



My College. Right from the Start.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Thursday, October 11, 2012
President's Office Conference Room**

Members in attendance:

Tyler Fairbank, Chair
Shirley Edgerton
Dan Peluso, Student Trustee

Others in attendance

Mary K. Grant, President
Charlotte Degen, Dean of Students
Joseph Charon, Director of Public Safety
Adam Hildabrand, Men's Soccer Coach and Mascot Committee Chair
Scott Nichols, Director of Athletics
Theresa O'Bryant, Associate Dean of Students
Thomas Bernard, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 p.m. by Trustee Fairbank.

Title IX Update

- Theresa O'Bryant provided an update on issues related to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and a Dear Colleague letter that the United States Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights issued in April 2011.
- The letter outlined how colleges should deal with reports of sexual harassment and violence involving student victims, and potential violations of Title IX that could arise from such incidents.
- While the common belief is that Title IX deals only with rules requiring an equal number of athletic opportunities for women and men, the act prohibits any discrimination based on gender at schools and colleges that receive federal money. A violation of Title IX could risk the loss of federal funds.
- In response to the recommendations and requirements in the 2011 letter, the College reviewed current practices. MCLA is in compliance with the things the letter indicates colleges must do, and is already following many of the recommendations.

- To enhance awareness and response practices, the college has taken a number of steps, including:
 - Amending the appeal policy in the student conduct system to include a right to appeal for victims of sexual violence.
 - Formulating a Sexual Assault Awareness Committee.
 - Providing staff training opportunities on Title IX and sexual violence, and planning additional education, awareness, and training work on an ongoing basis.

Campus Safety

- Public Safety Director Joseph Charon updated Trustees on campus safety best practices, and provided an updated on MCLA’s annual security and fire safety report, also known as the Clery report. He expressed the belief that the report reflects a deliberate and intentional commitment to safety and security on behalf of the institution and the campus police team.
- The committee discussed the report and the data.
- President Grant noted that the Clery report is available online, and that Director Charon sends an announcement to the campus community when the annual report is posted.
- Director Charon also provided an update on other campus safety work, including:
 - The community policing and community service work of Campus Police.
 - The campus safety walk held on October 1st as members of the campus community assessed safety and security issues from a “ground level” perspective.
 - The ongoing work of the Campus Police Advisory Group.
 - Progress on Campus Police firearms implementation.

Mascot Update

- Scott Nichols and Adam Hildabrand provided an update on the College mascot selection process. MCLA is conducting a search for a timeless mascot that students, staff, and alumni will embrace.
- The goal for the mascot is to reflect the history and traditions of the MCLA community while generating enthusiasm and campus spirit.
- The mascot will be appropriate at both athletic and non-athletic events.
- The work to date on developing a mascot has engaged students, athletes and the community.
- A briefing for coaches and the Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC) is scheduled for late October, and a meeting of the President’s Athletic Advisory Council (PAAC) in early November, at which point a selection decision will be made. The Student Affairs committee will receive an update at their November meeting.

Adjournment

With no other business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:57 p.m.