



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

April 7, 2022

Murdock Hall, Room 208

Audio/Video Conference

The following Trustees were present:

Mohan Boodram

John Barrett III*

JD Chesloff*

Frederick Keator*

Karen Kowalczyk*

Denise Marshall

Edgar Perez

Robert Reilly

Kathleen Therrien

Trustees Absent:

Brenda Burdick, Franklyn Reynolds

MCLA Staff in attendance:

James F. Birge, President

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 Board of Trustees of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts met on April 7, 2022 with Board Chair Boodram presiding.

For purposes of recording, it was noted that the Board Development session was held at 4:30 p.m. Trustees and members of the executive staff were provided an overview of the Colleges Critical Incident Response plan.

Chair Boodram called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

During recent committee meetings the piloting of a move to consent agenda for meetings of this Board was discussed. A consent agenda allows the board to approve items, such as minutes, together without discussion or individual motions.

A consent agenda may be presented by the president at the beginning of a meeting. Items may be removed from the consent agenda on the request of any one member. Items not removed may be adopted by general consent without debate. Removed items may be taken up either immediately after the consent agenda or placed later on the agenda at the discretion of the assembly.

There being no discussion of the adoption of a consent agenda, upon motion duly made and seconded, following a roll-call vote, it was unanimously:

VOTED: to adopt the use of a consent agenda at this April 7, 2022 meeting of MCLA's Board of Trustees.

Chair Boodram reviewed the items in the consent agenda as presented, and asked if there were items in the meeting materials that members wish to be removed and discussed individually. Hearing none, Chair Boodram then asked for corrections to the minutes as provided from the prior meetings listed on the agenda as item 2a, and other reports listed as item 2b. It was noted that the March 10, 2022 minutes of the Enrollment Management Committee incorrectly referred to the committee as the Academic Affairs Committee. Hearing no other corrections, upon motion duly made and seconded, following a roll-call vote, it was unanimously:

VOTED: to approve the consent agenda with the correction as noted for the minutes of the March 10, 2022 Enrollment Management Committee meeting.

Committee Action Items

Chair Boodram next presented three items requiring action by the Board of Trustees.

The Executive Committee of the Board met on February 4, 2022 to take further action on recipients to be granted honorary degrees at the College's May Commencement exercises. All names recommended were also discussed at a prior meeting of the full Board of Trustees. The Committee voted to approve three recipients and ratification of the vote was presented at this meeting. Upon motion duly made and seconded, with no discussion and following a roll-call vote, it was unanimously:

VOTED: to ratify the action of the Executive Committee Meeting of February 4, 2022 whereby the Committee approved Thomas Bernard, Susan Gold, and Dr. Carlos Santiago as honorary degree recipients at commencement exercises on May 14, 2022.

It was noted that Dr. Santiago would also be serving as the College's Commencement Speaker.

The Academic Affairs Committee met on March 28, 2022 and recommended approval of the following faculty for Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor:

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

The Committee recommends the following faculty member for Promotion to Associate Professor and 3rd year reappointment:

- Lisa Arrastia (Education)

And the following faculty for Promotion to Full Professor:

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

Based on the recommendations of the Academic Affairs Committee, upon motion duly made and seconded, following a roll-call vote, it was:

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

Based on the recommendations of the Academic Affairs Committee upon motion duly made and seconded, following a roll-call vote, it was:

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

Chair Boodram extended his congratulations to faculty members on their tenure, promotion and reappointments, noting that Drs. Beaver, Porther and Wang were in attendance at this meeting.

Title IX and Equal Opportunity Annual Training

The Trustees participated in the College's annual Title IX and Equal Opportunity training session provided by Barbara Chaput and Christopher Hayes both from the Human Resources Division, and Patrick Connelly from Student Affairs.

Training covered changes to Title IX that were effective August 2020, the Massachusetts Campus Sexual Assault Law of August 2021, upcoming NCAA requirements, updated EO plan information, and reporting an incident.

Strategic Planning

President Birge commented on the College's existing strategic plan, which comes to a close at the end of 2022. The pandemic impacted the plan presented, which was designed to change as the College progressed. Elements of this plan will be contained in the plan to be developed.

VP Puc presented more information on the timeline for the strategic planning process with kick-off expected in fall 2023 and finalization of the plan by fall of 2024. Work conducted during the NECHE accreditation will help to inform the strategic plan development.

The Department of Higher Education (DHE) will be a partner in the College's strategic plan with their phased approach for reviewing the campus's strategic plans. Committee members will offer guidance to the campus regarding what they will look for as they review the plan for approval. The DHE also provides performance measures to aid in the planning process.

VP Puc reviewed questions to be considered during the planning process relative to the need for transformative change, leadership capacity to make transformative change, and the College's plan for this change.

Data was presented on preparing for students post pandemic and the concerns students express that will need to be addressed.

President Birge and VP Puc responded to questions from the Trustees regarding the scope and modeling for the strategic plan; benchmarking against peers, demographics, and residential and online learning models.

Chair's Report

Chair Boodram provided the Chair's Report to the Board and began by stating that the Nominating Committee and Presidential Evaluation Committees have been established and members will be notified with a request to participate. The nominating committee typically meets once in May to formalize a slate for the Chair and Vice Chair. That slate would then be voted on at the June meeting. The Presidential Evaluation Committee would meet to prepare the President's evaluation for the Commissioners of Higher Education's June 30 deadline.

Adjournment

With no other business being brought before the meeting, upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously:

VOTED: to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m.