



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
Thursday, April 5, 2018  
Fitzpatrick Room, Murdock Hall Room 208**

**Members in attendance:**

Susan Gold, Chair  
JD Chesloff, Vice Chair  
Mohan Boodram  
Lisa Chamberlain  
Denise Marshall

**Other Trustees in attendance:**

Brenda Burdick  
Mitchell Chapman, student trustee  
Frederick Keator

**Others present:**

Dr. James Birge, President  
Ginger Menard, Clerk

Chair Gold called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

President Birge welcomed the committee and reminded everyone that all Board and Board Committee meetings are public meetings and open to all.

**MSCA update**

President Birge provided an update on the MSCA contract. The faculty union has been without a collective bargaining agreement since July 2017. Earlier this year faculty invoked “work to rule” status establishing that faculty should only perform duties outlined by the contract. Faculty typically do much more than what is prescribed so “work to rule” has resulted in fewer faculty serving on committees or being involved in campus events. President Birge did note that MCLA faculty have remained as involved as possible while still supporting their fellow faculty at all state institutions.

President Birge shared information on some issues that have delayed the successful completion of negotiations. The next bargaining session is scheduled for April 9. It is the hope of the Council of Presidents that an agreement can be reached on that date before having to take the next step of mediation.

If the contract is settled before July, any increase would be retroactive to July 1, 2017.

Finally, President Birge noted that he meets regularly with the Executive Committee of MCLA's faculty union and they have been professional, respectful, collegial, and honorable throughout this process. The faculty president, Graziana Ramsden, has gone above and beyond to step in as needed for her fellow faculty members by attending meetings and serving on committees.

### **MSCBA and Fitness Center Updates**

President Birge noted that MSCBA is the state authority that oversees any campus buildings related to student life. DCAMM is the other state authority with responsibility for academic facilities.

Staff of the MSCBA recently visited campus and discussed some other potential projects. They raised the issue of a new residence hall as the townhouses are out of date and need extensive renovation or replacement. Such a project would increase the College's long term debt by \$20-\$25 million dollars. The committee discussed support for new Fitness Center and Centennial Room renovations. The approximate budget for the Fitness Center/Centennial Room project is \$5 million of which we currently have \$4 million through bond funds and funding from Aramark.

President Birge offered that it might be worthwhile for MCLA to consider increasing its debt load as the College has capacity and currently has the lowest debt service ratio in the state university system. Potential projects will be identified and brought to the Board to determine if and what to advance. VP Behan is preparing an evaluation of how current projected projects will affect the debt ratio and operating costs.

Trustee Chesloff asked for more information on what a renovation of the townhouses would entail along with a list of capital needs on campus which would provide context in making determination on where to allocated any borrowed funds.

Trustee Burdick asked about a long term capital expenditure plan. VP Behan will address this when a new Director of Facilities is brought on board.

## **Presidential Evaluation**

The memo from Commissioner Santiago regarding the 2018 presidential evaluation process was distributed and Chair Gold noted that additional information is available on the DHE website. Chair Gold has asked the Executive Committee to assume responsibility for producing the evaluation. Last year's evaluation process included interviews with faculty, staff, and students. Interviews are not required annually so this will be at the discretion of the committee. President Birge will provide his goals as part of the process. Trustee Chamberlain requested another copy of the President's previous goals and 2017 evaluation.

Based on the need for a quorum when meeting, the Executive Committee voted to establish a subcommittee to oversee the evaluation and produce the final document.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** To establish a subcommittee for the purpose of producing the 2018 presidential evaluation. Committee members include Chair Susan Gold, Trustee Lisa Chamberlain, and Trustee Denise Marshall.

Meeting dates and times will be shared with the full Board and posted in accordance with open meeting laws.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.