



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

October 9, 20226

**Present: T. Bernard, B. Lord, D. Rodowicz, J. Clarke-Mitchell, Y. Spicer
MCLA Staff: D. Rogers-Adkinson, J. Mendel**

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 of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts met on Friday, October 9, 2026 with Chair Buffy Lord presiding. Chair Lord called the meeting to order at 8:32a.m.

1. Hockey Rink Project Update

President Rogers-Adkinson

- As of Octobre 8, 2026 the last permits and documentation from the architect firms were received
- The project is aligned to be completed close to the end of the 2026-2027 hockey season
- It is hopeful that a “senior ceremony” will be able to take place unveiling the locker rooms
- The project is on budget

2. First Quarter Accomplishments

President Rogers-Adkinson

- Strengthening external relationships
 - Positive media presence- articles at least every other week
 - Positive relationships are being established with Mayor Macksey and Representative Barrett. All Berkshire Delegation was present at the Inauguration, and some had speaking parts. Congressman Neal was engaging and complimentary throughout the day.
 - Focus on relationship building with the new TDI Fellow and the Creative District program

- Meeting with President Charlier and her leadership team at Berkshire Community College later in the day for longitudinal planning

Questions/Comments from Board Members:

- Chair Lord- encouraged the board members to read the Presidential article in Berkshire Magazine regarding all three presidents.
- Trustee Bernard- stated that he was impressed with the amount of traction we had with Commissioner Santos, and how the Commissioner's office even reposted on his social media about his experience at MCLA during the Inauguration.
- Trustee Clarke-Mitchell- commented on how she has been impressed with Women Leadership in all three local presidencies and meeting President Thompson from Westfield at the events last weekend.

3. Establishment of Year 1 Goals

President Rogers-Adkinson

- First Generation Scholarship, over \$3,000 raised so far
- Kate Gigilotti will begin as the Vice President of Institutional Advancement on November 2
- Consultant Dan Saftig will also be starting on November 2nd to support Kate for the first few months and complete an assessment of the Advancement division
- There was difficulty in getting the Foundation staff to schedule key donor visits early, in July and August
- Donors have brought to her attention problems with processes in Advancement and not receiving information in a timely manner
- Internal focus:
 - First Community Coffee Hour was held on Thursday prior, strong turnout from faculty, staff and students
 - Conducted Strengths Based Leadership Training with Cabinet
 - Limitation to the Cabinet team was noted that a skill needed from the team is "creating Buy-In" an area to focus on as a team. The leadership team should be setting the ideals for change
 - Positivity coming from faculty, staff and students regarding her presence on campus and at events
 - People are starting to let down their guard a bit and are beginning to have real conversations

Questions/Comments from Board Members:

- Trustee Spicer – Happy for the positive energy from the Inauguration. Encouraged to think about an internship program in the President’s Office. Trustee Spicer has very much enjoyed the momentum and growth of the College and would like to bring attention toward Marketing. She also encouraged her to keep asking for donations, specifically asking for donations on social media for the 1st Generation Scholarship.
- Chair Lord- supported Trustee Spicer’s statement about keeping the social media momentum with another push for 1st Generation Scholarship support.
- President Rogers-Adkinson- commented that the College is seeing an increase in applications from this time last year. On Monday, October 12th at an Athletic Preview Day, students who are prepared will receive an on-the -spot evaluation and potential acceptance if qualified. This is a pilot program, to try and bring more students into the enrollment funnel quicker.
- She also pointed out that she has spoken with some Hampshire College students and they made mention that “I wish I knew MCLA before I started at Hampshire.
- Trustee Rodowicz - asked about the section of Organizational Effectiveness and what does staffing behavior and disruption mean?
- President Rogers-Adkinson – response – examples would be concerning conduct in meetings, negative statements, concern about work being completed, and the carryover of negative behaviors to other staff. The College is bringing in Kate Gigliotti and as the Vice President of Advancement on November 2nd and a consultant by the name of Dan Saftig, who is an expert in supporting college Advancement work.
- Trustee Rodowicz – also stated that she was unaware that the College had a Government Relations person.
- President Rogers-Adkinson – replied that Matt VanHeynigan had the role and was housed in Advancement until early September when he was recruited to go to Westfield State.
- President Rogers-Adkinson- also mentioned that she has hired a consulting organization to assess the Athletics Department. She had a concern that we were identified twice now by the NCAA for our Women’s sports programs. She said she has talked with the coaches and athletic staff about the recruitment of a full roster.

5. Agenda Review for Committees

President Rogers-Adkinson

- Chair Lord – encouraged the committee chairs to review agendas and to feel free to add information you would like to know about.
- Trustee Rodowicz – the CFO has always been helpful at getting the agenda items ahead of time.
- Trustee Bernard- the information for enrollment and marketing is very valuable. Is their something actionable for the Trustees to support the work of the staff?
- President Rogers-Adkinson – I have been working with the Vice Presidents to bring slides ahead of time to Cabinet for review by the group and have encouraged them to provide the Board with more strategic direction.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:13am

Respectfully Submitted,
Joshua Mendel, Chief of Staff