



*My College. Right from the Start.*

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Executive Committee**

**Thursday, December 1, 2011**

**Admissions Office Conference Room**

**Members in attendance:**

Steve Crowe, Chair  
Jane Allen  
William Dudley  
Tyler Fairbank  
Dick Lamb  
Eugene Leibowitz

**Members absent:**

James Clemmer

**Others present:**

Mary K. Grant, President  
James Stakenas, Vice President of Administration and Finance  
Charlotte Degen, Dean of Students  
Joseph Charon, Director of Public Safety  
Thomas Bernard, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m. by Trustee Crowe.

**Status of Public Safety Arming Discussions**

The committee discussed the process of campus input around the issue of arming MCLA campus police officers. Numerous meetings have been held with faculty, staff, and student groups over the course of the semester, including two moderated panel discussions held on November 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. In addition, the administrative staff collective bargaining unit recently surveyed campus membership about the issue, but has not taken a position. The Student Government Association will hold a referendum on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> to assess student opinion about arming campus police.

The committee members indicated a preference to defer any recommendation until the board has time to review all the information, including recordings from the panel discussions, results of the student referendum, and the policy review and training that would be needed in order to advance

an arming decision. The committee would seek to review this information during their January 2012 meeting and potentially schedule a special Board meeting to take action on any recommendation that comes out of the committee.

### **Budget and Fiscal Outlook**

President Grant provided the Committee with the executive summary of a Fiscal Survey of States prepared by the National Governors' Association. This report also was provided to the members of the Fiscal Affairs Committee. The data in the report indicate that funding support for public higher education is a national concern, but it is especially challenging in New England.

Budget projections for Fiscal Year 2013 are being developed. As always, the College is being very careful about budget planning, and is developing and modeling several budget scenarios as the budget process for FY 2013 continues to develop at the state level.

### **Trustee Nominating Process Update**

MCLA has four trustees who will conclude their terms of service during the current academic year. The committee discussed the trustee nomination process through the Public Education Nominating Council (PENC).

### **Board retreat ideas**

Committee members indicated they would share agenda item suggestions for the February 2012 Board retreat.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.