

Massachusetts College of Art and Design
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Tuesday, June 7, 2022
4:15-6:15pm
Kennedy 280 & via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

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

Trustees Absent: None

1. Call to Order

Chair Hamilton began the meeting at 4:20pm.

2. Approval of the Minutes: BOT Full Board meeting, April 5, 2022:

With all in favor, it was VOTED to approve the minutes from the April 5, 2022 meeting.

Yes: Bhattacharya, Hamilton, von Huene, Keane, Korn, Nessen, Parisi, Snyder, Stone, Saragoni.
(Trustee Bascome joined the meeting at 4:35pm)

3. Report of the President

President Grant delivered her report, thanking Pamela Parisi, who is stepping down from the board as alumni trustee after serving as a trustee for 10 years, the maximum term. She also thanked the Chair, trustees, MassArt leadership, and staff for their hard work throughout the year. President Grant noted that this past year has been a challenge as we have responded to the changing circumstances of COVID-19 – she noted that MassArt’s leadership has prioritized the wellbeing of the community.

4. Report of the Chair

Chair Hamilton said during this first year as Chair of the Board, President Grant made it as easy as it could be and expressed faith and confidence in President Grant’s leadership. Chair Hamilton also acknowledged and thanked outgoing Student Trustee Ella von Huene and incoming Student Trustee Nicholas Thompson.

a. Report of the Student Trustee

Trustee von Huene said that she is leaving the board with a feeling of confidence in MassArt's leadership. She reported that finals were a busy time, and noted that she hopes that the Student Government Association will have more meetings next year as a full council and that the final meeting was regarding liberal arts classes.

b. Acknowledgement of Trustee Pamela Parisi:

Chair Hamilton acknowledged Trustee Pamela Parisi's decade as a MassArt trustee. She shared that Trustee Parisi is a Class of 1967 Graphic Design graduate and that she also served on MassArt's Alumni Leadership Council from 2003 to 2007. She is the recipient of the American Institute of Graphic Arts Corporate Leadership Award and she was the first woman in the world to have been appointed in a senior design position within a publicly traded corporation. She noted that Trustee Parisi has been a trailblazer for women in the field of design, helping to open up a professional world that might have otherwise felt inaccessible. As a trustee, Trustee Parisi has consistently given time and energy to the MassArt and to student travel scholarships, helping to open the world to MassArt's students. She shared that she personally has learned a great deal from Trustee Parisi as a model of being an engaged trustee and thanked her for her distinguished and passionate service.

Chair Hamilton then proposed a vote for the record. It was then, with all in favor, VOTED: to acknowledge the exceptional, varied, and significant contributions that Trustee Pamela Parisi has made to the MassArt community.

Yes: Bascome, Bhattacharya, Hamilton, von Huene, Keane, Korn, Nessen, Snyder, Stone, Saragoni. Abstained: Parisi

Trustee Parisi shared that after she and her husband graduated from MassArt, they felt they should give back to the College and that they have done just that. She said that the College has a great Board, President, and staff and she appreciates everything that MassArt has given her.

c. Distribution of the FY2023 meeting schedule

Chair Hamilton directed trustees' attention to the Board of Trustees meeting calendar for the upcoming year, noting that full board meetings will begin at 4pm and that if the State continues to allow for remote meetings, committees will continue to meet virtually and the full Board meetings would be in person.

5. Report of the Standing committees

a. Administration and Finance committee

Trustee Snyder noted that the Committee voted to raise tuition by a maximum of 3% after a discussion, during which it was noted that this decision was not being taken lightly and the trustees are mindful of keeping the cost of attendance affordable and accessible.

Trustee Snyder added that she is happy to report that the budget proposed is balanced, and under President Grant's leadership, a one-time investment of reserve funds for strategic purposes is being recommended. Jack McDonald, Director of Business Operations, began the budget team's presentation, sharing how a tuition increase would impact out-of-state, Massachusetts, and New England students and that with increased enrollment, projected revenue would increase by over \$2.9 million above the previous year, noting that, overall, the budget is break-even. President Grant shared that the College is also proposing a pool of resources to be used for strategic investments informed by conversations that have taken place with departments during the budget planning for example, providing increased support/investment for faculty development and community engagement.

Trustee von Huene noted that the student body trusts the administration in this decision on raising tuition and understands that MassArt is not an expensive school relative to others. She said that they respected the way that the administration has communicated with students.

It was then, with all in favor, VOTED to approve the Undergraduate Tuition and Fees and FY2023 Budget.

Yes: Bascome, Bhattacharya, Hamilton, von Huene, Keane, Korn, Nessen, Parisi, Snyder, Stone, Saragoni

b. Executive committee

Chair Hamilton shared that the executive committee had reviewed and approved the Board schedule and President Grant updated the committee on the Alumni Trustee seat and legislative and community outreach efforts and VP for Strategic Engagement and Chief of Staff Robert Chambers and Public Safety Chief Normand Gamache on The Public Safety Department briefed the committee as well. She also noted that the committee acted on items regarding Board Officers, Committee Chairs, and Committee members, as well as the summer delegation of authority. She thanked the committee for its discussion about the idea to consider combining the development and external affairs committees.

It was then, with all in favor, VOTED: to accept the recommendation of the executive committee to elect Elisa Hamilton as Board Chair and Karen Keane as Vice-Chair, effective 7/1/2022.

Yes: Bascome, Bhattacharya, Hamilton, von Huene, Keane, Korn, Nessen, Parisi, Snyder, Stone, Saragoni

It was also, with all in favor, VOTED: to accept the Chair's recommendation for the committee chairs and members, effective 7/1/2022.

Yes: Bascome, Bhattacharya, Hamilton, von Huene, Keane, Korn, Nessen, Parisi, Snyder, Stone, Saragoni

Lastly, it was, with all in favor, VOTED: to delegate to the President of MassArt, in conjunction with the Chair and members of the Executive Committee, authority to take such actions over the summer 2022 months, as is deemed necessary and desirable and as permitted by law, until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees. The President shall report to the Board of Trustees on any such action(s) taken under this motion.

Yes: Bascome, Bhattacharya, Hamilton, von Huene, Keane, Korn, Nessen, Parisi, Snyder, Stone, Saragoni

c. Academic and Student Affairs committee

Trustee Korn thanked Interim Provost James Mason, VP for Student Development Maureen Keefe, and VP/Dean of Students Jamie Costello for their work to support the committee and Trustee von Huene for her service. Trustee Korn shared that Provost Mason had updated the committee on the retiring faculty receiving professor emeritus status: Jan Kubasiewicz, Sondra Grace, and Chuck Stigliano. She added that at the first meeting in the fall semester, Jamie Costello would present an updated draft and recommendations regarding the Community Standards, which are reviewed every three years.

1. JET Update Presentation

Lyssa Palu-ay, Dean of the Office of Justice, Equity and Transformation (JET) gave a presentation with an overview of examples of how the principles of JET are reflected across the college. She also talked about the Adderley Lecture, Inaugural Artist in Residence Program (with a mural to be unveiled in September), and an off-campus public art tour in the community as part of first-year orientation.

d. External Affairs committee

Trustee Bascome reported that the committee received an update on MassArt's brand refresh, which is being led by Moth (an alumni-led firm) and 43,000 Feet. This is an important initiative

that will take place from June 2022 and March 2023 and trustees will be invited to participate in this process.

The committee received a press coverage update and heard from MassArt Art Museum's Executive Director Lisa Tung about the new Designing Motherhood exhibition, which opens June 11. He also noted that a save the date would be going out for the presidential inauguration and in January the College is launching its 150th anniversary celebration with a series of events.

e. Development committee

Trustee Keane said that she is looking forward to discussions about the possibility of combining the Development and External Affairs committees because of synergy. She recounted MassHeart Day, the National Day of Giving in November, and the work of the MassArt Foundation. She also shared that the MassArt Auction went off with great success and thanked Trustee Bascome and Elizabeth Lowrey for co-chairing and indicated that they might co-chair next year as well.

Trustee Stone left the meeting at 5:40pm.

There being no new business, Chair Hamilton adjourned the meeting at 5:45pm and invited everyone to a reception in the Student Life Gallery in honor of departing trustees.