



My College. Right from the Start.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Wednesday, November 16, 2011
Admissions Office Conference Room**

The following Trustees were present:

William Dudley, Chair
Richard Lamb
Joelle McDonough

The following Trustees were absent:

Stephen Crowe
Susan Gold

Others present:

Mary K. Grant, President
Cynthia Brown, Vice President of Academic Affairs
Monica Joslin, Dean of Academic Affairs
Shelley Potterton, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 10:31 a.m. by Trustee Dudley.

Introduction of New Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Paul LeSage

Dean Joslin introduced English/communications professor Paul LeSage, who will serve a two-year appointment as MCLA's Associate Dean of Academic Affairs effective January 1, 2012. Dr. LeSage has been a member of the faculty for 30 years. In his time at the College, he has chaired the English/ Communications and Business Administration departments, and has taught undergraduate and graduate courses, including courses in the MCLA Fast Track program. Beyond campus, he serves on the Board of Directors of the Pittsfield Boys' and Girls' Club.

Sabbatical Requests

Vice President Brown presented faculty sabbatical requests for 2012-2013. Three applicants submitted proposals for semester long sabbaticals:

Ben Kahn, Professor of Business Administration, Fall 2012

Greg O'Connor, Professor of Business Administration, Spring 2013

David Johnson, Professor of Philosophy, Fall 2013; Professor Johnson originally applied for sabbatical in Spring 2013, but he requested a deferment to Fall 2013, and will reapply next year

In addition, History professor Frances Jones-Sneed applied for a sabbatical for the full 2012-2013 academic year.

Following a discussion of all requests, the committee agreed with the recommendation to support these requests, subject to funding. Vice President Brown will work with the Department Chairs concerning the budget implications of the sabbatical requests. While these are all very strong proposals and faculty, some of these requests could be deferred in recognition of budget implications.

A key part of the MCLA sabbatical program is having faculty share their experiences and findings with their colleagues and the campus community. The Brown Bag lecture series is an important component of this process.

NEASC Update

MCLA's next ten-year accreditation visit by a visiting team from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) will be November 3rd-6th 2013. As part of the accreditation visit, institutions prepare a detailed self-study that reflects the accreditation standards prescribed by NEASC.

A kickoff meeting for MCLA's NEASC steering committee will be held on Monday, December 5th. NEASC Deputy Director Pat O'Brien will meet with the standard chairs and other members of the MCLA steering committee to provide a review and overview of the self-study process.

MCLA has made great progress since the last NEASC visit in 2003. The self-study process provides an opportunity to reflect on that progress.

Vice President Brown will provide members of the Academic Affairs Committee with a list of the NEASC standards. Trustees will play an important role in meeting with the visiting team.

Berkshire Readiness Center update

Vice President Brown discussed the success of the countywide professional development day that was held in Dalton, MA, on October 28th, 2011. Events like this provide an opportunity for collaboration among the K-12 and higher education institutions in the county. One area of focus was on opportunities to expand mathematics and science instruction at the high school level.

Adjournment

Having no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.