MASSART

Board of Trustees

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2026, 2pm
Zoom

Committee Members in Attendance: Chair Bascome, Vice Chair Korn, Trustees Bump, Giraldo, and Saragoni

Others in Attendance: President Grant, Tony Flackett, Hannah Johnson, Brendan O'Bryan, Robert Chambers, Brenda Molife, Corey Zink, Emily Foster Day, Ernest Plowman, and Temple Gill

1. **Call to Order**
   Chair Bascome called the meeting to order at 2:02pm.

2. **Vote on Meeting Minutes - May 29, 2026**
   It was then unanimously **VOTED: to approve the May 29, 2026 meeting minutes.**

   Yes: Chair Bascome, Vice Chair Korn, Trustees Bump, Giraldo, and Saragoni

3. **Updates:**
   a. **State & Federal Updates**
      Director of Government and Corporate Relations Brendan O'Bryan shared an update on the BRIGHT Act advocacy, the Governor's recent supplemental budget, and work with the other state universities on shared priorities like financial aid. The team is also working through recent state guidance concerning the PROTECT Act and college campuses and updating policy accordingly.

      President Grant shared an update on the state audit that will be looking at the Clery Report, hazing, and voter registration. The Office of the State Auditor is currently conducting these audits on several public campuses, there have been no reported issues in any of these areas and this will take a great deal of staff time and resources but we will work with the team to be assigned and ensure they get what they need. The President thanked the MassArt team that is working on it.

      President Grant also let the Committee know that she has been appointed to the search committee for the next Department of Higher Education Commissioner to replace outgoing Commissioner Noe Ortega. There were brief discussions about the resources required for the audit and the search for the next commissioner.

      President Grant then reminded the trustees of the memo from

Department of Education Secretary Linda McMahon that she had shared and said that she is consulting with senior leadership as to how to thoughtfully respond. President Grant and Brendan then discussed federal updates, such as proposed changes to the "duration of status" policy relating to international students. There was a conversation about what that change would mean for impacted students.

b. **Campus Master Planning Updates**
President Grant and Robert Chambers thanked the Campus Master Planning team and Chair Bascome and Trustees Korn and Ramapriya for their hard work on and participation in the master planning process. Ernie brought the Committee up to speed on the latest in the process, sharing that there were over 30 meetings with community members across the first two phases of the plan.

4. **New Business**
President Grant reminded trustees that Jeannie Barrett would be starting as General Counsel on October 1 and shared that Interim Chief of Police/Director of Public Safety Patrick Clay will be serving in his role in a permanent position. She and Robert Chambers praised his work and noted his support within the Public Safety department. President Grant also went over the list of 2026 Common Good Awards honorees:

i. **DAVID GREENBERGER**
Distinguished Alumni Award
ii. **SILVINA IBANEZ**
Frances Euphemia Thompson Award for Excellence in Teaching
iii. **FINE ARTS WORK CENTER**
Common Good Award
iv. **EKUA HOLMES**
Common Good Award
v. **CANDELARIA SILVA-COLLINS**
Common Good Award
vi. **JOSH SIMPSON**
Common Good Award

The fourth-annual awards will take place on December 5 at 12:00pm at MassArt.

5. **Adjournment**
Chair Bascome adjourned the meeting at 2:53pm.

Meeting materials:

- *"Linda McMahon Wants Higher Ed to Reform Itself. Here's How to Respond" - The Chronicle of Higher Education*
- *May 29, 2026 Meeting Minutes*
- *Letter from Sec. McMahon*
- *State University Council of Presidents Comment on proposed federal accreditation Changes*
- *Meeting slides*