



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Tuesday, November 7, 2017
87 Blackinton Street**

Members in attendance

Lisa Chamberlain, Chair
Denise Marshall
Kathy Therrien

Others in attendance

Susan Gold, Board Chair
James Birge, President
Cynthia Brown, Vice President of Academic Affairs
Monica Joslin, Dean of Academic Affairs
Mariana Bolivar Rubin
Ginger Menard, Clerk

Trustee Chamberlain called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Visit with Prof. Mariana Bolívar Rubín

Trustee Chamberlain noted that the Academic Affairs Committee has requested the opportunity to meet with tenure-track faculty so that the Trustees can get to know them and become more familiar with their work.

Prof. Mariana Bolívar Rubín shared that she moved to the U.S. from Venezuela where she had been studying law. She enrolled in college courses in the U.S. and gravitated to English Literature. She shared that the encouragement she received from her professors while putting herself through college and raising her daughter was invaluable and she wants to provide the same for her students.

Prof. Bolívar Rubín also shared that while looking for a college at which to teach she put great emphasis on feeling a connection with both the people and the place. It was also critical that student success be ingrained in the mission as well. She is grateful to have found all of this at MCLA.

In addition to her work at the College, Prof. Bolívar Rubín has been involved in a number of community projects as well. The committee discussed the support that MCLA can provide to immigrant communities in Berkshire County and how to better serve them.

Sabbatical applications for 2018 - 2019

The Committee received a summary of the sabbatical applications for 2018-2019 as well as the individual applications and CVs and reviewed the parameters for these submissions. Applicants must have completed six years of service to the college and can then apply for a sabbatical every six years. Faculty can apply and request a deferment to preserve the right to apply again in six years as the timing is based on application date rather than the actual leave. All applications must be reviewed and approved by the department chair unless it is the department chair making the request in which case the request is submitted to the VP of Academic Affairs.

Vice President Brown discussed the structure of covering course offerings for faculty on sabbatical as well as the funding that is needed to support them. The budget for these sabbaticals will be determined when budgeting for the next fiscal year.

Finally, the committee inquired about the post-sabbatical process. Faculty must submit a report discussing their accomplishments/findings from their sabbatical. They might present a Brown Bag lecture, update or redesign course offerings based on their research/projects, or publish an article or paper. Faculty are contractually obligated to remain at the College for twice the amount of time as their sabbatical leave.

The following faculty members submitted proposals for sabbaticals for 2018-2019:

Christine Condaris, Professor of Fine and Performing Arts (spring 2019)

Susan Edgerton, Professor of Languages, Interdisciplinary Studies, and Philosophy (fall 2018)

Liz Hartung, Associate Professor of Mathematics (2018-2019, pending NSF grant decision)

Paul Nnodim, Professor of Languages, Interdisciplinary Studies, and Philosophy (spring 2019)

Matt Silliman, Professor of Languages, Interdisciplinary Studies, and Philosophy (fall 2018)

Chris Thomas, Professor of Mathematics (spring 2019)

Adrienne Wootters, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs (2018-2019)

Other Business

Vice President Brown provided an update on the open Faculty searches. Another mid-year retirement was recently announced as well.

Dean Joslin provided an update on the new Community Health and Health Sciences majors. Potential students are inquiring about both majors and there are currently two Community Health majors and 27 Health Sciences majors. Additionally, the electrical engineering concentration has brought in increased inquiries.

Trustee Therrien offered that certificate programs can be a draw for non-traditional learners who might then choose to matriculate.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.