

MassArt Board of Trustees
ROUNDTABLE/WORKING MEETING
Tuesday, October 2, 2018--2:00pm – 5:00pm
Huntington Room, DMC--621 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA
Slightly revised draft: 11/14/18

CALL OF THE MEETING: Roundtable/working meeting for the purpose of discussing the pros and cons of arming MassArt campus police. **NO VOTES WILL BE TAKEN.**

Present: Pamela Parisi (Chair), Hazel Afamefuna, Elisa Hamilton, Karen Keane, Denise Korn, David Lee, Peter Nessen, Janice Saragoni, Linda Snyder. David Nelson (Ex Officio). Susana Segat (Board Secretary)

Absent: Christine Kondoleon, Bill McQuillan

Chair Parisi called the roundtable to order at 2:11pm and welcomed trustees and members of the audience. She announced the call of the meeting and confirmed that no votes would be taken. She noted that there would be no public comment period. She asked President Nelson and VP Maureen Keefe to provide a brief overview.

VP Keefe went through a timeline, starting with a campus discussion in 2007, post-Virginia Tech. She described the composition of the Campus Safety Work Group (CSWG) and their production of the CSWG January 2018 Recommendations report. She talked about the status of police within MassArt's neighboring institutions and their mutual aid agreements. VP O'Malley distributed a notebook recently created by Public Safety. Trustees discussed previous incidents at MassArt and how public safety handled them.

MassArt Chief of Police Dwayne Farley described the tools provided to MassArt campus police officers (CPO) as first responders, including pepper spray and batons. All current CPO's have the same sworn powers and training as municipal police. Trustees discussed current staffing and whether more staff might be needed. Chief Farley noted that two CPO's per shift is his preferred staffing level.

Trustees discussed the recommendations provided by the Board of Higher Education (BHE) and the need to see the safety issue as a whole, without providing undue focus on arming. They discussed whether the institution faced liability on overall safety issues. They discussed the importance of training. Chief Farley listed some of the training already provided to CPO's: implicit bias and de-escalation training at hiring and then once per year. Chief Farley said that Boston Police Commissioner Gross has also offered to train officers at his academy. On questions on how the Chief evaluates whether training is effective, he stated that he does so through observation. On questions about personnel diversity, Chief Farley stated that two CPO's are people of color and all are currently male.

Trustees discussed the costs associated with sending staff to the police academy and whether it would be possible to provide community-policing experience. Trustees requested data on the arming situation at other colleges and community colleges. Suffolk University and Emerson College, both in Boston, are not armed. The eight other public state universities are armed. We will have to get data on the community colleges. On a general question of how often weapons are discharged on campuses, it was stated that there are no reported incidents where guns go off: this type of data is not collected. Trustees discussed the types of campus events that cause MassArt CPO's to leave because they do not feel safe and the types of security and resources used in K-12 schools. They discussed reciprocity and mutual aid with surrounding schools, whether MassArt has had active shooter exercises, and how CPO's know our community and its members.

Trustees requested information on the arguments for and against arming our CPO's. Trustees agreed that they do not have a clear sense of how the MassArt community feels about arming. They requested more information about the climate at MassArt about community policing. Trustees requested information on proposed safety alternatives, if arming were not to be approved.

Trustees discussed the previous SGA survey (110 respondents, 78% of whom were against arming). VP Keefe said that the 2015 survey showed a split, with a higher percentage of faculty members being against arming and a higher percentage of staff being for arming. She also noted that the attendance at the eight CSWG forums was not high, except for the student-centered one. The Student Government Association (SGA) is currently structuring a survey that will yield input for trustees before their November meeting. Prospective students have not weighed in. It is believed that a few parents believe that we are already armed.

President Nelson noted that everyone wants the campus to *be* safe. There is a difference between *being* safe and *feeling* safe: some might *feel* more safe with armed CPO's and some might *feel* more safe with no guns on campus, regardless of how arming is related to actually *being* safe. He asked trustees to consider what actually contributes to safety. He said that the studies are disappointing, the data is not compelling, and the assumptions behind the arguments are questionable. He posed some more questions, including: 1) do unarmed campuses have trouble hiring/retaining; 2) if we arm, what is the actual training and how frequently is it mandated; 3) If we provide bias awareness, how long does it take to become unbiased; 4) is the liability risk a factor, either way (neither the BHE nor the attorney general have insisted or ordered arming of campuses); 5) providing a gun might complete the police uniform provided, but is wearing a police uniform a mandate; and 6) if we arm, do our CPO's wear body cameras, and if so, what questions does that raise?

Trustees discussed the implementation status of the other public safety recommendations already approved. Assistant Vice President Howie LaRosee listed improvements made to several sections of campus. As for salary implications for arming the CPO's, Chief Farley said that there would be no additional compensation: armed and unarmed are paid the same throughout the state. He said that the contracted security force in the residence halls is not armed. Since he started at MassArt, Chief Farley said that there had been two incidents, and both were handled with pepper spray. He was not aware of any incidents throughout the state system.

Trustees discussed the upcoming student survey and requested assurance about the representative accuracy of the response pool. They thanked Trustee Afamefuna for her leadership in engaging MassArt students in this endeavor. Hearing discussion in the audience, Chair Parisi noted that this roundtable did not include public comments.

President Nelson stated that trustees should not hesitate to ask for more information or challenge assumptions. At the November board meeting, trustees should be able to understand the implications of voting for or against arming. If MassArt *does* arm CPO's, what are the consequences of that vote (on campus culture, implementation time, cost, staffing, screening, training, etc.). If MassArt *does not* arm CPO's, what are the consequences of that vote? President Nelson said that trustees would be provided with an '*if/then*' analysis.

Chair Parisi thanked participants and asked for a motion to adjourn.

On a motion duly made and seconded at 4:15pm, it was unanimously **VOTED: To adjourn.**