



## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

February 27, 2026 – 1:30pm

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

### **Minutes**

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 via audio/video-conference, the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees with Chair Lord presiding was called to order at 1:35p.m.

1. Review Honorary Degree recipients President Birge
  - a. There was discussion of potential for a keynote Speaker and potential Honorary Doctorate (HD). There was discussion of approaching the following:
    1. YoYo Ma – introduction through Smitty Pignatelli possible
    2. Michael Bobbit – Executive Director of Opera America, former head of MassCultural Council, introduction through Tom Bernard
    3. Mass Attorney General Andrea Campbell – may be more appropriate as a lecturer who would be able to spend time with students
    4. State Senator Paul Mark – already has an HD, but could possibly be speaker
  - i. Others for future potential
    1. Documentary Filmmaker Ken Burns who lives in New Hampshire
    2. Pete Buttegieg – possible through a mutual connection
    3. Debra Jo Rupp – Berkshires-based actress
  - a. It was noted that Chair Lord has a case pending before the Supreme Judicial Court, therefore no member of that body should be considered to be a speaker to avoid conflict of interest.
2. Other Business
  - a. President Birge provided an update on the Men’s basketball team earning a place in the conference championship playoffs. Men’s Ice Hockey also moved ahead in playoffs.
  - b. Yesterday, President Birge and the Mass CoP as well as MCLA students traveled to Boston for State House Day. Our request for Bright Act funding had been \$44million but

we were awarded a floor of \$15million. We are continuing to work to increase that funding.

- c. It was just announced at a Campaign Executive Committee meeting earlier today that in April the campaign will be certified at approximately \$32million. The Trustees offered their congratulations on a successful campaign.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:05p.m.