



MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

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

**Tuesday, May 15, 2018**

**87 Blackinton**

**Committee members in attendance:**

Lisa Chamberlain, Chair  
Frederick J. Keator  
Kathleen Therrien

**Others present:**

Susan Gold, Board Chair  
Dr. James Birge, President  
Cynthia Brown, Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Monica Joslin, Dean of Academic Affairs  
Prof. Graziana Ramsden, Modern Languages  
Christopher MacDonald-Dennis, Chief Diversity Officer  
Deborah Currie, Clerk

Trustee Chamberlain called the meeting to order at 8:29 a.m.

**Student scholarship and fellowship opportunities**

Vice President Brown invited Prof. Graziana Ramsden to present information on student scholarship and fellowship opportunities to the committee. Professor Ramsden shared a PowerPoint presentation with the committee and emphasized the importance of scholarships, study-abroad and fellowship opportunities to students and to MCLA. She described five scholarships: Fulbright, Marshall, Truman, Goldwater and Gilman, and noted that MCLA students would be well-suited for some of the scholarships.

The committee discussed ideas intended to encourage interest and participation in scholarships and study abroad. Trustee Chamberlain thanked Professor Ramsden for attending the meeting. She offered to continue discussions with Professor Ramsden and serve as the liaison to the Board on this topic.

### **Promotion to Associate Professor of Dr. Mariana Bolivar Rubin**

President Birge explained that there was a delay in bringing forward Prof. Bolivar Rubin's application due to a process issue with the Committee on Promotions. Vice President Brown recommended, and he has accepted that recommendation, in favor of promotion in this case. Promotion does not require a vote by the Board of Trustees.

The following faculty member has been recommended to the President for promotion:

Associate Professor

- Mariana Bolivar Rubin

### **Approval of New Major**

Dean Joslin shared that the proposal for a new major in *Communications* has been approved via internal governance. The next steps are to present the proposed major to the full Board on May 24, for the proposal to undergo an external review, for a letter of intent from the president to be submitted to the DHE Commissioner at least 30 days prior to submission of the full proposal to the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education for approval.

The committee discussed the impact of this new major in terms of student interest and noted that the major is consistent with the focus of MCLA as a liberal arts institution.

The committee endorsed the program to bring forward to the full Board on May 24 for approval.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To approve the new major of Bachelor of Arts in Communications to be brought before the Board on May 24.

### **Faculty Emeritus Designation**

Trustee Chamberlain and Vice President Brown reviewed the Faculty Emeritus/a policy that was approved by the Board last year. The Committee was provided with a summary of those who were nominated or self-nominated to be voted on and forwarded to the full Board. These retired faculty members will also be invited to the Board reception following the annual meeting in May.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To approve the slate of nominees to be advanced to the full Board on May 24

for designation as Faculty Emeritus or Emerita.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.