



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting of September 30, 2021
Murdock Hall, Room 208
Tele/Video Conference**

Members in Attendance

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

*Denotes remote participation

Others in Attendance

James F. Birge, President
Jeannette Smith, Vice President of Student Affairs
Lisa Lescarbeau, Board Clerk
Heather Quire, Dean of Students, Interim Title 9 and EO Coordinator
April Wright, *title*
Laura Mooney, *Director of Athletics*

Trustee Chesloff called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m. and began individual introductions of attendees

Division Updates

Dean Quire provided an overview of Residence Life and Housing. During the month of September 24 community development activities were planned by the Resident Assistant (RA) staff for their residents. The room change period for the semester began on September 13, and on September 14 through October 15 RAs will conduct one-to-one sessions with each of their residents. Ms. Jazmine McMillon joined the RLH staff as a Resident Director (RD), and Interim RD Adriana Segura relocated to the town houses for the remainder of the fall semester.

With regard to occupancy, Dean Quire noted that all dorms have returned to doubles, with singles granted to those students who chose that option, and for students who have a religious or medical exemption for the COVID-19 vaccination.

VP Smith provided an overview of Counseling Services. Students are being offered both in-person and teletherapy services. This hybrid option has lessened the rate of no shows and provided more opportunities for students to access counseling services.

Counseling services were key in supporting the campus community during the recent active shooter threat. While counseling services has seen an uptick in volume over the past several years as reflected in national trends, it is not attributed specifically to the pandemic.

Health services has been key to the College's COVID-19 response conducting testing, contact tracing, follow-up and guidance. The team's efforts have contributed to the lower rates of COVID-19 positivity experienced on campus. Health services continues to provide non-COVID medical care to residential and commuter students. Flu clinics have been scheduled on campus in September and October.

Two members of the health services staff completed their doctorate education during the pandemic: Congratulations to Dr. Jacqueline Krzanik and Dr. Aimee Bullett-Smith.

Campus Police held their first in a series of events referred to as Coffee with a Cop. All campus police officers will participate in 200-hour mandatory Massachusetts Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) certification. Hiring continues in this division to fill vacant public safety dispatcher and police officer positions.

The work of RENZ Consulting completed at the end of the last semester. The police oversight committee reconvened last week and will likely see a committee reorganization.

VP Smith reviewed recent changes happening with MCLA Dining Services. Mr. Jerel Dydowicz has been promoted to the Director of Dining. The Trailblazer Café has added local favorite Tunnel City Coffee to their menu. Sustainability efforts continue through the use of MCLA's greenhouse with focus on providing on-site grown herbs and vegetables to incorporate into College cuisine.

Trustee Perez commented on dining noting that the cafeteria is often at capacity with students choosing to dine-in. Aramark staffing shortages has led to some meal station not being open.

Dining in the Centennial Room continues to follow COVID-19 protocols for mask wearing while not eating and physical distance where possible.

Dean Quire presented updates to the student conduct program. The Student Handbook has been edited and is now referred to as Community Standards with focus on building community through six core values: respect, responsibility, ethics and accountability, community, integrity, and social inclusion.

Since assuming the role of Interim Title 9 Coordinator and EO Officer for Students, Dean Quire has completed eight hours of training to comply with Title 9 Coordinator knowledge base including 2020 Final Rules recently established. Training was also provided for student leaders, LEAD academies, and RLH staff.

An Understanding Consent and Healthy Relationships program for first year students has been co-sponsored with Elizabeth Freeman Center.

Multicultural Education Resource Center, Identity and Gender Equality Resource Center, and the Women's Center continue to provide services for students. MERC hosted their annual student, faculty staff and Color meet and greet on September 30. Ms. Arlene Theodore (*director?*) provided conflict resolution training for RLH staff and inclusivity training for student staff and employees. IGE hosted a meet and greet at the beginning of the semester, and have plans for the semester including a social media campaign celebrating LGBTQ+ Hispanic folks during Hispanic Heritage Month. The lending library in the Women's Center will continue to be open with academic books relevant to the center's services.

Ms. Wright provided an overview of the division's student engagement efforts. Ms. Lilly Howard joined the team as Coordinator of Student Engagement Programming and Residence Life Staff, and Ms. Tessa Langsdale joined in the role of Student Engagement Graduate Assistant.

Gifts from the graduated classes of 2019 and 2021 were installed on campus during the summer. Orientation sessions during the summer welcomed 140 incoming students and 127 Trailblazer team members to campus. The Student Government Association will hold fall elections on October 5 and 6.

In response to filling student governance roles, Trustee Perez stated that it has been difficult depending upon the position. While there is a near complete E-Board, class counsel officer roles remain open and the class senate is not full.

Dean Quire provided an update on the Civic and Community Engagement efforts. The LEAD Academy facilitated its 17th session with a cohort of 12 students. These student leaders will coordinate and support a variety of programs and initiatives on and off-campus including Write Stuff, HalfTimes, young Women of the Berkshires, Berkshire Buddies and youth mentoring.

Mr. Spencer Moser serves as the College's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) as mandated by the State. In this role he conducts outreach to students as identified in need, manages the Campus Food Pantry, and works with various state and local entities on issues of student need.

Community members interested in supporting the Campus Food Pantry are encouraged to contribute gift cards to local shopping centers and supermarkets, or through the MCLA Foundation directed to food security initiatives.

The Welcome Center has been rethought and is now staffed full-time by Ms. Elizabeth Macksey to offer information, direction guidance and a friendly welcome to all visitors to the Amsler

Campus Center. Student have been very receptive to Ms. Macksey and mini-relationships are developing as she connects with students.

Director Mooney provided an overview of MCLA's Athletics Division. The Division is fully staffed with the completion of new hires for coaches of the cross-country team and the women's basketball team, and an assistant athletic trainer. She reviewed stats for the volleyball, soccer, golf and cross-country teams.

Outside of competitions, the division's main focus is on recruitment efforts. Visits are being conducted in-person with students considering their college selection. Director Mooney noted that the new fitness center has been helpful as a recruiting tool and not just for student athletes. The next admission open house resource fair will be held on the running track in the fitness center.

Committee members and attendees discussed in-person attendance at athletic events and general student engagement in in-person events.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m.