



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

Thursday, April 23, 2026

Murdock Hall, Room 218 & Microsoft Teams (Audio/Video Conference)

MINUTES

Trustees in Attendance:

Buffy Lord, Chair
Brenda Burdick
Thomas Bernard
Jean Clarke-Mitchell
Benjamin Downing
David Halbert*
Yina Moore
Darlene Rodowicz
Yvonne Spicer*
Allie Bayer, Student Trustee

Trustees Absent

None

(Denotes remote participation, where applicable)*

Others in Attendance: There were over 30 guests and staff in attendance, including candidates for tenure and James F. Birge, President; Kelli Kozak, Clerk of the Board; Richard Glejzer, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Josh Mendel, Chief of Staff

As allowed by executive order of the Governor of Massachusetts, in compliance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30 and Chapter 15A, Section 9, and with a quorum present in person and via audio/video conference, the Board of Trustees of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts met on April 23, 2026, with Chair Lord presiding. Chair Lord called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Consent Agenda

Chair Lord reviewed the consent agenda and asked whether any Trustee wished to remove items for individual discussion. Hearing none, Chair Lord asked for corrections to the minutes as distributed. No corrections were offered.



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

VOTED: to approve the consent agenda as presented.

a. Minutes Approved

- Board of Trustees Meeting – February 12, 2026
- Academic Affairs Committee – April 7, 2026
- Student Affairs Committee – April 2, 2026
- Enrollment Management Committee – April 1, 2026
- Fiscal Affairs Committee – April 8, 2026

b. Items for Information

- MCLA Foundation Report (included in Campus Update)
- Financial Statements

FY26 Fiscal Report

Trustee Rodowicz presented the report of the Fiscal Affairs Committee in the absence of Vice President DaSilva. Topics reviewed included:

- FY26 budget actuals
- FY26 forecast
- FY27 draft budget
- NECHE financial screening
- Investment performance, noting a \$22 million increase
- Capital projects update

Trustees discussed the use of a revised financial review process and noted that it would likely continue as part of the NECHE ten-year review cycle.

Academic Affairs Committee Report

Provost Glejzer presented the Academic Affairs Committee's recommendations for tenure and promotion. Upon motion duly made and seconded, following discussion and a roll-call vote, it was unanimously:

VOTED: to approve the slate of tenure and promotion as presented.

a. Tenure with Promotion to Associate Professor

- Dr. Whitney Gecker – Sociology, Anthropology & Social Work
- Dr. J. Antonio Templanza – English
- Professor Julie Walsh – Radiologic Technology

b. Promotion to Full Professor

- Professor Tara Barboza – Business Administration
- Dr. Anna Jaysane-Darr – Sociology, Anthropology & Social Work
- Dr. Nicole Porthier – Health Professions



The Board extended its congratulations to the faculty.

President's Report

President Birge provided updates on the following:

- Recognition of recently promoted and tenured faculty
- Campaign Update: the comprehensive campaign was recently certified at \$32 million, exceeding its initial \$25 million goal
- Enrollment deposits are up approximately 25%, particularly in Radiologic Technology, Nursing, and Psychology
- Hampshire College teach-out arrangements, noting 38 applications received
- Anticipated teach-out support for Anna Maria College, leveraging MCLA's prior experience

Chair's Report

Chair Lord thanked the Presidential Search Committee, the Board of Trustees, and the broader campus community for their participation in the search process. Special recognition was given to Search Committee Co-Chairs Trustees Brenda Burdick and Yvonne Spicer. Chair Lord also expressed appreciation to President Birge for his decade of leadership and historic fundraising success.

Chair Lord reviewed meeting logistics regarding press communications and announced a reception following the meeting to honor faculty receiving tenure and promotion.

Chair Lord then presented the presidential finalists:

- Dr. David Jenemann
- Dr. Sherri Givens Mylott
- Dr. Diana Rogers-Adkinson

Chair Lord noted that candidate Dr. Michael Middleton had withdrawn from consideration based on further consideration with his family. Chair Lord also detailed that recommendations received from faculty, unions, and the Commissioner of Higher Education supported Dr. Rogers-Adkinson or Dr. Middleton without preference.

Trustees discussed the qualifications and experiences of the remaining candidates, with remarks offered by each Trustee in turn detailing support for both Candidates Rogers-Adkinson and Jenemann, with the majority noting Dr. Rogers-Adkinson's level of professionalism, strategic thinking and familiarity with liberal arts institutions.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, following a roll-call vote, it was:



VOTED: to authorize the Chair to conduct negotiations with **Dr. Diana Rogers-Adkinson** and to recommend her appointment to the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education as the next President of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

Vote: Rogers-Adkinson: Halbert, Lord, Rodowicz, Moore, Clarke-Mitchell, Bernard, Spicer, Burdick

Jenemann: Downing, Bayer

Abstentions: None

Chair Lord congratulated Dr. Rogers-Adkinson.

There being no further business, upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:36p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelli Kozak

Clerk