

MassArt Board of Trustees

February 1, 2022 4:15-6:15pm

Meeting Minutes

Trustees present: Elisa Hamilton (Chair), Sunand Bhattacharya, Ella von Huene, Denise Korn, Peter Nessen, Jan Saragoni, Linda Snyder, Daren Bascome, Karen Keane, Pamela Parisi, Greg Stone

Trustees absent: none

MassArt staff present: President Grant, Lauren Wilshusen, Julie Barrett, Hannah Voit, John Ashworth-King, Kate Russell, Margaret Maki, Robert Chambers, Chandra Mendez-Ortiz, Ceci Mendez-Ortiz, Ellen Carr, Gina Spaziani, Howard Larosee, Jack McDonald, James Mason, Jamie Glanton Costello, Karalynn Gau, Karen Abbott, Lauren Wilshusen, Lucinda Bliss, Lyssa Palu-ay, Maureen Keefe, Robert Perry, Patrick O'Connor, Kathryn Calnan

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hamilton at 4:20pm.

She welcomed everyone, reminded them that this was a public meeting, and that all votes would be taken by roll call.

Attendance was taken of the trustees so that the public would know who was on the call.

Approval of the Minutes

Trustee Parisi asked for a correction to the minutes to reflect that 10 were in favor for the approval of the minutes of the previous meeting, not 9. With that amendment, in a motion duly made and seconded, by a vote of 11 in favor, none against, and none abstaining, it was

VOTED: to approve the minutes from the November 16, 2021 board meeting, as amended.

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

Report of the Chair - Chair Hamilton

- Chair Hamilton recounted a successful Opening Day virtual event that included learning about the Radical Jewelry Makeover course from Professor Emily Cobb. She noted that in the most recent round of committee meetings, committees were briefed on COVID and thanked those working on it and the community for doing its part.
- She added that there would be a discussion regarding the Tower later in this meeting and that it is an exciting opportunity and it will get done.

- She also noted that the meeting would also include community programs celebrating milestones, like Artward Bound, and congratulated Ceci Mendez-Ortiz for being recognized as part of the Kennedy Center Next 50.
- She concluded by acknowledging Chief of Staff Robert Chambers, who will now be serving as VP for Strategic Engagement and Chief of Staff.

Report of the Student Trustee - Trustee von Huene

- Trustee von Huene started by congratulating Robert and Ceci and shared that rapid tests were available to students moving in. The washer-dryer situation is being resolved and washing machines are going to be replaced. She is looking forward to the All School Show. The Student Alliance Committee is setting up a community-building day in a couple of months about how to talk with the police. The first full SGA meeting is tomorrow. The E Board is making sure that SGA is known in the school and trying to improve school-wide communication.
- Trustee Saragoni asked for more information about the washer-dryer situation. Trustee von Huene shared that students and parents were frustrated, and there has been much communication between the President and Housing to get this resolved.

Report of the President - President Mary K. Grant

- President Grant thanked the students for patience and leadership on the washer-dryer issue and that machines are being replaced. She shared that there was a successful Opening Day, with over 270 individuals participating and 180 remained to the very end of the small group reports. Classes have resumed in person as of January 26, she thanked the COVID operations for keeping everyone safe. Secretaries Peyser and Sudders sent a letter to the college presidents about colleges getting back to normal.
- She noted that the Illustration Dept. Senior Thesis Show is up on campus.
- Governor has filed a budget with substantial increases for financial aid for students. There is money for certain capital projects and for collective bargaining. The College Presidents are concerned that the collective bargaining may not be fully funded, so they are coordinating advocacy on that.
- Early action applications are up 20% over last year and MassArt has extended the priority fall admission deadline to Feb. 15 from today.
- She thanked the Facilities and Public Safety staff for working through the snow storm this past weekend and for all they do.
- At today's Board of Higher Ed meeting, there was a New Undergraduate Experience presentation. MassArt has provided input and been involved. It's centered on the Equity Agenda.
- The President concluded with a welcome to Hannah Voit, Special Assistant to the President, and acknowledged the team in the President's Office.

Report of the Standing Committees:

Executive Committee - Chair Hamilton

- Chair Hamilton provided a recap of the Executive Committee meeting – beginning with a reminder about scheduling the Board of Trustees retreat and added that May dates are now being considered.
- She continued by noting that Trustee Parisi's term is expiring in the spring and thanking her for her many contributions, and that work has begun with alumni affairs to identify a new Alumni Trustee.
- She also shared that General Counsel Karen Abbott is working on a bylaw review. The bylaws haven't been updated since 2003.
- The committee welcomed Interim Public Safety Chief Norm Gamache, who will be with us at least through the end of June, is the retired Chief of Public Safety at RISD, bringing 30 years of law enforcement experience with three different higher education institutions.
- President Grant updated on staffing and provost search and shared that MassArt is working on an exciting pilot partnership with Women2Women, focused on using arts and culture as a tool for leadership development

Administration and Finance committee - Trustees Nessen and Snyder

- Trustee Snyder shared that the Trustees have all been sent the language regarding proposed fee changes for Graduate and Continuing Education and asked if VP Perry wanted to present on the topic.
 - VP Perry said that they are looking at a 3% increase for both programs. Both programs are not State supported. This is to cover labor costs due to collective bargaining. MassArt saw a decline in PCE enrollment during the pandemic; as reopening continues, he thinks the programs see some more growth going forward.
 - Linda Snyder asked what the PCE participation levels are.
 - Dean Bliss said that she wanted to point out that in general, that no one feels great about raising prices, but with the collective bargaining increases, this is an action we need to take. Dean Bliss noted that we've been working to retain our students and that we have seen some numbers going up in online classes. She noted that they are also collaborating with Advancement and have 2 fully funded scholarships thanks to donors' generosity.
 - VP Perry shared that 300 students participate in PCE; 525 students in youth programs, 124 in the Graduate program and that the program has

held up well. He noted a change in the graphic design program—it's completely online now and that program has seen numbers quadruple.

- Trustee Snyder reminded everyone that undergraduates can take PCE courses at no additional cost. VP Perry noted that the State prohibits State funds being used to support these types of programs. Trustee Snyder said that the fact that undergraduates can use the programs without additional cost is important for accessibility.
 - Trustee Nessen shared that he understands that collective bargaining is not covered fully by the State. The committee discussed that approving fees here was not an indication of how they may act when it comes time to discuss undergraduate costs.
 - Trustee Bhattacharya said that MassArt should take pride in the effort to have these programs accessible to undergraduates, as not many colleges do that.
- **Trustee Snyder** read the vote language:
 - ***Graduate Fee Vote:*** *To approve the proposed FY2023 tuition and fee charges for Graduate Education Programs effective July 1, 2022, and including MFA Low Residency Room Rates that will remain in effect unless otherwise amended by the Board of Trustees.*
 - ***PCE Fee Vote:*** *To approve the proposed FY2023 tuition and fee charges for the Professional and Continuing Education (PCE), including Youth Programs not previously determined, effective July 1, 2022 and will remain in effect unless otherwise amended by the Board of Trustees.*

On a motion duly made and seconded, by a vote of 10 in favor, none against, and none abstaining, it was

VOTED: to 1) approve the proposed FY2023 tuition and fee charges for Graduate Education Programs effective July 1, 2022, and including MFA Low Residency Room Rates that will remain in effect unless otherwise amended by the Board of Trustees, and 2) approve the proposed FY2023 tuition and fee charges for the Professional and Continuing Education (PCE), including Youth Programs not previously determined, effective July 1, 2022 and will remain in effect unless otherwise amended by the Board of Trustees.

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

- **Trustee Snyder** shared that the Committee also discussed the tower building in its committee meeting, which will be presented later in this meeting by President Grant and VP Perry.

Tower Presentation - *President Grant & VP Perry*

- President Grant said the College, the Board, and the Commonwealth have a stewardship responsibility, the building has served us well, has always had challenges, but has a strong future ahead.
- VP Perry shared an overview of the tower, including its location and dimensions, and estimated replacement value (\$114,075,325).
- President Grant and VP Perry went over challenges and opportunities concerning the facade (heating/cooling inefficiency, opportunities in new materials and designs), systems (plugs and pipes), accessibility (not entirely ADA compliant, which is an equity issue), sustainability (improving the Tower would be a big win for environmental stewardship), innovation, modernization and flexibility (to support the next 50 years of the institution as it pursues its mission).
- President Grant said that there are several thoughtful studies that have already been done. Need to work with the State and the campus community, starting with the Board.
- VP Perry went over next steps, including drafting a scope of work to engage a House Doctor (architect/engineering firms), integrating the studies, developing strategy to move forward with Beacon Hill and DCAM, and engaging stakeholders and the community.
- President Grant talked about engaging those who use the Tower, such as faculty and students. We have a good case to make, but need to make it with strategic partners. It will take time, but this is urgent and a priority and will need the help and wisdom of all of you.
- Trustee Snyder asked if Trustees had any comments or questions.
- Trustee Saragoni said that it is encouraging and she is filled with hope to see a creative, thoughtful plan in place. She thanked the President for taking this seriously and coming up with a clear strategy.
- Trustee Keane said she looks forward to a tour with Howie.
- Trustee Nessen said that the President has struck the right chord on this and that he agrees there's no more road to kick the can down.
- Trustee Snyder thanked the President for her leadership on this.

Academic and Student Affairs committee - *Trustee Korn*

- Trustee Korn thanked Linda and Peter and seasoned board members for the work on the Tower and commitment for serving students and making the campus an amazing space and place. She discussed the tour of the campus at the end of December and noted that

her favorite part was seeing Ella's studio. James gave a tour of the Fashion Archive Library and board members visited the Shelf with Jamie; it was great to be on campus and feel everyone engaged.

- Trustee von Huene provided the committee with some of the partnerships such as the Souper Bowl event partnership between Clay for Change and Haley House.
- Trustee Korn noted that Interim Provost Mason provided brief updates on the status of faculty searches.. He also shared updates on Black History Month. Trustee Korn said that the President did an amazing job hosting the Colleges of the Fenway MLK Breakfast on behalf of MassArt, and that Vice President of Student Affairs Maureen Keefe discussed returning to campus and COVID.
- The committee then saw an Academic Resource Center team presentation about pathways to majors with an emphasis on partnerships between faculty and student affairs and the move to providing robust online materials.
- The Director of Career Development introduced the Committee to MassArt's work on internships, like the Career and Internship fair and the Committee will hear more about this at the next Committee meeting.

External Affairs committee - Trustee Saragoni

- Trustee Saragoni said that the committee discussed the presidential inauguration and 150th anniversary, which will launch in January 2023, the auction and fashion show are also coming up, and then ending with commencement on May 19.
- She said that Ellen had shared that MassArt's Marketing and Communications team and Inkhouse PR firm have recently parted ways, in a mutual agreement, and gave an exciting overview with Susie Stockwell of public relations moving forward.
- Trustee Saragoni asked Ellen Carr to share more. Ellen talked about social media opportunities and taking control of the narrative opportunities and deploying the success stories of faculty, students, and alumni on the website and on social media, including some sponsored posts.
- Trustee Saragoni said it was great to see how energetic and focused the team is. If anyone on the Board has ideas for messaging or outreach, please share them with Ellen.

Campus Updates:

- President Grant said that the upcoming presentations were an opportunity to hear from the incredibly talented staff who are doing inspired work and asked that questions be held until the end of the presentations.

Vital Signs Presentation - Karalynn Gau

- Karalynn Gau shared that you can find Vital Signs on the "About→Institutional Effectiveness" section of the website. It is a summary of selected data including

enrollment, admissions, financial aid, and other data. There are sections on tuition and fees by residency status, Pell Grants, graduate debt, fundraising, enrollment by program, and more.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/Equity Agenda Presentation - *Lyssa Palu-ay, Julie Barrett*

- Lyssa Palu-ay shared that MassArt's Strategic Plan is aligned with the MA Dept. of Higher Ed.'s Equity goals. She said that "A Student-Ready Campus" was an important paradigm shift: moving the burden from students having to be ready for college to the college being ready for the students.
- Julie Barrett shared a video on the DHE Performance Measurement System. The dashboard can be accessed at mass.edu/datacenter. She also shared a video with Dr. Tia Brown McNair talking about the role of qualitative and quantitative data in equity and diversity work at universities.

Community Engagement Presentation - *Lyssa Palu-ay, Cecilia Mendez-Ortiz, Chandra Mendez-Ortiz*

- Compass:
 - Lyssa shared that Compass is celebrating 20 years. It is a four-year mentoring program to help with transition to college. Eligibility includes being "first generation", being a "first-time, first year" student, Massachusetts residency, and financial need. Alumni are designers, activists, and are shaping art and design and culture. Save March 31 and April 2 for special events.
- Artward Bound:
 - Chandra Mendez-Ortiz noted that Artward Bound is a 4-year prep program in the arts that is free for Boston-area high school students. It is a grant and donor funded program and 100% of the program's students graduate from high school. Currently there are 29 students in the program and this summer should have about 40 students. Over 10 years, 146 students have spent at least one semester in Artward Bound, with 20 alumni of the program at MassArt right now. Artward Bound Mentors are MassArt undergraduates.
- Center for Art Community Partnerships:
 - Ceci Mendez-Ortiz shared CACP's mission to expand access to transformative creative experiences by partnering with people and communities within and beyond MassArt. She gave examples of community programs and partnerships and concluded with a "Grove Hall in Color" video sharing footage from a past event.

- President Grant shared that in 2015 MassArt received the Carnegie designation for community engagement. Only 119 schools (2 schools of art and design) have this designation.
- Chair Hamilton thanked everyone for the presentations and asked that they be shared with the Board.

New Business

- None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 pm.