



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

March 28, 2022

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

Committee members in attendance:

Brenda Burdick, Committee Chair*
Robert Reilly*
Mohan Boodram, Board Chair*

Absent:

Franklyn Reynolds

Others present:

James F. Birge, President
Richard Glejzer, Vice President, Academic Affairs
Lisa Lescarbeau, Clerk
Elizabeth Fiscella, Associate Dean of Nursing

*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 11 a.m.

Nursing Program

Trustees introduced themselves to Associate Dean Fiscella, who then provided an overview of her background in the nursing education field, and the work she has begun to develop a nursing program at MCLA.

The first draft of a required document to provide to the nursing board is expected to be submitted at the end of May/beginning of June. The first cohort is planned for Fall 2023 with 35 students.

Of those 35 initial students, 25 would be entered into the nursing program through a selection process.

In addition to the document for submission to the Board of Registration in Nursing (BORN), the curriculum has been developed, and work is underway to develop syllabi and position descriptions for the nursing major.

In response to questions regarding the nursing program, Ms. Fiscella stated that partnerships are being developed with Berkshire Health Systems (BHS) and Berkshire Healthcare (BHC), with initial focus on the latter as long-term care is generally a first clinical experience. BHS would provide clinical experience in acute and home care, and mental health.

Pathways to a BSN will be developed for transfer students such as those who complete the practical nursing program at C. H. McCann Technical School and community colleges. Courses will be taught initially by adjunct faculty and will transition to full-time faculty through the spring of 2024. This is the model process for BORN approval.

Ms. Fiscella departed the meeting at 11:09 a.m.

Faculty Searches

VP Glejzer reviewed faculty searches. Academic Affairs has supported five tenure-track faculty searches this academic year:

Completed searches:

Dr. Carter Carter, Psychology

Dr. Eunice Uhm, Art History/Museum Studies

Search still in process:

Economics

Searches closed:

Psychology

Computer Science/Electrical Engineering

In response to a question regarding the Computer Science/Electrical Engineering position, VP Glejzer explained that a current faculty member is able to provide instruction for this concentration.

Faculty Reappointments

The following faculty have been recommended to the President for second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth year reappointment:

Reappointment to Second Year of Service

- Andrew Best (Biology)

Reappointment to Third Year of Service

- Thomas Burton (Physics)
- Whitney Gecker (Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work)
- Sharon Head (Education)
- Sudipto Sarkar (Business Administration)
- Antonio Templanza (English & Communications)
- Julie Walsh (Biology)

Reappointment to Fourth Year of Service

- Margaret Clark (Education)
- Kate Flower (Library)
- Amanda Kleintop (History)
- Michaela Petrovich (Fine and Performing Arts)
- Clio Sterns (Education)

Reappointment to Fifth Year of Service

- Caren Beilin (English & Communications)
- Guangzhi Huang (Interdisciplinary Studies)
- Mohamad Junaid (Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work)
- Sara Steele (Psychology)

Reappointment to Sixth Year of Service

- George Hamaoui (Biology)
- Victoria Papa (English & Communications)

VP Glejzer reviewed the reappointment process that is conducted through the collective bargaining agreement and includes evaluation by the department chair, Peer Evaluation Committee, Academic Dean, Academic VP and the President. The candidates for reappointment above have all received reappointment recommendations through all phases of the evaluation.

Faculty Tenure and Promotions

VP Glejzer then began presentation of faculty tenure candidates. The application for tenure submitted by Professor Sean McIntosh is not included for presentation at this meeting. Professor McIntosh's application and portfolio as submitted were deemed incomplete, and, therefore, ineligible for tenure. As a result, per the collective bargaining agreement, the application for tenure was denied, and the final obligation of the College to the candidate is a terminal contract.

The committee then reviewed the list of faculty for tenure and promotions. The President recommends the following faculty for tenure and promotion:

Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor

- Travis Beaver (Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work)
- Erin Kiley (Mathematics)
- Nicole Porther (Biology)
- Guodong Wang (Computer Science)

The following faculty member is recommended for Promotion to Associate Professor and 3rd year reappointment:

- Lisa Arrastia (Education)

The following faculty are recommended for Promotion to Full Professor:

- Carolyn Dehner (Chemistry)
- Diane Scott (Fine and Performing Arts)

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

VOTED: to recommend reappointment with tenure and promotion to associate professor to Drs. Beaver, Kiley, Porther and Wang, as presented.

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

VOTED: to recommend reappointment and promotion to associate professor to Dr. Arrastia, and promotion to full professor to Drs. Dehner and Scott, as presented.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee the meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.