



Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting of November 7, 2022
MCLA, 87 Blackinton St, North Adams, MA
Audio/Video Conference

Members in Attendance

Brenda Burdick, Chair*, Mohan Boodram*, Denise Marshall*

Members Absent

Frederick Keator, Franklyn Reynolds

Others in Attendance

James Birge, President , Lisa Lescarbeau, Clerk

*Denotes remote participation

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 Committee Chair Burdick presiding was called to order at 8:32 a.m.

President Birge began with a review of potential commencement speakers for the class of 2023. While the selection of the commencement speaker is the responsibility of the President, he noted that he brought the names forward for feedback and input of the Trustees. Names presented include John Tracy Kidder, Elizabeth Banks, Ashish Jha, Meg Day, and James Taylor. Trustees discussed each candidate's background and work as it relates to the liberal arts, their visibility within the community, and how they would be received by current students. It was agreed that President Birge would pursue Meg Day and Elizabeth Banks in that order to act as commencement speaker for the graduating class of 2023. Invitations will be drafted by President Birge.

President Birge presented potential recipients for an honorary degree at commencement in May 2023. Typically, three or four honorary degrees are awarded each year. Names brought forward for potential HD recipients include Kenn Turner, Kathleen Warren '83, Brian and Vicki Fairbank, Richard Brown '74, Robin Stelmach '83, and Joseph Dwinell '82. Trustees discussed each candidate's background and work as it relates to the liberal arts, as well as their connection to MCLA and Berkshire County, and the diversity of the candidate pool. Trustees agreed that President Birge should begin pursuing individuals to determine their interest in accepting an HD starting with Kenn Turner, and Brian and Vicki Fairbank. Formal recommendations will be made to the Board of Trustees at a future meeting.

President Birge provide a very brief update, based on information available to the public, regarding the investigation into an unattended death at a home adjacent to campus. An email will be sent to all Trustees from President Birge providing a similar update.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 a.m. by Chair Burdick.