



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

**MINUTES – EXECUTIVE SESSION
August 21, 2025**

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

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 8:34 a.m.

Chair Lord then requested a motion to go into Executive Session under purpose #2 - To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel; and to not reconvene Open Session at the conclusion of the Executive Session.

Upon a roll call vote it was unanimously:

VOTED: To go into Executive Session for the purpose of conducting strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel and to discuss contract negotiations with nonunion personnel; and to not reconvene Open Session at the conclusion of the Executive Session.

Chair Lord then directed the meeting to enter Executive Session. We will adjourn directly from Executive Session and will not resume Open Session. She also directed Ms. Kozak to remain and record minutes of the Executive Session. Dr. Birge remained to address the Committee.

As a non-union staff member, President Birge noted his intention to retire in June of 2026 and end his contract with the College. He will announce formally at opening breakfast on September 2. He is also connecting with other Board members and executive staff.

There was discussion of a strong candidate pool and a positive position of the college to attract quality new leadership. President Birge is happy to provide insight and support as directed by the Chair but will not be part of the process choose final candidates.

The Committee discussed the logistics process for creating a search committee which will include Board, Faculty, Staff, Students, Alumni, and Foundation representatives. They will also review whether to utilize a search firm. The general timeline is to post a position by calendar year end, accept applications and determine a final candidate by spring. There was also discussion of the solid footing of the current Executive staff.

The Committee offered their thanks and appreciation for Dr. Birge's work and best wishes for his retirement.

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting directly from Executive Session at 9:01a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelli Kozak
Clerk