



My College. Right from the Start.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Executive Committee
Tuesday, January 18, 2011
Campus Center Room 324A**

Members in attendance:

Jane Allen, Chair
Stephen Crowe, Vice Chair
William Dudley
Eugene Leibowitz (via conference call)
Mary K. Grant, President

The meeting was called to order at 9:29 a.m. by Trustee Allen.

President Grant provided an overview of the MCLA spring semester opening breakfast, which preceded the meeting.

Budget Update

Governor Patrick is expected to release his budget proposal for fiscal year 2012 shortly. President Grant anticipates MCLA will see a cut in state appropriation in the governor's proposal. In preparing the FY 12 budget, the College will continue to plan carefully, and develop budget models to address a variety of funding scenarios.

The president noted that some key staff searches are underway, including associate dean of admissions and facilities director.

President Grant provided an overview of the cuts to the state Cash Grant and tuition waiver programs that were discussed at the December meeting of the Board.

Partnership for North Adams Update

President Grant updated the Committee on the Partnership for North Adams, a public-private partnership that includes MCLA, MASS MoCA, local business leaders, and the city of North Adams. The Partnership will work on economic development initiatives in the city. Through her

service on the John Adams Innovation Institute board, President Grant will work to connect North Adams with the state's Gateway Cities initiative.

Spring Semester Update

Planning for Commencement in May is underway.

A transition meeting for the Center for Science and Innovation is planned for early February. At this time, the team from the state Division of Capital Asset Management (DCAM) that worked on the study phase will hand over responsibility to the DCAM design team. President Grant anticipates the College will have the same close, responsive working relationship with the design team that MCLA enjoyed with the DCAM study phase staff.

Board Retreat February 5th

The Committee reviewed the proposed agenda for the retreat, and suggested additional items for discussion, including an overview on admissions and enrollment.

Strategic Planning Update

President Grant informed the Committee on the next cycle of strategic planning work. A task force representing faculty, staff, students, alumni, and Trustees will be working on planning over the next several months. Trustee Leibowitz represents the board on this group. In addition to refreshing the planning process, this work also positions MCLA for the next NEASC accreditation visit in 2013.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.