



**Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of March 25, 2021**  
**Audio/Video Conference**

**Members in Attendance**

Mohan Boodram, Chair  
Brenda Burdick, Vice Chair  
JD Chesloff  
Karen Kowalczyk  
Robert Reilly

**Others in Attendance**

James Birge, President  
Carrie Schadler

Upon establishing a quorum of the Executive Committee Members present, Chair Boodram called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

President Birge gave a COVID-19 campus update. There has been a surge in positive cases on campus – 17 cases in total – prompting a decision to lockdown residents of the Townhouse complex until April 5. MCLA management believes this cluster of positive cases is a function of social gathering, and students not following COVID protocol for social distancing and mask wearing. This cluster appears to be mainly athletes. All Townhouse residents were tested yesterday, and we will retest on March 30. There are 242 students in the Townhouses, making up nearly 50% of our resident students. An email will be sent to the campus community and trustees providing more detail on the steps MCLA is taking to contain the spread of the virus.

President Birge invited Ty Allan Jackson to serve as commencement speaker for the Class of 2021 commencement exercises. He also recommends presenting Mr. Jackson with an honorary doctorate, which has been a recent tradition for MCLA.

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

**VOTED:** to recommend to the Board of Trustees approval of the conferral of an honorary doctoral degree upon Ty Allan Jackson.

Recording of commencement exercises for the classes of 2020 and 2021 will begin this week. Commencement speakers and HD recipients have been selected for both classes:

Class of 2020

Mary Dana Hinton – Commencement Speaker and HD recipient  
Jenn Smith – HD recipient.

Class of 2021 (proposed for action at the April 1 meeting of the Trustees)  
Ty Allan Jackson – Commencement Speaker and HD recipient  
Stephen Boyd – HD recipient.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 a.m. by Chair Boodram.