



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

**May 10, 2022**

**87 Blackinton St, North Adams  
MS Teams Audio/Video**

**Committee members in attendance:**

Brenda Burdick, Committee Chair\*  
Franklyn Reynolds\*  
Mohan Boodram, Board Chair\*

**Absent:**

Robert Reilly

**Others present:**

James F. Birge, President  
Richard Glejzer, Vice President, Academic Affairs  
Lisa Lescarbeau, Clerk

\*Denotes remote participation

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 Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees with Committee Chair Burdick presiding was called to order at 8:40 a.m.

**Strategic Enrollment Management Council**

VP Glejzer provided an overview of recent organization changes made within the Academic Affairs Division including to the College's Strategic Enrollment Management Council (SEM), Center for Student Success and Engagement (CSSE), and TRiO. TRiO support services will now report through the Academic Affairs Division, and registrar's office will report through the Enrollment Management Division. First to second year retention rates, student experiences and support services, and retention and onboarding methods were the drivers of these changes.

Space and location of these services was discussed. VP Glejzer noted that location of these is in process.

The SEM Council will continue to meet weekly.

President Birge informed Trustees that the College's DCAMM proposal had not been approved for funding. The Governor has indicated an appropriation to MCLA for at least \$5MM, and efforts will be made with legislators to increase this to the \$30MM needed for the DCAMM project proposed.

### **Faculty Fellows**

VP Glejzer reviewed a faculty fellows model being developed that would allow faculty to do other work that supports students and the College. The model proposed will increase class sizes to improve the student experience, and balance any faculty workload deficits. Four faculty with strong reputations around student advising will work in advising roles with 20-30 students each. This work will be considered a course and faculty will be granted alternative professional responsibilities (APRs). In addition, there are areas that are administrative being worked into this model: institutional research for data analysis, and international programming.

### **Summer Course Enrollment and Support**

Most 2022 summer lecture courses will be taught online, with a few exceptions using a hybrid format. All lab courses – physics, chemistry, biology, and radiologic technology – will also be taught in hybrid format, with online assignments and direct laboratory experience in person. Enrollment is down from last year, with 422 seats sold as of May 3rd, compared to 520 this time last year. This number will be augmented by 50 dual enrollment students later this week and we will continue to do more outreach to current students through public tabling, email marketing, and other efforts. DGCE expects to fill 550 total summer undergraduate seats for the year, mirroring our numbers for 2021.

### **Newly Elected Department Chairs**

- Dr. Mariana Bolivar has been elected to a three-year term as chair of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Modern Languages, and Philosophy
- Dr. David Eve has been re-elected to a three-year term as chair of the Computer Science Department
- Dr. Justin Golub has been re-elected to a three-year term as chair of the Biology Department
- Dr. Robert Harris has been elected to a three-year term as chair of the Chemistry Department

- Dr. Elizabeth Hartung has been elected to a three-year term as chair of the Mathematics Department
- Dr. Ely Janis has been elected to a three-year term as chair of the Department of History and Political Science
- Dr. Chali Nondo, has been elected to a three-year term as chair of the Department of Business Administration and Economics
- Dr. Ruby Vega has been elected to a three-year term as chair of the Psychology Department
- Dr. Kebra Ward has been elected to a three-year term as chair of the Physics Department

### **Faculty Incentive Awards**

The following faculty are recipients of the 2021-2022 Faculty Incentive Awards:

#### *New Course and Program Development Award*

- Dr. Emily Maher, Department of Physics, “Holy Experiential Learning, Batman, the Physics of Superheroes is Adding a Lab!”
- Ms. Tara Barboza, Department of Business Administration, “MBA Curriculum Project: CPA Review Courses”

#### *Research Award for Tenure-Track Faculty*

- Dr. Andrew Best, Department of Biology, “Limits to Human Sustained Energy Expenditure”

#### *Sabbatical Research Award*

- Ms. Melanie Mowinski, Department of Fine and Performing Arts, “Press 2.0”

#### *Three-Credit Research Alternative Professional Responsibilities*

- Dr. Caren Beilin, Department of English and Communications, “SEA, POISON”
- Dr. Thomas Byrne, Department of Psychology, “A Behavioral Test Battery to Assess the Effects of Morphine in Planarians”

#### *Creative and/or Civic Learning/Engagement/Service Award*

- Dr. Lisa Donovan, Department of Fine and Performing Arts, “Creating Internship Pathways in Arts and Culture: 8-HIP Internship Planning”

### **Emerita Faculty Nomination**

Dr. Nancy Ovitsky will retire from the Department of Business Administration and Economics this May and has been nominated for Emerita status. Dr. Ovitsky joined MCLA when it was still known as North Adams State College in 1986, appointed as an Assistant Professor after teaching three years in an adjunct role. She was promoted to Associate Professor in 1994 and was promoted again to Professor in 1999. Dr. Ovitsky was elected to chair the department several times during her tenure and also served on several strategic planning and accreditation committees, and

numerous governance committees, including chair of the All College Committee. Since 2010, Dr. Ovitsky has directed the Master of Business Administration program, developing curriculum, hiring faculty, reviewing student applications, and providing outreach to the business community within the region. With great respect and appreciation for her students, Dr. Ovitsky has served as the advisor for MCLA's chapter of the Delta Mu Delta international Business honor society since 1996, presiding over the 30th annual induction ceremony this past week.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, with no further discussion, it was unanimously:

**VOTED:** to recommend granting emerita faculty status to Dr. Nancy Ovitsky.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee the meeting was adjourned at 9:21 a.m.