

## **BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

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January 19, 2016

11:30 a.m.

Department of Higher Education  
1 Ashburton Place, Room 1401  
Main Conference Room  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

### **Special Meeting Minutes**

A special meeting of the Board of Higher Education (BHE) was held on Tuesday, January 19, 2016, in the Department of Higher Education (DHE) Conference Room, Room 1403 of One Ashburton Place, Boston, Massachusetts.

#### **The following Board members were present:**

Chris Gabrieli, Chair  
Sheila Harrity, Vice-Chair  
Nancy Hoffman  
Tom Hopcroft  
Robert Johnson  
J.D. LaRock  
Dani Monroe  
James Peyser, Secretary  
Paul Toner  
Owen Wiggins

Carlos E. Santiago, Commissioner and Secretary to the Board

#### **The following Board members were absent:**

Don Irving  
Fernando Reimers  
Henry Thomas

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 11:45 a.m.

#### **II. MOTIONS**

##### **A. Board of Higher Education**

##### *Documents Used:*

- *BHE Motion 16-03 Massachusetts College of Art and Design Presidential Appointment, and attachments*
- *BHE Motion 16-04 Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts Presidential Appointment, and attachments*

##### **BHE 16-03 Massachusetts College of Art and Design Presidential**

Chairman Gabrieli opened the meeting by inviting Commissioner Santiago to

introduce the motion.

Commissioner Santiago welcomed everyone to the Special BHE Meeting and began with introductions. All of the members present introduced themselves and their associated institutions. Before introducing the motion, Commissioner Santiago thanked Massachusetts College of Art & Design (MassArt) Interim President Ken Strickland for his attendance at today's meeting and for guiding the institution while the Board of Trustees conducted their search.

Commissioner Santiago then introduced the BHE16-03 motion. He stated that he extended the opportunity to BHE members to participate in finalist interviews and both the Executive Office of Education and the DHE were involved in interviewing all of the finalists. He stated that the search did operate under the BHE's search and selection guidelines, which included participation of the BHE in the search process. The Commissioner confirmed that Assistant Commissioner & Chief of Staff, Nate Mackinnon, was the DHE staff representative on this search committee and thanked him for his service. The Commissioner concluded by stating that he supports the recommendation made by the MassArt Board of Trustees and turned the meeting over to MassArt Board of Trustees Chairman, David Lee.

Chairman David Lee began by thanking the co-chairs of the MassArt Presidential Search Committee, Richard Marshall and Pamela Parisi, for all of their hard work and support. Chairman Lee continued by providing an overview of the presidential selection process, highlighting the selection of the search committee, position profile approval, search consultant work, and the review of potential candidates. Twelve candidates were invited to interview; only eleven accepted and were interviewed. Four finalists were selected to come for full day interviews on campus and the search concluded on December 15<sup>th</sup> when the Board selected Dr. David Nelson. Chairman Lee acknowledged that it was not an easy decision, due to a strong internal candidate that had a lot of support from members of the campus.

12:04 p.m. Board Member Paul Toner arrived.

Chairman Lee continued by discussing the professional background and accomplishments of the candidate. He then opened up the discussion to Committee Chair Marshall for additional remarks. Chair Marshall offered brief remarks, summarizing the search process and the candidate's qualifications. He concluded by noting that Dr. Nelson's goals were the best aligned with the institution's mission. Chair Lee then turned the discussion over to Dr. David Nelson.

Candidate David Nelson began by thanking everyone for the opportunity. Dr. Nelson described his experience participating in the search process, including his initial intentions when communicating with the search committee. He continued by stating that he was impressed with MassArt, its national reputation and accomplishments and went on to describe future opportunities that he envisioned if he led the campus as President. Dr. Nelson continued by summarizing his professional and educational background. He concluded his remarks by summarizing why he wants to be the next President of MassArt and why he believes he would be the best fit for the position, highlighting in this regard his knowledge and experience addressing funding and resource issues, enrollment, and his vision for maintaining the excellent quality of the institution.

Chairman Gabrieli thanked Dr. Nelson for his remarks and asked Board members if they had any questions. Questions touched upon the candidate's musical background, workforce development, building relationships, and strategic planning.

12:18 p.m. Board Member Robert Johnson left the meeting due to a prior commitment.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Gabrieli called for a motion. The following motion to approve the appointment of Dr. David Nelson was duly made, seconded and passed unanimously by all Board members present:

**MOVED: MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN  
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT**

The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the December 15, 2015 recommendation of the Massachusetts College of Art and Design Board of Trustees recommending David P. Nelson as President of Massachusetts College of Art and Design. Such appointment is effective on or about June 1, 2016, is subject to the successful completion of a State Police background check, and is subject to and in accordance with the attached terms and conditions of appointment.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Sections 9(q) and 21

**Contact:** Constantia T. Papanikolaou, General Counsel

At 12:27 p.m., Chairman Gabrieli made a motion to recess.

At 12:40 p.m., Chairman Gabrieli brought the meeting to order for the next motion.

**BHE 16-04 Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts Presidential Appointment**

Chairman Gabrieli turned the meeting over to Commissioner Santiago to introduce the motion.

Commissioner Santiago wanted to thank everyone for attending this portion of the meeting to consider the appointment of Dr. Jamie Birge as the next president of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA). He continued by summarizing his involvement in the search process, noting EOE and DHE's participation, which included interviews of finalist. The Commissioner recognized, Associate Commissioner for External Affairs, Katy Abel, as the DHE staff member that participated on this search committee and thanked Katy for her service. Before Commissioner Santiago turned the meeting over to MCLA Board of Trustees Vice-Chair William Dudley, Secretary Peyser acknowledged and thanked the Search Committee members for their persistence and hard work.

Vice-Chair Dudley began by recognizing Board of Trustee members Mohan Boodram and Susan Gold, who both Co-Chaired the Presidential Search Committee not once, but twice. Vice-Chair Dudley also wanted to acknowledge the other MCLA members and staff who were present: Board of Trustee member Jondavid (JD) Chesloff, Student Trustee Nicholas Hernigle, Executive Vice President Denise Richardello, and Vice President of Administration and Finance Lawrence R. Behan. He continued by providing an overview of the presidential selection process, noting Korn Ferry as the search firm selected. Eleven semi-finalists were recommended and five were then selected full day on-campus interviews. Vice-Chair Dudley continued by providing a summary of Dr. Birge's professional and educational background. He concluded by noting the variety of constituencies that a President has to work with, including staff, students, members of the community, alumni, and political leaders at both the local and state levels, and stated that he believes that Dr. Jamie Birge is the right person for the job.

Chair Gabrieli turned the meeting over to candidate Jamie Birge. Dr. Birge thanked

everyone for the opportunity. He stated that he was pleased and honored to be considered for the position. Dr. Birge then provided a summary of his personal and professional experiences. He summarized his educational background and why he believes he is the best choice for the institution touching upon his past successes in effectively leveraging resources, technology innovation and working with the K-12 sector. Additionally, he concluded his remarks by elaborating on possible goals and programs he would like to establish if appointed as President.

Chairman Gabrieli opened the floor for discussion and for questions from members of the Board. Board members asked questions about: service learning, creating a seamless pipeline for students, collaborations with K-12 and community colleges, debate clubs on campuses, and parental involvement in the preparation of students for college.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Gabrieli called for a motion. The following motion to approve the appointment of Dr. Nelson was duly made, seconded and passed unanimously:

**MOVED: MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS  
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT**

The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the December 10, 2015 recommendation of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts Board of Trustees recommending James F. Birge as President of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. Such appointment is effective on or about March 1, 2016, is subject to the successful completion of a State Police background check, and is subject to and in accordance with the attached terms and conditions of appointment.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Sections 9(q) and 21

**Contact:** Constantia T. Papanikolaou, General Counsel

**III. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.