



*My College. Right from the Start.*

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Thursday, October 21, 2010  
Murdock Hall Fitzpatrick Room**

The following Trustees were present:

Jane Allen, Chair  
Stephen Crowe, Vice Chair  
James Clemmer  
William Dudley  
Tyler Fairbank  
Richard Lamb  
Dr. Eugene Leibowitz  
Joelle McDonough  
Jameek Clovie, Student Trustee  
Mary Grant, ex-officio

Others present:

Cynthia Brown, Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Charlotte Degen, Dean of Students  
Marianne Drake, Chief Advancement Officer  
Monica Joslin, Dean of Academic Affairs  
Denise Richardello, Vice President of Enrollment/External Affairs  
James Stakenas, Vice President of Administration & Finance  
Rosemary Aitken, Recorder  
Gerald Desmarais, Treasurer  
Laura Brown, Accountant, Administration and Finance  
David DiIulis, O'Connor & Drew P.C.  
Ashton Darrett '11, MCLA student  
Professor James Niedbalski and students from the News Writing and Reporting II class

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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 5:34 p.m. in the Fitzpatrick Room, of Murdock Hall on October 21, 2010 with Board Chair Allen presiding.

Chair Allen opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees, and acknowledging Professor Professor James Niedbalski and students from the News Writing and Reporting II class for their attendance at the meeting. President Grant also acknowledged student Ashton Darrett '11 who was her guest at the meeting as part of a project for his leadership studies course.

**Approval of the Minutes of the September 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 September 16, 2010, meeting of the Board and all actions contained therein, with one typographical error corrected.

**Report of the October 5, 2010, Academic Affairs Committee Meeting:**

Trustee Lamb delivered the report on behalf of the Committee.

At the meeting, Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Cynthia Brown provided an overview of matters that come before the Committee. She also updated the Committee on three faculty promotions. The committee discussed the importance of hearing about the faculty and their accomplishments in teaching, scholarship, and service, and enthusiastically endorsed President Grant's approval of these promotions. Finally, the Committee received an update on the Board of Higher Education Vision Project.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** Unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2010, meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee and all actions contained therein.

**Report of the October 6, 2010 Fiscal Affairs Committee Meeting**

Trustee Crowe delivered the report on behalf of the committee.

David DiIulis, auditor with O'Connor & Drew P.C., was in attendance. He summarized the MCLA audit for Fiscal Year 2010. The audit provides an unqualified opinion of the College's financial position. Mr. DiIulis had already done a thorough presentation to the Fiscal Affairs Committee at the October 6, 2010 meeting.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** Unanimously to accept the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts Fiscal Year 2010 audited financial statements.

Vice President of Administration and Finance Dr. James Stakenas summarized the budget for the Board. Trustee Crowe reported that the Fiscal Affairs Committee received a detailed report on

the MCLA budget for Fiscal Year 2011. Based on this thorough overview, he expressed the confidence of the committee in the budget as presented. Dr. Stakenas will provide additional materials to all Trustees.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** Unanimously to approve the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts budget for Fiscal Year 2011.

The committee also discussed campus projects including the planned replacement of the Campus Center gym floor, and the Center for Science and Innovation.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** Unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2010, meeting of the Fiscal Affairs Committee and all actions contained therein.

### **Report of the October 7, 2010, Student Affairs Committee Meeting:**

Trustee Fairbank delivered the report on behalf of the Committee.

At the meeting, Dean of Students Charlotte Degen and members of the Student Affairs staff provided an overview of the division. Trustee Fairbank reported that the Committee was impressed with the level of activities organized through Student Affairs, as well as the thoughtful, mature, and well developed student life program at MCLA.

There was a brief discussion related to Greek life on campus, and the goal for the current academic year to focus further on academic excellence among the Greek organizations recognized by the College.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** Unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2010, meeting of the Student Affairs Committee and all actions contained therein.

### **President's Report**

President Grant noted that City Year founder and author Alan Khazei was giving a presentation on civic engagement to students in an adjacent meeting room, and would stop by to say hello, time permitting.

The president acknowledged the work of the team from Administration and Finance – Vice President Stakenas, Treasurer Desmarais, and Laura Brown – for their work managing the budget process.

President Grant reported on the successful Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC) regional undergraduate research conference held at MCLA in early October, and on the important and leading work MCLA is doing in the area of undergraduate research. She thanked Vice President Brown, Deans Joslin and Degen, along with members of the faculty for their support.

Journalist Laura Ling gave a moving lecture to a packed house at the MCLA Church Street Center on October 19. The following morning, Ms. Ling spoke to a standing room only group of students.

The site designation announcement for the MCLA Center for Science and Innovation will be Tuesday, October 26 at 11 a.m. This will be a significant milestone for the project. President Grant acknowledged the work of Dean Monica Joslin and Vice President Stakenas in bringing faculty and other stakeholders together so effectively during the study phase of the project.

MCLA's Reunion and Fall Family Weekend will be October 22-24. This will be a very busy weekend with many activities taking place on campus.

The Board of Higher Education continues to promote the Vision Project. Campus meetings have been scheduled about the project. While engaging with the Vision Project, MCLA will continue to pursue the plans and strategies that have served to advance the College, including connection to the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) LEAP initiative.

History professor Frances Jones-Sneed secured a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities that will support a major summer institute at MCLA in June 2011.

Students and families who attended the first Admissions Open House on October 16 had great energy and enthusiasm for MCLA.

### **Chairperson's Report**

Chair Allen informed the Board that a letter was sent to Commissioner of Higher Education Richard Freeland thanking him for recent comments in support of public higher education. Chair Allen received a letter in response, acknowledging the Board's thanks.

Chair Allen noted that the successful lecture by Laura Ling demonstrates the wonderful opportunities MCLA provides to the campus and the community. She acknowledged the good work by all involved in making the event such a success.

Chair Allen reminded the Board about Committee meetings upcoming in November, as well as the next Board meeting on December 16.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED** to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m.