



MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

**MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

April 3, 2026 – 8:30am

Audio/Video MS Teams: [Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 287 753 382 373 3 Passcode: 4B6SH9aj

Dial In 339.666.3102 Conf ID#: 708 488 329

Or in person at President's Office – 87 Blackinton Street, North Adams, MA

AGENDA

**Rodowicz
Lord Clarke Mitchell**

**Present
Birhe Mendel Kozak
Templanza
Janis
claffey**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

5. Call to Order 834

Chair Lord

6. Search Updates -

a. Chief of Staff for DEI Search

Dr. Mendel

- i. Dr Mendel detailed applicants and process there was discussion of the process. Committee discussed next steps and also discussed if this position should wait for the new president. Campus community supported hiring prior to the President and leadership just wanted to update the committee

b. Presidential Search

Chair Lord

- i. 102 applicants, search committee very diligent and hard working, narrowed to 10 with first round, narrowed to 4 finalists. Info has been posted. We did expand sessions at the request of campus to give all access. Post-

- ii. Full Board meeting on 23rd and encourages people to be in person.
- c. Kate flower joined 844
 - i. Chair Lord is happy w outreach
 - ii. Ms. Rodowicz noted email from Alum Gina Puc re expanding timelines
 - iii. It is
 - iv. There was discussion of an Internal candidate – all were given adequate consideration by search committee. Process remains confidential. Discussion of Board responsibility vs search committee responsibility. There was further discussion of the solid and appropriate work of the search committee.
 - v. Discussion of extended hours being beneficial but that not everyone can block out time.

- 7. Review for interim approval: Honorary Degree recipient President Birge
- 8. Noted Mohan and Mary Grant have already been approved. Third candidate for commencement speaker. Opera America and Mass cultural Council. Connected to the Berkshires. President Birge noted that he was excellent, there was discussion that. Trustee Bernard knows him personally through work with Mass Cultural Council and noted his work of arts education.

Motion to approve: will be sent to board for ratification

- 9. Fair Share Funding Update President Birge
 - a. Designed by state to address deferred maintenance, we are bringing in a consultant to review best practices for safety and security then exec staff will prioritize based on the report. The legislature directed this funding to safety and security. This coordinates with our strategic plan for campus space and will also be helpful for

- 10. Other Business Chair Lord
- 11. There was no other business
- 12. The chair thanked the guests for attending.

- 13. Adjournment Chair Lord