



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting of April 7, 2022
Murdock Hall, Room 208
Tele/Video Conference**

Members in Attendance

JD Chesloff, Chair*
Mohan Boodram, Board Chair
Kathleen Therrien*
Edgar Perez

*Denotes remote participation

Others in Attendance

James F. Birge, President
Jeannette Smith, Vice President of Student Affairs
Lisa Lescarbeau, Board Clerk
Michael Gladu, Coach, Baseball
Robert Correia, Student
Patrick Sheehan, Student
Adriane Baird, Coach, Softball
Nicole Main, Student
Sarah McMahan, student
Kevin Pezanowski, Coach, Men's Lacrosse
Micah Tassone, Student
Thomas Irwin, Student
Brady Larkin, Student
Allyson Baribault, Coach, Women's Lacrosse
Sarah Tomkiewicz, Student
Adam Hildabrand, Athletics Recruitment

Upon establishing a quorum of the Student Affairs Committee members, Trustee Chesloff called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

Spring Sports

Students and coaches of the College's spring athletics teams spoke about their relationship to the sport, and their experiences with both athletics and academics as members of the MCLA community. Those in attendance also provided a brief bio about their individual sport: Michael Gladu, Patrick Sheehan, Rob Cura, Adrienne Baird, Nicole Main, Sarah McMahon, Kevin Pezanowski, Micah Tassone, Thomas Irwin, Brady Larkin, Allyson Baribault, and Sarah Tomkiewicz

Adam Hildabrand presented on his efforts with athletics recruitment and connecting students with the office of admission. Recruiting has been impacted by COVID as trends for new student commitments changes. Last year showed a trend of early commitments to enrollment, and this year's trend is the opposite. There are currently 25 athletes who have made deposits for enrollment and there have been 179 visits by athletes to campus. The division's annual goal is for 100 athletic deposits.

Efforts to improve the conversion of visits to enrolled students are a key focus. The division has standardized using Front Rush, a CRM system for communicating with new recruits and athletes. Coaches have established goals and employ various methods of recruiting based on the specific sport. Community colleges are being targeted to encourage athletes to transfer to complete their four-year degree with MCLA. Connections with the office of admission are key throughout the process.

Laura Mooney spoke about athletics projects include turf fields. MCLA's current field situation makes playing conditions difficult, and sometimes hazardous, in the spring season. Home games are often scheduled at the competitors' fields due to playability of MCLA's surfaces. Field conditions also pose a challenge when recruiting athletes.

Ms. Mooney reviewed a list of states that MCLA's student athletes call home. She discussed coaching positions which are now all full-time and should prove to be a gamechanger in athletics programs going forward.

VP Smith provided an overview of the College's efforts to support the campus community following the recent suicide of a student. Staff have maintained communication with the student's family, and helped to connect them to resources for counseling and mental wellness. Facilities members gathered the student's personal items for their family, and cleaned the student's room. Events to celebrate the student's life have been held on campus, and Aramark staff, in particular have been very supportive as the student worked with them.

Financial services will work to ensure the remaining scholarship funds are released to the family, and over time, consideration will be given to awarding the student their degree posthumously in 2023 when they would have graduated.

VP Smith discussed the Student Affairs Canvas course developed to help students with the skills necessary to be successful at MCLA. The course is facilitated by one staff member and a student peer mentor, and is a condition of enrollment. Each first year student will have a touch point with staff and a peer mentor to assist with resources, health, and academic check-ins.

VP Smith reviewed a list of college-initiated events for students.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.