

THE PRESIDENCY AT MASSART

DR. ROBERT GERST PROFESSOR OF LIBERAL ARTS

Dr. Robert Gerst: The mace is traditionally carried in academic processions, functioning as a symbol of authority. This mace is held in trust by our president and hangs in a cabinet in the president's office. At each commencement the mace is brought to the faculty and carried by the longest serving faculty member at that time. That faculty member, mace in hand, leads the commencement procession alongside our president, symbolizing the shared work of faculty and administration to serve our students and to care for our college. We, the faculty, are asking our president to keep trust with us, as we share the responsibility of carrying and holding this mace, and all it symbolizes. [Bob hands mace to David]

President David Nelson: Bob, I recognize the rich symbolism of this mace and affirm the meaning you have described. I gladly accept it as a symbol of our shared work, and I return it to you, and by you to the faculty you represent, to carry in public view, until such time as you return it to my office for continued safe keeping, an act itself symbolic of keeping the trust we share in common to serve our students and care for our college.