



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Thursday, October 19, 2017
Fitzpatrick Room, Murdock Hall Room 208**

Members in attendance:

Susan Gold, Chair
JD Chesloff, Vice Chair
Mohan Boodram
Lisa Chamberlain, via teleconference
Buffy Lord

Members absent:

Denise Marshall

Others present:

Dr. James Birge, President
Ginger Menard, Clerk

Chair Gold called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

Mark Hopkins Hall Renovation

President Birge reviewed the newly established submission process that has been set by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance to distribute funds for major capital projects. The Commonwealth will be awarding up to \$140M to cover the DCAMM portion of the total project costs for the 29 state and community colleges and UMASS campuses. A priority is being placed on renovating existing buildings rather than building new facilities.

MCLA has determined that Mark Hopkins Hall is the top priority for the campus. Mark Hopkins Hall is a former elementary school that was built in the 1930's and has never been fully renovated. That building houses two of the largest majors, English/Communications and Education. Admissions has heard from prospective students that the condition of this building can be a detriment to recruiting students in those two majors. Multiple faculty have offices in former classrooms with partitioned walls that do not allow for any privacy. The committee discussed issues regarding the potential renovation including faculty and classroom relocations if the building is offline.

President Birge also noted that the theater in Venable Hall is in need of renovation and other options, such as donor funding, will be pursued to advance that project as well.

Trustee Nominations

President Birge shared that he recently spoke with Mike Knapik from Governor Baker's Springfield office about the issue of Trustee nominees and reappointments. There are currently four Trustees up for reappointment and one open slot. Mike suggested that alums currently working in the STEM fields be identified as potential candidates.

The committee reviewed and discussed the names that have been submitted. Trustee Chesloff has spoken with Secretary Peyser about the need for consistency on the MCLA Board as well as diversity and hopes to have a follow-up conversation in the near future. The Department of Higher Education has hired a new Director of Trustee Relations, Matt Noyes. Chair Gold will be meeting with him on October 24 and will also share her concerns about the number of reappointments outstanding as well as the open slot.

It was noted that both the Alumni board and Foundation Boards, the two Board over which the College has control of its appointees, are becoming more diverse.

Personnel Updates

President Birge shared that Executive Vice President, Denise Richardello, will be extending her planned retirement and will be at MCLA through June 30, 2018. In addition to her regular responsibilities she will also oversee the important work relative to the administration of the Strategic Plan.

HD recipients

The ad hoc Board committee held one meeting. One person has accepted the invitation to receive an honorary degree. Other outreach is still in progress. The Board will be kept updated as there is more information to share.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.