



*My College. Right from the Start.*

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Executive and Finance Committee Meeting  
Thursday, August 15, 2013  
President's Office Conference Room**

**Members in attendance:**

Tyler Fairbank, Chair  
Steve Crowe, (via conference call)  
Jim Clemmer  
Will Dudley  
Shirley Edgerton  
Susan Gold  
Buffy Lord  
Denise Marshall

**Others present:**

Mary K. Grant, President  
Marianne Drake, Chief Advancement Officer and President, MCLA Foundation, Inc.  
James Stakenas, Vice President of Administration and Finance  
Jerry Desmarais, Treasurer  
Joseph Charon, Director of Public Safety  
Thomas Bernard, Clerk  
John Durkhan, iBerkshires.com

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Trustee Fairbank.

**Public Safety Update**

MCLA Public Safety Director Joe Charon provided an update on public safety at the College. He informed the committee about ongoing work with the campus police department, including staffing and professional development, planning that is underway to pursue accreditation of the department, and recent investments in technology to support the work of campus police. President Grant noted that the technology investment included installing computers in campus police vehicles, which was supported by a private donation. She acknowledged the work of Director Charon and the department, and thanked them for their service to the College.

## **FY 2014 Budget**

Vice President Stakenas presented the College budget for FY 2014.

He reported that in July, Governor Deval Patrick signed into law the state budget for Fiscal Year 2014 (FY 14). This year's budget included the increased funding for the state university system that the House initially wrote into their budget proposal. This is the first increase in appropriation that the state university system has seen in many years. Included within this appropriation amount is funding to support negotiated collective bargaining increases for campus bargaining units.

President Grant expressed appreciation for the governor and the Legislature for their support for public higher education.

In recognition of the opportunity for increased funding, the Board previously approved a motion to freeze the campus support fee for the 2013-2014 academic year. When the budget was approved, students and the campus community were informed of the fee freeze.

President Grant and Vice President Stakenas informed the committee that while the additional funding is extremely important, the budget for the coming year presents several challenges that will need to be managed carefully. Several complex projects – including the new facilities building, and the commitment to fund furniture and expenses for the Center for Science and Innovation – and the potential for a slightly smaller incoming class over FY 2013, will require innovative budget management. President Grant and Vice President Stakenas will manage the budget carefully throughout the fiscal year, and will continue to keep the Trustees informed through the cycle of upcoming Board and committee meetings.

Despite the challenges, President Grant noted that the work taking place on campus is transformative and unprecedented. She acknowledged the work of Vice President Stakenas, Treasurer Desmarais, CIO Curt King, facilities director Chuck Kimberling, and the entire Facilities team in managing these efforts.

Chair Fairbank expressed his appreciation for the level of work and the way it has transformed MCLA. Trustee Edgerton noted the importance of MCLA's strong community presence.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED** to recommend the FY 2014 budget be presented to the full Board of Trustees for acceptance at the September 12, 2013 meeting of the Board.

## **Trustee Appointment Process**

President Grant informed the Committee that there will be one Board vacancy during the current year as Trustee Crowe reaches the completion of his term of service. She noted that she will

convene a group of Trustees to review candidates to nominate through the Public Education Nominating Council (PENC).

### **Trustee Relations Conference**

The president reminded the Trustees of the statewide Trustee conference being organized in November through the Department of Higher Education's (DHE's) Office of Trustee Relations. The conference will provide an opportunity for state university and community college trustees in the Commonwealth to meet, network, and share best practices. In addition, Jennifer Perkins, director of the Office of Trustee Relations, has been invited to attend the September meeting of the MCLA Board of Trustees.

### **Opening Days Key Dates and Activities**

President Grant highlighted several activities and events around the opening of the College for the fall semester. She invited the Trustees to participate in these programs, including Convocation, and a presentation by musician, author, composer and MCLA honorary degree recipient James McBride which will kick off MCLA's year long *Creating Equality* series, and exploration of the history and legacy of the Civil Rights movement.

### **Executive Session**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, and upon a unanimous roll call, it was

**VOTED** to go into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing the president's evaluation and the progress of the MCLA capital campaign, and not return to open session, at 9:56 a.m.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.