



MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

**MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

President's Office – Large Conference Room and Audio/Video MS Teams

**MINUTES**

October 21, 2025

Present: B. Downing, D. Halbert, Y. Moore, Y. Spicer (all virtual)  
Staff: Dean Carolyn Dehner  
Vice President Richard Glejzer  
President James Birge  
Chief of Staff Joshua Mendel  
Faculty - J. Antonio Templanza  
Faculty - Whitney Gecker  
Faculty- Julie Walsh

As allowed by executive order of the Governor of Massachusetts, in compliance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30 and 15A, Section 9, and with a quorum present in person and via audio/video-conference, the Enrollment Committee of the Board of Trustees with Chair Spicer presiding was called to order at 8:35 a.m.

**Candidates for Tenure**

VP Glejzer introduced the candidates for tenure faculty beginning first with Julie Walsh of Radiologic technology.

Professor Walsh explained that she came to MCLA as part of the package deal in 2019 when the College acquired Radiological Science as part of the teach-out agreement with the closing Southern Vermont College. She was originally the clinical coordinator. Radiological Science originally was housed in the Health Science program at MCLA, and then in 2023 became its own free-standing major. Students can earn additional qualifications in Computed Tomography and/or Mammography.

Professor Walsh serves on the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiological Technology. (JRCERT). JRCERT accreditation for the Radiology program carried over from Southern Vermont College originally, however in November 2024 MCLA needed to be reviewed as the new host institution of the program. JRCERT teams visited the college as well as two clinical sites, Berkshire Medical Center and Southwestern Vermont Medical Center. In January of 2025 the College received the maximum amount of 8 years for accreditation from JRCERT.

Under Professor Walsh's leadership the MCLA students have received an average passing grade of 85% on the American Registry of Radiologic Technologist Exam. Professor Walsh prides herself on her experience and continued hands-on work in the field of radiology, which allows her to stay up to date with trends, technologies, and industry needs. This allows her to be a better instructor and help her students learn.

VP Glejzer introduced Dr. Whitney Gecker

Dr. Gecker explained that they are an assistant professor of Social Work and works with the IDST scholars' program. They explained that they use both hands-on-learning as well as PowerPoints and lectures to share materials with students. They ask students to be vulnerable to some of the topics that are covered in a course and be open to big ideas.

Professor Gecker explained that they are qualitative researcher by training and enjoys being the chair of the undergraduate research program, because they find it an extension of teaching/learning. They recently brought a group of students to the regional COPLAC Conference at Keene State. Professor Gecker is also the VP of the faculty association, advises the sociology department ambassadors, and is a board member of a foster program called All Our Kids.

In addition to their MCLA work, Dr. Gecker is currently researching the oral history collections of three elite institutions: Smith College, Williams College and Dartmouth University.

VP Glejzer next introduced Dr. J. Antonio Templanza, professor of English

Dr. Templanza explained that he began his career at MCLA in 2020 and looks at his experience at the College and in the Liberal Arts as a trifecta of Pedagogy - Scholarship, Teaching and Advising. ½ of his classes are taught in the core and feels that it is a key to the foundations of learning. 40% of the classes he teaches are in composition (structure and research). He particularly enjoys the classes - Interpretation and Methods, Critical Theory, The Bible Literature.

Professor Templanza prioritizes being "exacting" in his classes - being precise on the spoken and written words that are used in class discussions and beyond. He believes that giving student information in an exact way helps the students understand and move forward in an exact way.

He is also the Advisor for the Asian American Student group, Advisor for the Gender and Sexuality Center, and Advisor for the Tabletop Gaming Club

## **Tenure Process**

Dean Carolyn Dehner then shared the process that occurs for faculty tenure. She explained that it is the same process for faculty that also occurs at the other nine state universities. The process is fair, supportive, and transparent. The sixth year of teaching faculty are required to go for tenure. Years 2,4, and 6 faculty create portfolios of their work.

Portfolio Process includes:

- Narrative and Supporting Evidence
- Teaching 4/4 load
- Advising case load
- Scholarship- creative or published work
- Service to College (committee work)
- APR's and or Success Coaching
- Peer Evaluation Committee (PEC) review
- Evaluated by Committee on Tenure (Interviews with peers)

Tenure is important because this can be a lifetime appointment for a faculty member. Trustee Halburt asked- Will the board have access to all information for faculty? President Birge responded that the Board will receive a version of the faculty's portfolio in the spring. VP Glejzer presented a longitudinal look at most popular majors.

- 2025 Fall First Time Freshman more popular majors: Business, Radiologic Technology, Undeclared, Health Sciences, Pre-Nursing.
- He explained the shifts in Health Sciences being top major in 2023 and now 4<sup>th</sup> in 2025 because of Radiologic Tech becoming a stand alone major. Business programs continue to be a top program because of athletes. Undeclared is at the top of the list all three years, because we are liberal arts and students are exploring.
- Second slide Top 5 Undergraduate Majors - Psychology is at the top of the list all three years because it is a destination for undeclared students and for students who may transition from the health fields.

With no further business upon motion made and duly seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To adjourn the meeting at 10:01a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dr. Joshua Mendel  
Acting Clerk