



Chair Allen opened the meeting by welcoming everyone back for the new academic year.

Chair Allen formally introduced and welcomed to the Board Trustee William Dudley and Jameek Clovie, the Student Trustee for the 2010-2011 academic year. She thanked each of them for their service.

Approval of the Minutes of the May 27, 2010, Meeting of the Board of Trustees:

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the May 27, 2010, meeting of the Board and all actions contained therein.

As new members of the Board, Trustees Dudley and Clovie abstained from voting.

Report of the August 27, 2010, Nominating Committee Meeting:

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: Unanimously to approve the recommendation of the Nominating Committee that the current Board officers serve another year.

Chairperson's Report

Chair Allen informed the Trustees that their meeting materials included copies of two required annual forms: the MCLA Confidentiality Agreement and the MCLA Disclosure Questionnaire. Chair Allen requested that all Trustees complete and return these forms to Thomas Bernard in the MCLA President's Office.

Chair Allen noted that she will send a letter on behalf of the Board to Commissioner of Higher Education Richard Freeland thanking him for his public comments in support of public higher education.

President's Report

President Grant also welcomed Trustees Dudley and Clovie.

The president noted that two state university system presidents have announced they will be retiring at the end of the current academic year – President Ashley of Worcester State University and President Sloan of Massachusetts College of Art.

First Days for the fall semester went extremely well. President Grant acknowledged the work of Dean Degen and the Student Affairs staff. The College has its largest enrollment since 1993, and a more diverse population of students.

Looking ahead to the current academic year, the effect of the state economic situation on appropriations remains the greatest challenge facing public higher education.

The Board of Higher Education Vision Project provides an opportunity to make the case for public higher education. For MCLA, the new state university system offers the College a chance to stand out and promote our role as the Commonwealth's public liberal arts college, and a member of the national Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC)

The College's new Professional Master of Business Administration program will enroll its first cohort of students in January.

With support from Congressman John Olver, MCLA and Berkshire Community College (BCC) will collaborate to share classroom and program space in the Conte Federal Building in Pittsfield. This effort will expand MCLA's presence in downtown Pittsfield established through the partnership with BCC at the Intermodal Center, and will house the Berkshire Readiness Center.

The structure of the Center for Student Success and Engagement is being finalized during the fall semester; the center will be up and running in January.

One highlight of the fall semester will be the site designation announcement for the MCLA Center for Science and Innovation. The current timeframe is that the building will be ready for occupancy by early 2014. Bowman Hall will also be renovated and transformed as part of the Center for Science and Innovation project.

Division Updates

Enrollment Management: Vice President Richardello reported that for the fall semester MCLA has more students living on campus, that the student body is more diverse, and that more applicants are identifying MCLA as their first choice institution. For the coming year, among other things, Admissions staff will focus on establishing new articulation agreements, continue to promote MCLA's distinctive role as the Commonwealth's public liberal arts college, and identify opportunities to increase the yield of the applicant pool.

Academic Affairs: Vice President Brown reported on divisional priorities for the coming year, including strategic planning for Freel Library, development of majors and programs, increasing the diversity of the faculty and staff, and establishing the Center for Student Success and Engagement as a platform to provide unified services to students. Additional challenges and opportunities include federal Race to the Top funding to support the Berkshire Readiness Center, and highlighting the work MCLA continues to do that aligns with the goals of the Vision Project.

Dean Joslin discussed MCLA's involvement with local and statewide Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) initiatives, as well as faculty professional development and recent faculty accomplishments.

In response to a trustee question, there was a discussion of the library's strategy for building its electronic and physical collections.

Student Affairs: Dean Degen provided an update of activities in the Student Affairs division, with an emphasis on initiatives in public safety, athletics, community service and student leadership programs, and peer advising.

Administration and Finance: Vice President Stakenas presented a budget overview. He