

MassArt Board of Trustees

April Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 5, 2021 4:15-6:15pm

Meeting Minutes

Trustees Present: Chair Elisa Hamilton, Vice Chair Karen Keane, Pamela Parisi, Greg Stone, Daren Bascome, Denise Korn, Ella Von Huene, Sunand Bhattacharya, Jan Saragoni

Trustees Absent: Peter Nessen

MassArt Staff present: President Grant, Hannah Voit, Robert Chambers, Robert Perry, Maureen Keefe, Marjorie O'Malley, James Mason, Karen Abbott

1. Call to order

Chair Hamilton called the meeting to order at 4:18 pm and welcomed everyone, noting how nice it was to be together in person. She then asked those in attendance to introduce themselves.

2. Action Items

- a. **Approval of the Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, February 1, 2022:**
The Board voted to approve the minutes from the Tuesday, February 1, 2022 board meeting.

3. Reports

- a. Report of the Chair

Chair Hamilton shared that she was grateful that everyone is here, together and thanked everyone for their engagement, support, leadership, and love of MassArt.

i. Report of the Student Trustee

Trustee Von Huene shared that the All School Show was going well and is in its final week. She also touched on the potential for 4-hour liberal arts classes. She talked about planning a future antiracist dialogue day with the JET Office and Student Advisory Council. She noted that she was pleased to see visitors on campus again, such as her parents, with the campus opening up to external visitors as COVID precautions were updated.

b. Report of the President

President Grant noted that this year is the 20th anniversary of the Compass program, which has 1,000 alumni. She shared that a supplemental budget had been approved by the State Legislature and Governor Baker, and that the College is working to process Collective Bargaining Agreement raises for faculty and staff. March was employee appreciation month, and at MassArt, employees enjoyed events such as an afternoon with succulents and ice cream and a viewing in the MassArt Art Museum (MAAM). The Center for Art and Community Partnerships received \$75,000 from the Mabel Louise Riley Foundation. Regarding the plan to renovate the Tower Building, President Grant said that she would be meeting with DCAMM that same week and enlisting the Donahue Institute to help with an economic impact study to show the return that accrues to the Commonwealth when it invests in MassArt. She also noted recent events that have happened in partnership with Colleges of the Fenway, including a dance show and the 25th Anniversary of Colleges of the Fenway celebration. In addition, President Grant talked about the Art, Climate, and Justice Teach In—MassArt’s participation in a worldwide event highlighting the importance of climate change and art’s role in combating it. MassArt will also be hosting an event on June 17th in partnership with King Boston, as part of the Embrace Ideas Festival. The President’s report ended with a viewing of the upcoming Auction’s “Raise Your Paddle” video, which encourages auction attendees to give what they can to support student scholarships.

c. Report of the Standing Committees

i. External Affairs Committee

Trustee Saragoni shared a selection of recent press coverage, including: National press coverage of MAAM in Forbes and Metropolis magazines, local coverage in the Boston Globe, Boston Art Review, and WBUR. Faculty experts have also been featured, such as Fashion faculty member Kenlyn Jones, who appeared on Connecticut NPR discussing the topic of “fashion inclusivity”. Trustee Saragoni also noted that the date of the Inauguration of President Mary Grant has been set for Friday, October 21, 2022. It will include a celebration with the MassArt community, its colleagues and supporters in Greater Boston and throughout higher education. Additionally, she shared plans for MassArt’s 150th Anniversary, which, in January 2023, will launch a year-long series of events celebrating MassArt’s Legacy, Impact, & Future. Interim Provost James Mason and Marjorie O’Malley will chair a working group. An honorary committee is in formation and Trustee suggestions for members are welcome. She concluded with a list of upcoming major spring events at MassArt:

- Auction Saturday, April 9
- Fashion Show Saturday, May 14
- Commencement Thursday, May 19

- ii. Administration & Finance Committee
 1. Approval of the A-133 Single Audit
 2. FY22 Budget Update

Trustee Snyder shared that in the Administration and Finance committee meeting in March they talked about the conversation about undergraduate fees to come. The Committee will be looking for more information around increasing costs, peer tuition levels, and lastly have to think about student ability to pay and financial aid. She then asked VP Perry to summarize the audit. VP Perry shared that there was only one finding and it was not material, but a missed deadline on a single student.

The Board then voted to accept the FY2021 Independent Auditors' report as required by Uniformed Guidance and Government Auditing Standards and Related Information (A-133).

VP Perry and Gina Spaziani gave a brief update on the FY'22 Financial Update as well as an update on the FY'23 planning. Trustee Snyder noted that MassArt will likely end the year with a balanced budget. Trustee Bhattacharya asked about how distance education might impact budgeting going forward. Dean Lucinda Bliss shared some upcoming distance programming. President Grant explained that the NECHE letter shared with the Board served as an approval of MassArt's previous distance education that was done through the pandemic and it presents an opportunity going forward.

- iii. Executive Committee

Chair Hamilton shared that in the meeting of the executive committee, President Grant provided a brief update on the Provost search – informing the committee that there is a strong pool of candidates, and finalists are expected to visit campus later in April. She added that the President had also let the Committee know that she has been asked to serve on the search

committee for the new Department of Higher Education Commissioner to replace Commissioner Santiago. The committee also discussed requesting an extension on the College's Partnership Plan due to the State and agreed that an extension of time makes a great deal of sense. This will enable the President the time to continue to get to know the College and to help shape the strongest plan possible. This will allow an opportunity to more fully understand the impact of COVID and to go through a more "normal" enrollment cycle, which is a major factor in the plan.

The committee talked about the Tower, including meetings President Grant and the team are having to advance this important project, including DCAMM, DHE and Secretary Peyser. Chair Hamilton shared that Lauren Wilshusen, Dean of Admissions and Enrollment gave a presentation on admissions and enrollment and discussed how recruitment has changed domestically and internationally. MassArt was able to welcome accepted students to campus for an Accepted Students Day for the first time since April 2019.

She also shared that Marjorie O'Malley, VP of Advancement and Executive Director of Foundation talked about the upcoming Auction, sharing that sponsorship commitments have already exceeded the goal.

Chair Hamilton concluded by sharing how the committee discussed the commencement honorary degree recipients, which are being announced publicly at this meeting. They are former Boston Mayor Kim Janey (who will give remarks), MassArt alum Steve Locke, and GBH's Jared Bowen.

iv. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Trustee Korn shared that they began their March 25th committee meeting with a student trustee report from Trustee von Huene. She also shared that they discussed migration, a process the school went through in 2007 to look at studio courses, contact hours and review schedules across the curriculum.

She said that Interim Provost Mason then presented to the committee the candidates for tenure, promotion, and just cause status. The committee went through the work of every candidate. She also shared that Interim Provost Mason and President Grant recommended to the committee that the committee vote to approve their recommendations to the full board—the committee was unanimous.

Interim Provost Mason presented all of the candidates for promotion. The Board then voted to approve all of the candidates for promotion:

Promotion:
Beth Balliro
Tammy Dudman

Karen Hampton
Katherine Hughes
Matthew Monteith
Caitlin Pereira
Katie Riel
James Stanley
Cara Tuttle
Amani Willett

The Board then moved onto considering the approval of the candidates for tenure and just cause. A part time benefited faculty member is evaluated for "Just Cause" in their twelfth year of service at the college. Upon receiving this status, a part time faculty member can only be terminated for "just cause".

Interim Provost Mason presented all of the candidates for tenure and just cause.

The Board voted to approve all of the candidates for tenure and just cause:

Just Cause: Heather Reavey

Tenure:

Juan Barboza-Gubo
Joel Gill
Paul Paturzo
Martha Rettig
Daniel Rowe
Danielle Sangalang
Jesse Strauss

4. New Business: The Board had no new business.

5. Adjournment: The board adjourned at 6pm.