



MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
President's Office – Large Conference Room and Audio/Video MS Teams

MINUTES
September 30, 2025

Present: T. Bernard, J Clarke-Mitchell, B. Lord, D Rodowicz
Absent: Y. Spicer
Staff: J Birge, K Kozak

As allowed by executive order of the Governor of Massachusetts, in compliance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30 and 15A, Section 9, and with a quorum present in person and via audio/video-conference, the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees with Chair Lord presiding was called to order at 8:33 a.m.

Update on Presidential Search Process – Chair Lord provided an update on the Presidential Search Process. She detailed the following:

- The three Unions have made their recommendations for Search Committee representatives and Chair Lord is working to finalize.
- The RFP was posted for search firms, 12 have viewed the RFP, 3 intend to submit to date. The next step will be to review RFPs after the Oct 6 due date and make a determination. Then the Committee will have training on conducting a position search with Brenda Stokes from HR.
- The timeline then shifts to the Search Firm visiting campus then crafting the job description and beginning the search. There was discussion that the Search Committee will be responsible for working with the Firm to develop the job description. It was requested that the Trustees have a role in the job description. The search firm will also speak to all Trustees and potentially present at an Exec meeting if they feel it is necessary. President Birge noted that his role as President has evolved since his arrival and the job description needs to be updated.
- The final goal is to host candidates on campus in early spring for a public phase and to have a candidate selected by mid-April. There was discussion that this is a typical timeline for searches, there is some buffer time if needed, we will work around spring holidays and vacations.
- Chair Lord noted that we have representation from around campus and the community including Student Trustee Allie Bayer, Foundation Rep Mike Barbieri, Trustee Tom Bernard, Trustee Ben Downing (pending), Trustee Spicer and Trustee Burdick as co-chairs of the committee. Chair Lord has also reached out to ask a Grad student to participate as we feel they have a good perspective to share. The state via the DHE will also propose a member as

well. BHE is the final decision maker after the MCLA Trustees make their final recommendation.

- There was discussion of other searches in the area. Western New England University, Bennington and BCC are all searching and Keene State and one of the SUNY schools may be searching soon. They are all very different than a Mass state U.
- It was also noted that our recent positive US News rankings will also be helpful in recruiting.

Trustee Bernard left the meeting. A quorum remained in place.

Review Honorary Degree recipients - President Birge presented possible candidates:

- Dr. Mary Grant – Last year the Executive Committee recommended Dr. Grant for an honorary degree, but she was unavailable. She is an alum, former president of MCLA and current president of MassArt in the state u system.
- Mr. Mohan Boodram – Mr. Boodram served as a Trustee for 13 years including twice as Board chair. He was Chair during the pandemic and was an extremely helpful and impactful Chair. Additionally, Dr. Grant recruited Mr. Boodram, so it is a nice synergy.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, via a roll call vote it was unanimously:

VOTED: to recommend Dr. Mary Grant and Mr. Mohan Boodram as Honorary Degree recipients to the full board for the October meeting.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, via a roll call vote it was unanimously:

VOTED: to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Kelli Kozak
Clerk