

MassArt Board of Trustees

Academic and Student Affairs committee

November 5, 2021 11:50am-12:50pm

Meeting Minutes

Committee members present: Denise Korn (chair), Daren Bascome, Elisa Hamilton, Ella von Huene, Lyssa Palu-ay (ad-hoc), Mary Grant (ex-officio.)

Committee members absent: none.

Trustees present: Jan Saragoni, Greg Stone.

MassArt staff present: James Mason, Maureen Keefe, Jamie Costello, Marjorie O'Malley, Bob Perry, Kate Russell, Lauren Wilshusen, Elizabeth Smith-Freeman, Robert Chambers, Katie Westerlind (Secretary to the Board.)

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Chair Korn at 11:53am.
- She welcomed the group, reminded everyone that this is a public meeting, and that all votes will be taken by roll call.
- Chair Korn thanked all those involved in planning and attending the Nikole Hannah-Jones event at the college earlier that week.

Approval of the Minutes: Sept. 17, 2021 - Chair Korn

- In order to consolidate procedural matters, roll call vote on minutes will also be considered attendance of committee members.
- Attendance of other trustees will also be taken for the sake of informing the public who is on the call.

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

VOTED: to 1) acknowledge attendance, and 2) approve the minutes of the September 17, 2021 Academic and Student Affairs committee meeting.

Roll call: Bascome, yes; Hamilton, yes; von Huene, yes; Korn, yes.

Approval of the Sabbatical Requests for the 2021-2022 Academic Year - Provost James Mason

- Chair Korn asked Provost Mason to present the faculty sabbatical requests for AY21-22.
- Provost Mason discussed the range of sabbaticals, from curricular practices to making that trickle down into the classroom. This is a special time, as faculty are eligible for sabbaticals every seven years.
- Trustees appreciated the method of presentation this year, which was an executive summary of the sabbaticals.

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

VOTED: to approve the sabbatical requests for the 2021-2022 academic year:

- i. Full Academic Year
 1. Gretchen Skogerson, Film/Video, YOS 19
- ii. Fall 2022 Requests
 1. Joshua Hart, Studio Foundation, YOS 7
 2. Lisong Liu, Liberal Arts, YOS 5
 3. Danielle Sangalang, Library, YOS 5
 4. Jesse Strauss, Animation, YOS 7
 5. Soon-Mi Yoo, Film/Video, YOS 11
- iii. Spring 2023 Requests

1. Leland Burke, Animation, YOS 20
2. Jarrett Min Davis, Studio Foundation, YOS 13
3. Marc Holland, Studio Foundation, YOS 15
4. Adriana Katzew, Art Education, YOS 11
5. Adrian Kohn, History of Art, YOS 12
6. Gabrielle Reed, Library, YOS 11
7. Rachel Resnik, Library, YOS 21
8. Martha Rettig, Comm. Design, YOS 5
9. Dan Rowe, Animation, YOS 6

Roll call: Bascome, yes; Hamilton, yes; von Huene, yes; Korn, yes.

NASAD Update and Discussion - *Provost Mason*

- Last semester, the decision was made for MassArt to withdraw membership from NASAD (National Association of Schools of Art and Design.) This decision was made under the previous administration in Academic Affairs.
- Other peer institutions through AICAD (Association of Independent Colleges of Art and Design) were also choosing to withdraw/end membership with NASAD.
- MassArt was not accredited through NASAD; MassArt is accredited by NECHE (New England Commission of Higher Education), so the program accreditation at MassArt was not affected by the decision to withdraw from NASAD.
- Communication around the decision could have been better, and a working group is being formed to review this decision and see if there is still value in holding a membership with NASAD.

Student Trustee Report - *Trustee Ella von Huene*

- There is a lot going on at the school right now and events that might have been more routine in years past are seeing a surge of energy because the students are excited to be back on campus.
- Mental health is a central conversation point to how student life is going. Social skills are a muscle that needs to be worked - people are looking out for this and are being gentle with each other as everyone readjusts to social interactions being a part of everyday life.
- Excitement in seeing art going up on the walls; not just in gallery spaces, but in working spaces as well.
- SGA work:
 - Communication across the institution could be improved, and SGA is making sure it's up to par for student expectations.
 - Working with capstone about facilities issues in dorm rooms, and figuring out how students can be more proactive in reporting issues, etc.
 - Meetings with President Grant have been successful, including meetings with the SGA e-board and social events with the student body
- Sodexo is looking to pilot a program with a robot that can deliver food to students on campus. There is a robot on BSU campus that students are going to "visit" to see in action.

Student engagement on campus - *VP Maureen Keefe*

- Two Pizza with the President events are scheduled for November 9 and 10.
- Nov 10 will be the "usual" event scheduled for the Wednesday afternoon block when most students do not have classes. Nov. 9 will be an evening event that is marketed to First Year students who have a first year seminar during the Wednesday afternoon block and cannot make that time.

- Students are seeking support from counseling and wellness services; seeing higher numbers of students needing to be admitted due to mental health struggles. The trustees and VP Keefe discussed the difficulties that students are facing that could be contributing to these higher numbers of incidents.

New Business - VP Keefe

- VP Keefe provided an update on the phase 3 reopening of campus.
- Phase 3 will now be anticipated for late January 2022; to coordinate with the start of the semester.
- There will be some modifications to phase 2, including broadening the visitor policy, but the delay on phase 3 will allow us to get through the holiday season and to enable a continued safe and healthy learning environment.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned by Chair Korn at 12:37pm.