

MassArt Board of Trustees

November 16, 2021 4:15-6:15pm

Meeting Minutes

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

Trustees absent: Pamela Parisi.

MassArt staff present: Marjorie O'Malley, Lauren Wilshusen, Karen Abbott, James Mason, Lucinda Bliss, Robert Chambers, Maureen Keefe, Bob Perry, John Ashworth-King, Katie Westerlind (Secretary to the Board.)

Others present: Brian Crowley (O'Connor and Drew).

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

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

VOTED: to approve the minutes from the September 28, 2021 board meeting.

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

Report of the Chair - Chair Hamilton

- Chair Hamilton was glad to see so many community members at the Nikole Hannah-Jones event earlier this month; it was a powerful moment to come together and engage and talk about where we are and where we want to be and the MassArt mission.
- The trustees will be hosted on a tour on December 16th - more details to follow.
- There will be a retreat of the trustees in the spring - more details to follow.
- Welcome to Sunand Bhattacharya, who recently joined the board of trustees.
- Welcome to Karen Abbott, Esquire, who is serving as interim general counsel.
- Thank you to Katie Westerlind, who has served as Secretary to the Board for a year and will be leaving MassArt at the end of December.
- *Sunand Bhattacharya joined the call at 4:28pm.*
- Chair Hamilton welcomed Sunand Bhattacharya and gave a brief overview of his extensive background and experience that he brings to the board.

Report of the Student Trustee - Trustee von Huene

- Trustee von Huene reported that there is a lot going on with the student body right now - the students are making up for lost time for in-person creation and for being around one another.
- Art is going up around campus, not only in galleries, but on the walls as well. General feeling of life coming back to campus.
- Communication is a key point for the SGA - they are hoping to improve communication between students and the administration.
 - Efforts on this front are underway, including meeting with the president, with Capstone (facilities management), and Sodexo (dining).

Report of the President - President Mary K. Grant

- President Grant thanked Trustee von Huene and the SGA E-Board for their work to bring together the students and the administration. She also thanked Katie Westerlind for her work helping President Grant transition into her presidency; Katie Riel, MSCA Chapter President, and the faculty for hosting a reception to welcome her; and to the staff for their efforts to get the semester up and running.
- She echoed welcomes to new Trustee Sunand Bhattacharya and to Karen Abbott as the Interim General Counsel.
- She reviewed some of the events that have taken place on campus, including two Pizza with the President events for students, Coffee with the President, and meetings with various external groups: DCAMM, COP, DHE, and the MSCBA.
- Upcoming events include a Virtual Town Hall at the end of the week, a Giving Thanks event, and hosting the trustees to see some student review boards on December 16th.
- As well as challenges, MassArt also has many opportunities, including those with the RIRJ grant.

Report of the Standing Committees

Executive Committee - Chair Hamilton

- In October the executive committee met for a review of the audit by O'Connor and Drew, and voted to accept the audit at that time through delegated authority by this board in order to meet the deadline of the comptroller.
- The O'Connor and Drew team, in conjunction with VP Bob Perry, are here to provide a very high level overview of the audit before the board votes to accept the audit.
- Brian Crowley of O'Connor and Drew provides a high level overview of the audit:
 - MassArt received a clean audit with a clean opinion, which is the best opinion you can receive.
 - This opinion was issued unmodified - no modifications or enhancements to these reports.
 - There were no issues to report. No conflicts between OCD and MassArt, no disagreements, etc.
 - There were three unusual transactions, which were the 3 CARES funds.
- Thanks to all for the hard work on the audit.

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

VOTED: to accept the FY21 Audited financial statements as presented by O'Connor and Drew.

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

- VP Maureen Keefe gave a high level overview of the annual campus health and safety report:
 - Mental health is the biggest priority
 - The Clery Report has a federal requirement to be posted by 10/1/21, reporting crime within or adjacent to campus. Nothing out of the ordinary or that rose to attention from that report.
 - Other components of the report include Public safety reports received and responded to, EO data, and conduct reports.
 - The Assessment and Care Team (ACT) is a cross-campus group that looks holistically at how students are performing to make sure to address issues students may be facing.
 - Trustees discussed the mental health challenges that face students and the way that the staff provide support.
- COVID continues to be well monitored. The trustees were directed to the dashboard (<https://massart.edu/covid-19-campus-dashboard>) for the most up to date information.

Administration and Finance committee - Trustees Nessen and Snyder

- Both votes for this committee are for summer 2022 and they are voted on in advance of normal academic tuition programming for this reason. These programs are self supporting and need sufficient fees.
- VP Perry and Dean Bliss presented on these two fee approvals. Dean Bliss provided a brief overview of the programs themselves and what they look like; VP Perry reviewed the fees, which are being proposed at a 3% fee increase.

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 fees associated with Professional and Continuing Education's Art New England, Youth Programs, and Teaching for Artistic Behavior, effective Summer 2022, and 2) approve the fees associated with Graduate Programs Boston Low Residency MFA, Academic Year 2023.**

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

Academic and Student Affairs committee - Trustee Korn

- Trustee Korn thanked everyone for the great discussion at the committee meeting, including Student Trustee von Huene for her participation, and the student development team for their work with the students.
- Provost James Mason reviewed the discussion on the NASAD withdrawal:
 - The decision to withdraw was made prior to Provost Mason taking his role. MassArt has accreditations coming up in the spring and the college remains fully accredited despite this withdrawal, as the college is accredited through NECHE.
- Provost Mason presented the candidates for sabbatical. This is an exciting opportunity for faculty that ultimately leads back to the students and their work in the classroom. Provost Mason and President Grant have reviewed and enthusiastically, 100% support the candidates on their sabbaticals.
- The trustees expressed interest in hearing the reports from the faculty returning from sabbatical on their experiences.

On a motion duly made and seconded, by a vote of 10 in favor, none against, and none abstaining, it was **VOTED: to approve the sabbatical requests for the academic year of 2022-2023 as presented.**

Full Academic Year: Gretchen Skogerson, Film/Video, YOS 19

Fall '22 Requests: Joshua Hart, Studio Foundation, YOS 7

Lisong Liu, Liberal Arts, YOS 5

Danielle Sangalang, Library, YOS 5

Jesse Strauss, Animation, YOS 7

Soon-Mi Yoo, Film/Video, YOS 11

Spring '23 Requests: Leland Burke, Animation, YOS 20

Jarrett Min Davis, Studio Foundation, YOS 13

Marc Holland, Studio Foundation, YOS 15

Adriana Katzew, Art Education, YOS 11

Adrian Kohn, History of Art, YOS 12

Gabrielle Reed, Library, YOS 11

Rachel Resnik, Library, YOS 21

Martha Rettig, Comm. Design, YOS 5

Dan Rowe, Animation, YOS 6

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

External Affairs committee - Trustee Saragoni

Chair Saragoni provided an overview of the External Affairs committee meeting, which included a presentation on the recruitment strategies and the brand refresh project. The committee is excited to revisit work around the 150th anniversary as well as President Grant's inauguration, which are both exciting upcoming events.

Development committee - Trustee Keane

- Trustee Keane reported that the team is hoping for 100% trustee participation on Giving Tuesday - the Tuesday after thanksgiving globally acknowledged as a day of giving back.
- She is also looking forward to the First Friday SOWA event on December 3 and hopes that the trustees are able to attend.
- VP O'Malley provided some fundraising updates:
 - She reviewed the fundraising actuals to date and reported that youth programs just received a \$50K gift
 - The Auction is scheduled for April 9, 2022, and the college is once again partnering with bidsquare. She thanked Trustee Bascome for cohosting again this year with Elizabeth Lowrey.
 - Trustee Bascome thanked VP O'Malley for the opportunity, as the previous auction was remote and he and Elizabeth are looking forward to a go at a live event
 - Julia Crane from Advancement will send the trustees a media kit that they can use in their own social media to promote

Provost search - Lindauer Search firm

- Paula Fazli and Deb Taft from Lindauer search firm joined the meeting to discuss the provost search with the trustees. They provided an overview of the search process and the background on the job description from the search that yielded Kymberly Pinder.
- *Linda Snyder left the meeting at 6:02pm.*
- The trustees discussed important factors in a provost, including working well with the president and someone who will understand MassArt culture. The trustees also discussed the financial relationship between the provost and the CFO.
- *Daren Bascome left the meeting at 6:13pm.*
- The next steps are the job description will be finalized and then ways for the trustees to promote the search in their networks will be shared.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:16pm.