



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

March 10, 2020

87 Blackinton St, North Adams, MA

Committee members in attendance:

Brenda Burdick
Robert Reilly
Kathleen Therrien

Others present:

James F. Birge, President
Denise Marshall, Chair
Lisa Lescarbeau, Clerk
Adrienne Wootters, Interim VP of Academic Affairs

Trustee Burdick called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Academic Major Name Change

Dr. Wootters reviewed the DHE's approval to change B.A. in Political Science and Public Policy to B. A. in Political Science. This change is in name only for purpose of clarity and does not change the major's curriculum.

Faculty Search Updates

Dr. Wootters reviewed the seven faculty searches currently is various stages of completion. Offers have been accepted for these positions: Anthropology, Sociology & Social Work, Education (2 positions), English, English & Communications, and Physics. A position for Marketing in Business Administration is in progress and the Multimedia Journalism position in English & Communications will be reposted in the fall.

Faculty Reappointments and Promotions

The following faculty have been recommended to the President for second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth year reappointment:

Reappointment to a 2nd year

Margaret Clark, Department of Education
Kate Flower, Library
Katelyn Hatfield, Department of Biology
Michaela Petrovich, Department of Fine and Performing Arts
Clio Sterns, Department of Education
Xin Shen, Department of Computer Science

Reappointment to a 3rd year

Travis Beaver, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work
Caren Beilin, Department of English and Communications
Guangzhi Huang, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies
Mohamad Junaid, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work
Amanda Kleintop, Department of History, Political Science, and Public Policy
Sara Steele, Department of Psychology
Guodong Wang, Department of Computer Science

Reappointment to a 4th year

Tara Barboza, Department of Business Administration and Economics
George Hamaoui, Department of Biology
Victoria Papa, Department of English and Communications
Nicole Porther, Department of Biology

Reappointment to a 5th year

Eric Doucette, Department of Biology
Anna Jaysane-Darr, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work
Erin Kiley, Department of Mathematics
Samantha Pettey, Department of History, Political Science, and Public Policy

Reappointment to a 6th year

Shawn McIntosh, English and Communications Department

Dr. Wootters reviewed the reappointments above and responded to questions from the Trustees.

Faculty Tenure and Promotion

The committee then reviewed the list of faculty for tenure and promotions. The following faculty have been recommended to the President for promotion:

Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor

Dr. David Cupery, Department of Political Science
Dr. Hannah Noel, Department of English and Communications
Dr. Ruby Vega, Department of Psychology
Dr. Kebra Ward, Department of Physics

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously:

VOTED: to recommend reappointment with tenure for David Cupery, Hannah Noel, Ruby Vega, and Kebra Ward.

Dr. Wootters explained the difference between tenure and promotion, and promotion to associate professor. Tenure requires contiguous years of teaching in higher education, whereas the contract allows promotion without tenure.

Promotion to Associate Professor

Dr. Jerome Socolof, Department of Arts Management
Prof. Jeremy Winchester, Department of Theatre

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously:

VOTED: to recommend reappointment with promotion to associate professor for Jerome Socolof and Jeremy Winchester

Faculty Emeritus

President Birge provided a review of the purpose and benefits of faculty emeritus status. Emeritus faculty gather twice annually and discuss the scholarly work they are doing. These gatherings often include students and faculty as possible.

Dr. Wootters reviewed the following faculty members recommended for emeritus status:

Dr. Mary Ellen Cohane, Department of English/Communications
Dr. Dale Fink, Department of Education
Dr. Ann Scott, Department of Education
Prof. Richard Yanow, Department of Business Administration

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was:

VOTED: to recommend approval of appointment to emeritus status for Mary Ellen Cohane, Dale Fink, Ann Scott, and Richard Yanow.

Other Business

President Birge talked about pandemic planning for the COVID-19 strain of the coronavirus. We continue to assess emerging information and what is happening in other higher education institutions. The Pandemic Critical Incident Response Team (P-CIRT) is meeting daily to discuss the latest information on COVID-19. At this time, only international travel courses have been cancelled. We are following the Governor's lead on cancellations, and he has not indicated domestic travel should be cancelled. We will continue to monitor travel for decisions that may affect domestic travel.

President Birge will not be travelling to Florida for spring break and will remain on-campus to manage emerging situations. Strategies for short- and long-term operations include remote learning and preparing faculty and staff for this possibility.

The Council of Presidents is discussing semester requirements with NECHE to determine flexibility in this unique situation.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 a.m.