



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Thursday, November 10, 2016
87 Blackinton Street**

Members in attendance

Buffy Lord, Chair
Brienne O'Rourke, Student Trustee

Others in attendance

Susan Gold, Board Chair
Dr. James Birge, President
Cathy Holbrook, Vice President of Student Affairs
Spencer Moser, Director, Center for Service
Rebecca Godbout, student and Coordinator of Colegrove Elementary Mentoring Program
Kayla LaVoice, student and Coordinator of Pathways to College Program at Drury High School
Harmony Birch, student and Editor, *The Beacon*
Ginger Menard, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 9:29 a.m.

Center for Service Initiatives/New Partnerships with NA Public Schools

Spencer Moser introduced Rebecca Godbout and Kayla LaVoice, both exceptional student scholars and leaders, to share information on two new initiatives: Colegrove Elementary Mentoring Program and Pathways to College Program at Drury High School.

Rebecca talked about the mentoring program that is offered to students at Colegrove during library and enrichment periods. Student volunteers also participate in the literacy lab which utilizes technology to enhance reading skills, as well provide classroom assistance for teachers. Rebecca shared that she has 25-30 students participating on a daily basis and all of the volunteers have responded positively and feel connected to the students with whom they are working. The teachers and administration at Colegrove have also responded favorably to the program. Through this work Rebecca has realized the deep need for role models for young students in the North Adams community. She shared one special example of a student in the foster care system who is being mentored not by just one student, but by a group of student-athletes on the men's basketball team.

Kayla shared information on the Pathways to College Program being offered at Drury High School. There are currently 5 student volunteers who provide personalized assistance with the college admission process as well as resumé assistance for those transitioning into the workforce. As current college students they are able to connect with the students on a personal level and provide support and knowledge based on more recent actual experiences. She also noted that when high school students interact with current college students they can more easily see themselves in that role as well. As the Program Coordinator Kayla also worked with the Admissions Office in launching this program and will share with them the students' comments, questions, and challenges about the college admission process.

Spencer Moser noted that the passion of the students is evident in the work they do. President Birge shared that he is inspired by their commitment to this work noting that American higher education originally distinguished itself by incorporating service into its mission. He congratulated them for being capacity-builders and for engaging others in service that benefits and responds to the needs of the community.

Campus smoking policy

VP Holbrook shared that the current smoking policy limits outdoor smoking by designating specific locations for smoking with the remainder of campus being smoke-free. There have been issues with people following this policy and many have expressed an interest in the entire campus becoming a smoke-free area.

Before a timeline can be set to consider this change programs must be in place to provide education on the importance of such a change, access to cessation programs, and plans for enforcement of both the current rules as well as any changes to the policy going forward. President Birge has asked that a task force study the issue, provide feedback, and make a final recommendation on implementation. An additional issue is the student residency requirement as it would not be fair to make a policy change for current students who are required to live in the dorms for 3 years. It might be prudent to set the implementation date for when the current incoming class enters their senior year.

The committee also discussed the recent legalization of marijuana which must be addressed in any smoking regulations and education offered in terms of smoking any substances. They also discussed the various issues and challenges in the redesign of this policy and enforcement for a smoke-free campus. Of utmost importance is providing free smoking cessation assistance to the entire campus community (students, faculty, staff, and Aramark employees). This could be accomplished through on campus programs or by providing transportation to community programs.

Other business

VP Holbrook discussed the support and resources available for students in light of the election results. Student Affairs set aside time on Wednesday afternoon for anyone who wanted to talk, various gatherings were held in the residence halls, and the Women's Center planned to have open hours throughout the weekend. She noted it is important to educate and remind students about the power they do have and that we need to help them exercise their voices and transition their feelings into actions.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:23 a.m.