

MassArt Board of Trustees meeting

September 28, 2021 4:15-6:15pm

Meeting Minutes

Trustees present: Elisa Hamilton (Chair), Daren Bascome, Ella von Huene, Karen Keane, Denise Korn, Peter Nessen, Pamela Parisi, Jan Saragoni, Greg Stone, Mary Grant (ex-officio.)

Trustees absent: Linda Snyder.

MassArt staff present: Ellen Carr, K. John Ashworth-King, Robert Chambers, Erica Puccio O'Brien, James Mason, Lauren Wilshusen, Marjorie O'Malley, Bob Perry, Maureen Keefe, Madison Rivard, Katie Westerlind (Secretary to the Board.)

Call to Order - *Chair Elisa Hamilton*

Chair Elisa Hamilton called the meeting to order at 4:19pm. She welcomed the group, noting that this is a public meeting, and that all votes will be taken by roll call.

Approval of the Minutes: June 8, 2021 - *Chair Hamilton*

To consolidate procedural matters, roll call vote on minutes will also be considered attendance of the trustees.

On a motion duly made and seconded, by a vote of nine in favor, none against, none abstaining:

VOTED: to 1) acknowledge attendance, and 2) approve the minutes of the June 8, 2021 Annual meeting of the MassArt Board of Trustees.

Roll call: Bascome, yes; von Huene, yes; Keane, yes; Korn, yes; Nessen, yes; Parisi, yes; Saragoni, yes; Snyder, absent; Stone, yes.

Report of the Chair - *Chair Hamilton*

- Chair Hamilton welcomed President Grant to her first full board meeting as president of the college, and welcomed students back to campus.
- She expressed gratitude and thanks to faculty and staff; to trustees, and to James Mason for stepping into the role of interim Provost.
- There is governance work that the board of trustees will tackle this year: trustee appointments, updating and refreshing the by-laws, and looking at committee structures and opportunities for growth and for the board to work even better.

Report of the Student Trustee - *Student Trustee Ella von Huene '23*

- Trustee von Huene introduced herself to the committee and spoke about her experience as a transfer student, a painter, and her interest in governance.
- Students are excited to be back on campus and engaging with the activities once again. SGA is planning a week of Halloween events, students are looking forward to the reopening of MAAM, and generally feel like Fall 2021 is off to a great start.
- SGA is looking to fill two e-board seats.

Report of the President - *President Mary K. Grant*

- President Grant echoed thanks to each trustee as well as to Student Trustee von Huene, and expressed thanks for being able to meet with each trustee over the summer.
- She thanked the staff for their work to start the school year; thanked Kym Pinder, Dan Serig, Gina Yarbrough, and Susana Segat, who are no longer at the college but still played a vital role in getting the

college through the pandemic; and thanked Katiana Rodriguez '21 for the "Welcome back! MassArt Opening Fall 2021" video.

- President Grant provided highlights of events that took place on campus, including "Welcome back" and "thank you" events for staff, a community event celebrating the Graduate summer build project, and Constitution Day.
- The "Welcome back" exhibit in the Francis Euphemia Thompson gallery showcased artwork of student leaders, including our current student trustee Ella von Huene '23, and our former student trustee John Intoppa '23.
- Additional events include the community art walk with Cabinet, COF night at the Red Sox, and the Grove Hall in color back to school event.
- MAAM will reopen 10/9/21.

Report of the Standing Committees

External Affairs - Trustee Greg Stone

- Trustee Stone served as Acting Chair at the 9/17/21 committee meeting and provided the report of this committee.
- Last brand update was done in 2007, a brand refresh is timely with President Grant's inauguration, which is slated for Fall of 2022.
- One of the opportunities we have is to promote President Grant as a trusted source and resource in regards to public education, arts education, the arts, and more.
- 150th anniversary of the college is in 2023, and trustees began to brainstorm potential programming.

Academic and Student Affairs - Chair Denise Korn

- Chair Korn reported an exciting first committee meeting with full discussion about the opening of the year from both the academic and the student sides.
- Chair Korn asked Lauren Wilshusen, Dean of Enrollment Management, and Erica Puccio O'Brien, Director of the International Education Center, to provide an enrollment update.
- *Enrollment Update*
 - Director Puccio O'Brien briefly explained the work of the international education center.
 - Dean Wilshusen reviewed demographics of incoming graduate and post-bac students, including program of study, international representation, ALANA breakdown, and male/female ratio (note: done by sex, not by gender identity or expression)
 - Reviewed demographics of incoming undergraduate students, including program level, whether or not the students are first generation college students, ALANA breakdown, geographic breakdown, and male/female ratio (note: done by sex, not by gender identity or expression)
 - Reviewed demographics of all (current and new) graduate students and all (current and new) undergraduate students for these same demographics.
MassArt has 1726 undergraduate students and 124 graduate students.
 - The committee discussed challenges faced by international students, new countries represented by international students, and exchange relationships.
- Chair Korn thanked Lyssa Palu-ay, Dean of Justice, Equity, and Transformation for the updates she shared at the committee meeting, including the 20th anniversary of the Compass program and the 10th anniversary of Artward Bound, two important programs that serve the broader MassArt community.
- Chair Korn asked Madison Rivard, Director of COVID Operations, to provide an update to the board.
- *COVID Operations Update*

- On-campus testing site is live again for the semester; testing everyone on campus regardless of vaccination status: fully vaccinated resident students tested weekly, students living off campus and employees are tested every other week, unvaccinated community members are tested twice a week.
- The most up to date information on the COVID response can be found on the COVID dashboard: www.massart.edu/covid-19-campus-dashboard
- Trustees thanked Madison for her dedicated efforts.
- *Trustee Stone left the meeting at the conclusion of this presentation.*
- Provost Mason presented the sabbatical request for Jeanette Eberhardy for the spring 2022 semester.

On a motion duly made and seconded, by a vote of eight in favor, none against, none abstaining:

VOTED: to approve the sabbatical request for Jeanette Eberhardy (Liberal Arts) for the spring 2022 semester.

Roll call: Bascome, yes; von Huene, yes; Keane, yes; Korn, yes; Nessen, yes; Parisi, yes; Saragoni, yes; Snyder, absent; Stone, absent.

Executive - Chair Hamilton

- The Executive committee voted to approve two actions taken under delegated authority: an educational leave and a furniture purchase for the president's office. New furniture has not been purchased for the president's office in over 30 years.
- The committee discussed a number of topics that will be continuous conversations, including the best modalities for the board meetings, updates on EDI and the strategic plan, President Grant's inauguration, COVID, the Board by-laws, and trustee appointments and reappointments.

Administration and Finance - Co-Chair Peter Nessen

- The FY ended with a better than projected surplus. Higher than anticipated one time revenue that outpaced expenses. In addition, attrition saving from payroll and lower energy utilization played a large part of the savings.
- VP Bob Perry reviewed the one-pager summary report, summarizing areas of significant savings, some increased expenses, and one time savings. The next couple years will be more challenging as there will be less federal aid.
- FY22 Budget - revenue on target; enrollment leaning higher in-state, so the revenue will be slightly skewed; budgeting for collective bargaining. Reviewing all base expenses, creating reserves for student employment, etc.
- COVID Federal Funds - 3 different grants totalling \$3.6M for students. Over \$1M has been distributed already, another \$1M will be distributed, and the remaining funds will be used for emergencies or for transfer students.
- VP Marjorie O'Malley provided an Advancement update.
 - The Foundation received a clean audit report.
 - The fundraising goal (\$3.8M) was exceeded by \$1.2M
 - Reviewed the different strategies of fundraising that advancement utilizes

New Business - Chair Hamilton

- Reminders:
 - DHE training deadline is approaching, so please complete outstanding trainings as soon as possible.
 - DHE trustee convening is on October 27th, 2021 via Zoom.

- The next committee meetings are scheduled for November 5th, 2021.

Adjournment - *Chair Hamilton*

Chair Hamilton adjourned the meeting at 6:03pm.