



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
November 6, 2018  
87 Blackinton**

**Committee members in attendance:**

Lisa Chamberlain, Chair  
Robert Reilly  
Susan Gold

**Others present:**

Denise Marshall, Board Chair  
James F. Birge, President  
Monica Joslin, Dean of Academic Affairs  
Emily Williams, VP of Academic Affairs  
Lisa Lescarbeau, Clerk

Trustee Chamberlain called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Faculty Sabbatical Requests**

Dr. Williams reviewed the meeting's agenda and began discussion with sabbatical applications from faculty for the 2019/2020 academic year. The following faculty members have requested sabbatical:

- Lisa Donovan
- Zachary Finch
- Justin Golub
- Laura Standley
- Christopher Thomas

Course coverage during their absence has been reviewed and approved.

### **MSCA Contract and Work-to-Rule**

Dr. Williams provided an update on the MSCA contract and faculty work-to-rule action. The impact of work-to-rule was discussed including the slowing of committee work that is not governance related and the stoppage of work on core curriculum redesign.

President Birge reviewed the contract issues, explained equivalencies, and commented on the union's positioning of Presidents as obstructionists. It is highly unlikely that the contract as currently negotiated will be signed by the Governor and negotiations will be reopened.

The mood of faculty was discussed noting that frustration is most common. Faculty are being encouraged to fulfill their responsibilities for teaching, research and service; while they stay within the parameters of work-to-rule.

### **Faculty Searches**

Faculty searches were discussed noting there are five active searches being conducted to fill vacant roles. President Birge reviewed the accreditation hierarchy and licensure process for the Education Department which will be under review beginning November 7, 2018.

Dr. Williams provided an overview of the recruiting process including the use of agencies (Chronicle of Education and Higher Ed Jobs), advertising in select publications, and contacting leaders of the departments and professional associations.

### **Academic Affairs Initiatives**

Dr. Williams reviewed a number of proposals for grants in various stages. The Mellon grant application has received great feedback and appears to be moving in a positive direction for funding; a decision is anticipated in early January. The Mandela Washington proposal was submitted on October 23 with a decision anticipated in December.

President Birge commented on a proposal in development for the Fitzpatrick Trust for \$100,000 to renovate Venable Hall.

Dr. Joslin stated that the Berkshire Bank Summer STEM Academy, which has expanded to a year-long format, has been funded for another year.

Dr. Williams provided an overview of the process to submit proposals to the Title III Steering Committee for various initiatives in Title III. Funding and support is being considered for students to attend in the next cohort of the Title III – Washington Center Internship Program.

The College completed a week of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) activities, including being host to an engineering expo organized by General Dynamics. Dr. Williams attended the NECHE regional meeting at Goodwin College and provided a summary of the event where the new strategic plan and policies were presented.

Dr. Joslin provided a summary of the recent career fair held for students. Over 50 employers and approximately 150 students participated in this event. Career services worked with students on resumes, interviewing skills and business attire.

In response to a questions regarding the program that benefits from a leadership grant from Berkshire Bank, President Birge noted that General Dynamics was a past supporter and that he would talk with other potential donors for additional funding to expand the programming.

Dr. Williams reviewed the planned consultants visit to discuss offering a BS degree in nursing.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 a.m.