![MCLA - My College. Right from the Start.]

Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Executive Committee
Tuesday, April 30, 2013
President's Office Conference Room

Members in attendance:
  Steve Crowe, Chair
  James Clemmer
  William Dudley
  Susan Gold
  Buffy Lord
  Denise Marshall
  Dan Peluso

Members absent:
  Tyler Fairbank

Others present:
  Mary K. Grant, President
  Cynthia Brown, Vice President of Academic Affairs
  James Stakenas, Vice President of Administration and Finance
  Celia Norcross, Director of Student Development and Campus Activities
  Thomas Bernard, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m. by Trustee Crowe.

Campus Update

President Grant informed the committee about end of the academic year activities on campus, including the annual student leadership and athletic banquets and community day of service. She also commented on the teamwork and partnership displayed on campus and in collaboration with the city of North Adams during a campus evacuation on April 25th.

Review of NEASC Self-Study Draft

Vice President Brown provided a brief update on the progress of MCLA's New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation self-study process. A draft of the self-study was made available to the campus community for review in early April and a series of open meetings was scheduled to receive input and feedback on the draft.

The committee then offered comments on the draft, and provided suggestions on how to strengthen and clarify the language in the draft.

Fiscal Year 2014 Budget and Student Fees

President Grant and Vice President Stakenas presented an update on the state budget process for FY 2014. President Grant noted that the University of Massachusetts system proposed to the legislature a plan to move the system toward a state appropriation level that would fund 50% of campus operations, with the university committing to not raise student fees for the coming academic year.

The state university system proposed a similar agreement to reach the 50% funding level over the course of several years – with additional funding appropriated to support negotiated collective bargaining increased – with a commitment not to raise fees for the upcoming academic year should the legislature appropriate additional operating funds for FY 2014. The CFOs of the system determined that the funding gap to reach 50% of campus operations across the system was $45 million. The House Ways and Means Committee budget included an additional $15 million for the state university system for FY 2014.

The state university system presidents and CFOs identified a formula for allocating the additional funds that provided each campus with a base amount, and divided the balance of the funding on a proportional enrollment basis. The presidents also agreed not to increase student fees for the coming academic year as a condition of this proposal.

Having passed the House, the FY 2014 budget proposal is under consideration by the Senate Ways and Means Committee, and it remains to be seen whether the Senate committee will support the increased proposal. If the additional funding for the state university system is not available, fee increases would be necessary at each campus.

In light of the House Ways and Means Committee budget proposal, and the uncertain state of this proposal in the Senate, the committee discussed fee options for FY 2014. Should the FY 14 budget include the proposed increase for the state university system, MCLA would not raise the campus support fee for the 2013-2014 academic year. However, if the proposed funding is not included in the final budget bill, we anticipate some level of fee increase will be necessary.

After discussion of these scenarios, the committee agreed to propose a fee range of $0-$500 for the coming year, based on the outcome of the state budget process.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.