstrates students with strong academic and diverse backgrounds.

The Board will discuss enrollment during the Board Retreat, Saturday, February 1, 2014.

State Initiatives

The Council of Presidents continues to move forward the discussion on funding. President Grant will deliver a presentation on MCLA at the Board of Higher Education meeting Tuesday, January 28, 2014 in Boston, of which members of the board were invited to attend.

Commissioner Richard Freeland is scheduled to attend the Thursday, March 20, 2014 board meeting. Trustee Fairbank noted Commissioner Freeland's interest in MCLA's best practices and said he looked forward to the commissioner's attendance at the meeting.

President Grant noted Secretary Matthew Malone's recent visit to Dracut High School and his promotion of MCLA and other public higher education institutions.

Board Retreat/Trustee Appointment Process

Trustee Fairbank affirmed the board's thoughtfulness regarding the Trustee Appointment process. The board will be advancing the name of proposed candidate to the Public Education Nominating Council (PENC).

Council of President's Executive Director Vincent Pedone is scheduled to attend the board retreat on Saturday, February 1, 2014. The retreat will include a discussion on topics including enrollment management trends and the Center for Student Success and Engagement (CSSE) at the College.

Other

Trustee Crowe cited a Wall Street Journal article on the topic of state universities and tuition rates.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10: 22 a.m.