



My College. Right from the Start.

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

**Thursday, March 24, 2011
Murdock Hall Fitzpatrick Room**

The following Trustees were present:

Jane Allen, Chair
Stephen Crowe, Vice Chair
James Clemmer
William Dudley
Shirley Edgerton
Tyler Fairbank
Susan Gold
Dr. Eugene Leibowitz
Jameek Clovie, Student Trustee

The following Trustees were absent:

Richard Lamb
Joelle McDonough

Others present:

Mary Grant, President
Cynthia Brown, Vice President of Academic Affairs
Charlotte Degen, Dean of Students
Marianne Drake, Chief Advancement Officer
Bernadette Lupo, Coordinator of Marketing and Communications
Denise Richardello, Vice President of Enrollment/External Affairs
James Stakenas, Vice President of Administration & Finance
Rosemary Aitken, Recorder
Thomas Bernard, Clerk
Andy McKeever, iBerkshires.com

Complying with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30 and 15A, Section 9, and with a quorum present, the Board of Trustees of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts met at 5:36 p.m. in the Fitzpatrick Room, of Murdock Hall on March 24, 2011 with Board Chair Allen presiding.

Chair Allen opened the meeting by welcoming the Trustees, and welcoming back those Trustees who recently had been traveling out of the area.

Approval of the Minutes of the December 16, 2010, Meeting of the Board of Trustees:

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: Unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2010, meeting of the Board and all actions contained therein.

Report of the January 18, 2011, Executive Committee Meeting:

Trustee Allen delivered the report on behalf of the committee.

Topics discussed at the meeting included an update on the FY 2010 budget process and an overview of the College's strategic planning process.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: Unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2011, meeting of the Executive Committee and all actions contained therein.

Report of the March 9, 2011, Fiscal Affairs Committee Meeting:

Trustee Crowe delivered the report on behalf of the committee.

The committee discussed planning scenarios around the FY 2012 budget process. Vice President Stakenas and Treasurer Desmarais are working with President Grant to model a variety of budget scenarios.

The committee also discussed a statewide bidding process that prequalified a number of accounting firms as audit service providers for the institutions. MCLA's current auditing firm, O'Connor and Drew, is part of this prequalified group. Vice President Stakenas will invite O'Connor and Drew to meet with the Fiscal Affairs Committee for the purposes of reviewing their scope of services, identifying areas where the Board and the College request additional review, and hearing from the auditors about validation of their audit processes and practices.

The committee took up a motion around the replacement of the floor in the Campus Center gym. The cost to complete the project, over and above the \$500,000 in state bond funds secured, is \$285,825. There are sufficient funds in the College budget to meet this expense. This is a necessary project, as the cost of periodic repairs to the existing 40 year old flooring system is significant.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: Unanimously to authorize President Grant to transfer funds from MCLA to the MSCBA not to exceed the amount of \$300,000 to fund the contract balance for the Campus Center Gym Floor replacement.

Trustee Crowe reported that the committee also heard updates on other campus projects including work planned for the Ashland Street warehouse property, the College's honors house, the Campus Center Marketplace, upgrades to the Campus Center fire system, the relocation of Public Safety to the Brewer Perkins property on Ashland Street, and the Center for Science and Innovation.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: Unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2011, meeting of the Fiscal Affairs Committee and all actions contained therein.

Report of the March 9, 2011, Academic Affairs Committee Meeting:

Trustee Dudley delivered the report on behalf of the committee.

Topics discussed at the meeting included faculty reappointments, a report on the proposal and process to reestablish the chemistry major, an overview of the planned state review of MCLA's educator licensure program, and an update on the Professional MBA program.

With regard to the reappointment process, Trustee Dudley noted that is important for the Trustees to get to know the faculty along the course of their development and progress toward tenure.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: Unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2011, meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee and all actions contained therein.

Report of the March 10, 2011, Student Affairs Committee Meeting:

Trustee Fairbank delivered the report on behalf of the Committee.

He noted that the committee was impressed by the breadth and depth of the student experience at MCLA, as evidenced by the students who presented at the meeting on behalf of the Student-Athletic Advisory Council (SAAC). In particular, members of the Committee noted the focus on leadership development and community service that is part of the student-athlete experience at MCLA.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: Unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2011, meeting of the Student Affairs Committee and all actions contained therein.

Chairperson's Report

Chair Allen thanked President Grant and her staff for their work in organizing the annual Board retreat. She thanked Vice President Richardello and Chief Advancement Officer Drake for their presentations at the meeting. She expressed her appreciation to the Board for their engagement over the course of the retreat, and Trustee Crowe for hosting the meeting.

Chair Allen noted that the Board bylaws will be ready for approval in May. She thanked Trustees McDonough, Crowe, Gold, and Leibowitz for their work on the bylaws. She also announced that Trustees Lamb, Clemmer, and Edgerton will serve as the Nominating Committee for the coming year, and that Trustees Crowe and Dudley will serve as the Evaluation Committee.

Chair Allen informed the Board that the MCLA *a cappella* group the Allegrettos was competing in the local public television program Together in Song. She noted that the club is entirely student-led.

Chair Allen acknowledged President Grant's recent (CASE) District I Executive Leadership Award, and her selection to receive the Women's Leadership Award from the American Council on Education in June 2011.

President's Report

The president reported on the continued progress on the design for the Center for Science and Innovation and informed the Board that an open meeting on the project would be scheduled for later in the spring. She also talked about the progress of other campus projects, including the warehouse property on Ashland Street and work planned in the Campus Center. She noted that John Furman, the College's new director of facilities, was scheduled to join the staff officially in early April.

President Grant reported on the recent Massachusetts Region I high school science fair hosted at MCLA, and acknowledged Trustee Fairbank, who was the keynote speaker at the event.

The president reported on study trips that took place over spring break, including travel to China, the Czech Republic, France, Belize, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In addition, the president and staff from Advancement traveled to Florida to meet with alumni during the break, as part of the baseball and softball teams' tournament travel.

The president reminded the Trustees about several upcoming events, including the April 4th Public Policy Lecture featuring James Carville and Mary Matalin.

President Grant updated the Board about the College strategic planning process, including a well-attended campus meeting on February 10th, and several input sessions held with faculty, staff, and student groups. This information will help inform conversation at the annual campus strategic planning retreat in May.

The president noted that she, along with all the state university presidents, offered testimony to the state's Joint Committee on Higher Education on March 23. As part of these meetings, the presidents had budget conversations with House leadership.

With regard to the budget for FY 2012, President Grant noted that she is working with Vice President Stakenas and Treasurer Stakenas to prepare the budget, but that projections indicate 2012 will be a challenging year. She noted that the budget challenges facing Massachusetts are part of a national trend, but that we hope for better news in FY 2013. Meanwhile, MCLA continues to see strong interest among applicants, and good progress in faculty searches and campus projects.

There have been several recent conversations on campus about the Board of Higher Education's Vision Project. Faculty care deeply about the issues of student success and learning outcomes, but there was a sense at MCLA – and across the campuses – that efforts to measure and assess outcomes should reflect the unique goals and missions of the institutions, and encompass input from faculty and students.

President Grant informed the Trustees that their meeting materials included a copy of the 2010 MCLA President's Report. She acknowledged the good work of Coordinator of Marketing and Communications Bernadette Lupo in managing the project.

The president noted that the Board of Higher Education is working to organize a statewide Massachusetts Goes to College program in 2011-2012 based on the Berkshire Compact's Berkshire County Goes to College model. She invited Vice President Richardello to provide an overview of the Wee Read program scheduled for April, cosponsored by the Berkshire Compact. Through this program, which encourages parents and caregivers to read with young children, 1,200 copies of the book *Shoes*, by Elizabeth Winthrop, would be provided to children in the county. In addition, through a "story walk" program, poster-sized pages of the book would be posted in storefronts in several communities, to encourage children and caregivers to read the story while walking through town.

Executive Session

Chair Allen called for a motion for the Board to go into Executive Session for purposes of discussing honorary degree candidates.

At 6:24 p.m., upon a motion duly made and seconded, and upon a unanimous roll call it was

VOTED to go into Executive Session to discuss honorary degree candidates, and not return to open session.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.