



Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
BOARD OF TRUSTEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting of April 1, 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
Lisa Lescarbeau, Clerk

Upon establishing a quorum of the Executive Committee Members present, Chair Boodram called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

President Birge provided an update on commencement exercise plans for the classes of 2020 and 2021. Both ceremonies will be conducted virtually on May 15 for the class of 2021 and May 16 for the class of 2020.

For the class of 2020, Dr. Mary Dana Hinton, President of Hollins University in Virginia, will provide the commencement address. Dr. Hinton and Jenn Smith, former Berkshire Eagle employee, will be presented honorary doctoral degrees.

For the class of 2021, Mr. Tyrone Allan Jackson will serve as commencement speaker and be presented an honorary doctoral (HD) degree. A second HD candidate, Mr. Stephen Boyd, was discussed at a prior meeting of this committee, and is presented at this meeting for approval to receive an honorary doctoral degree.

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 Stephen Boyd.

Representing the DHE in both ceremonies will be Commissioner Carlos Santiago.

President Birge reviewed the results of the search for Vice Presidents of Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, and Administration and Finance. Dr. Jeannette Smith will join MCLA on June 28 as the VP of Student Affairs, Mr. Joseph DaSilva on June 7 as VP for Administration and Finance, and Dr. Richard Glezjer in mid to late July as VP of Academic Affairs.

Plans to assist with transitioning three VPs are under way and include consideration of engaging a consultant to aid with the integration of the existing team and new hires. President Birge will contact three firms to discuss needs and solicit proposal for final selection with work proposed to begin at the executive staff retreat planned in August.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:41 p.m. by Chair Boodram.