

MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

February 4, 2020. 4:15pm
Tower 1101

MINUTES

Trustees present: Jan Saragoni (Chair), Daren Bascome, Elisa Hamilton, John Intoppa, Karen Keane, David Lee, Bill McQuillan, Peter Nessen, and Linda Snyder. Pamela Parisi joined the meeting via phone due to geographic impediments. David Nelson (Ex-Officio).

Trustees absent: Denise Korn.

Also participating: Don Arpino, Lucinda Bliss, State Representative Mary Keefe, Maureen Keefe, Marjorie O'Malley, Bob Perry, Kelly Sherman, Lauren Wilshusen, Chris Wright, Susana Segat (Board Secretary).

Call to order

Chair Saragoni called the meeting to order at 4:25pm. She announced that Trustee Parisi would be joining the meeting via conference call due to geographic issues, so every vote taken would be by roll call. She said that Trustee Korn sent her regrets that she could not attend tonight and that Provost Pinder was not feeling well but would be joining the meeting via phone. She welcomed Daren Bascome and John Intoppa, new trustees, and asked them say a few introductory words.

Public participation

Chair Saragoni said that the first item on the agenda was public participation. She was informed that we have not received any requests for public participation, so she moved on to the next item on the agenda.

Adoption of the agenda

Chair Saragoni asked trustees to allow the External Affairs Committee report to move to the top of the agenda to accommodate our special guest, State Representative/Alumna Keefe. Trustees concurred.

Report of the standing committees: *External Affairs Committee*

Chair Saragoni welcomed Representative Keefe and asked her to say a few words about the Drawing Act initiative. Rep. Keefe talked about her experience attending MassArt as a college student and the importance of art and design in our society. She described how engaged people become when they hear about the genesis of the Drawing Act and how much this history is repeating itself now. Representative Keefe invited trustees to attend the Drawing Act celebration being planned at the State House this May, which will begin the public policy conversation about the needs for art and design and lead up to MassArt's 150th anniversary in 2023. Chair Saragoni also welcomed Kelly Sherman, chair of MassArt's alumni leadership council, who said a few words about the plans to engage our alumni in the Drawing Act crowdsourced activities.

Consideration of the minutes of prior meetings:

- a. November 19, 2019 – regular meeting
- b. December 16, 2019 – special meeting on campus development

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: to accept the minutes of the November 19, 2019 regular meeting and of the December 16, 2019 special meeting on campus development.

Report of the president

President Nelson talked about the importance of the Drawing Act in raising the visibility of the college and in sparking the conversation leading to MassArt's anniversary. He described a bill filed in the legislature to grant the Board of Higher Education the oversight over arming institutions of higher education and also listed some good news stories highlighting MassArt alumni. He reported that the Executive Committee had approved his recommendation to give Dean Stein the title of dean emerita and he thanked Dean Wright for his work in leading the admissions department, since this would be his last week at MassArt.

Report of the chair

Chair Saragoni said that her comments would be included in the Executive Committee report.

Report of the standing committees: Administration and Finance Committee

FY20 Fiscal Operations Report through December 31, 2019:

Committee Co-Chair Snyder welcomed the new trustees. She said that the A&F Committee was recommending four votes, all of which had been discussed in detail in committee. She said that in summary, the budget continues to project a \$500,000 positive balance and even though there are some changes in the housing budget, these amounts can be made up in other areas.

On a motion duly made and seconded, by a vote of 10 in favor, none against, and none abstaining, **VOTED Log 20-13: To approve the FY20 fiscal operations report through December 31, 2019.**

Roll Call: Bascome, yes; Hamilton, yes; Intoppa, yes; Keane, yes; Korn, absent; Lee, yes; McQuillen, yes; Nessen, yes; Parisi, yes; Snyder, yes; Saragoni, yes.

FY21 Tuition and Fees for Graduate Programs:

Co-Chair Snyder noted that recommendations on tuition and fees are normally the hardest votes taken by trustees. She said that at this meeting, trustees would be presented with increases for Professional and Continuing Education and for Graduate Programs. At the next meeting, trustees would have to consider undergraduate tuition and fee recommendations. She asked trustees to be thoughtful about these votes, keeping in mind access and affordability.

Co-Chair Snyder asked Dean Bliss to present the recommendation for graduate programs. Dean Bliss said that she was asking for the first increase in five years, for 3%. She said that this is not a huge program so this 3% would only yield about \$75k. She added that her department is conducting research and making plans to map out the next five years.

On a motion duly made and seconded, by a vote of 10 in favor, none against, and none abstaining, **VOTED Log 20-14: To approve the FY21 tuition and fees for graduate programs.**

Roll Call: Bascome, yes; Hamilton, yes; Intoppa, yes; Keane, yes; Korn, absent; Lee, yes; McQuillen, yes; Nessen, yes; Parisi, yes; Snyder, yes; Saragoni, yes.

FY21 Tuition and Fees for Professional and Continuing Education (PCE):

Dean Bliss said that trustees had approved the PCE summer charges at their last meeting. This vote was for the rest of PCE's programs. As the department redefines PCE, she is asking for a 3% increase.

On a motion duly made and seconded, by a vote of 10 in favor, none against, and none abstaining, **VOTED Log 20-15: To approve the FY21 tuition and fees for Professional and Continuing Education.**

Roll Call: Bascome, yes; Hamilton, yes; Intoppa, yes; Keane, yes; Korn, absent; Lee, yes; McQuillen, yes; Nessen, yes; Parisi, yes; Snyder, yes; Saragoni, yes.

FY2019 Audit on Federal Programs (A-133):

Committee Co-Chair Nessen presented the annual audit on federal programs. He said that our external auditors provided a clean opinion on this A-133 audit and stressed how significant it was to receive no comments on this type of audit. He thanked the department for their work. Co-Chair Nessen thanked AVP Arpino for his contributions to MassArt since 1990 and wished him well in his retirement.

On a motion duly made and seconded, by a vote of 10 in favor, none against, and none abstaining, **VOTED Log 20-16: To accept the FY2019 audit on federal programs (A-133)**

Roll Call: Bascome, yes; Hamilton, yes; Intoppa, yes; Keane, yes; Korn, absent; Lee, yes; McQuillen, yes; Nessen, yes; Parisi, yes; Snyder, yes; Saragoni, yes.

Report of the standing committees: Development Committee

Committee Chair Keane discussed the importance of raising funds for our students and then yielded the floor to VP O'Malley for a brief report. VP O'Malley said that the college was at the expected 60% toward reaching this year's fundraising goal. She talked about the MassArt Auction, scheduled for April 25th, and celebrated that the college had exceeded our corporate fundraising goal for this important event. Advancement expects to raise \$1.2m at this auction again this year and invites everyone to become a sponsor. VP O'Malley also discussed the details of the upcoming fashion show party, whose proceeds support the fashion program at MassArt. She noted that Advancement's top fundraising objective this year would be to raise money for MassArt's Artward Bound program.

Report of the standing committees: Executive Committee

Chair Saragoni said that at the last Executive Committee meeting, trustees approved the president's semi-annual expenditures report, discussed possible strategies for the upcoming partnership plan submission, and approved the title of dean emerita for Anne Marie Stein, who retired from MassArt last year. Provost Pinder said that Dean Stein had served MassArt well by starting important programs of continuing education, bringing Artward Bound to us, and providing art to Boston Public School students who needed it.

Report of the standing committees: Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Pilot honorary degree process and evaluation:

Chair Hamilton presented the pilot honorary degree process and asked trustees to support it:

Selection of Honorary Degree Recipients

The MassArt Community

Anyone from the MassArt community may nominate candidates for the honorary doctorate honor. The call for nominations will come from the Honorary Degree Committee.

The Honorary Degree Committee

The Honorary Degree committee is comprised of the following:

- *Lead commencement planner (co-chair)*
- *Dean, department head, or graduate program director (co-chair)*
- *Student representative, as appointed by the Student Government Association*
- *Faculty representative, as appointed by the MSCA*
- *Trustee representative, as appointed by the BOT Chair*
- *President's office representative (administrative support)*

Duties and Responsibilities

- *Establish definite standard of scholarly attainment or of the distinctive applications of such attainment in the service of society by which to judge the qualifications for this honor.*

- *Establish procedures for the nomination of potential candidates for honorary degrees.*
- *Receive nominations.*
- *Review thoroughly the achievements and qualifications of all persons nominated.*
- *Keep all deliberations and votes confidential except where necessary for official purposes.*
- *Report to the president for his consideration and action such person(s) as have received no fewer than three (3) affirmative votes from the committee membership.*
- *Deliver the full dossier of each candidate and the nomination report of the committee to the president. This report shall include:*
 - *A statement that conveys the committee's rationale for the nomination,*
 - *Pertinent details concerning the qualifications of the candidate, and*
 - *The name of the sponsoring department or MassArt community member.*

The President

The president considers the recommendations from the Honorary Degree Committee. He selects the individual(s) to bring before the BOT Academic and Student Affairs Committee.

The Board of Trustees

The BOT Academic and Student Affairs Committee receives, considers, and approves the recommendation brought forth by the president. The committee then forwards its recommendation to the full board of trustees.

Annual Timeline

In late January, the Honorary Degree Committee reviews, deliberates, evaluates, and selects approximately five to eight honorary doctorates of fine arts candidates. Typically, these recommendations are due to the president by early February for presentation, review, and approval by the board of trustees at their regularly scheduled February BOT meeting. The BOT considers the recommendation approved by the president. Once approved, the board delegates to the president the responsibility of extending invitations to the selected individual(s) to receive an honorary degree at commencement of the following academic year (e.g., candidates for an honorary degree at commencement 2022 would be nominated during the 2020 calendar year, approved by the BOT in February 2021, and then extended an invitation to attend commencement 2022).

Due to the lack of lead-time in the first cycle of implementation (for the 2021 commencement ceremony), a special abridged schedule would need to be implemented specifically for the 2021 commencement nominee.

Review and Evaluation

As soon as the 2022 candidate has been finalized, this pilot process will be reviewed by the BOT Academic and Student Affairs Committee to evaluate its effectiveness.

On a motion duly made and seconded, by a vote of 10 in favor, none against, and none abstaining,
VOTED Log 20-19: To approve the recommended pilot process for awarding honorary degrees and to evaluate its effectiveness at the end of the first cycle.

Roll Call: Bascome, yes; Hamilton, yes; Intoppa, yes; Keane, yes; Korn, absent; Lee, yes; McQuillen, yes; Nessen, yes; Parisi, yes; Snyder, yes; Saragoni, yes.

Honorary doctoral degree to Theaster Gates in May 2020:

On a motion duly made and seconded, by a vote of 10 in favor, none against, and none abstaining,
VOTED Log 20-20: To grant an honorary doctoral degree to Theaster Gates in May 2020.

Roll Call: Bascome, yes; Hamilton, yes; Intoppa, yes; Keane, yes; Korn, absent; Lee, yes; McQuillen, yes; Nessen, yes; Parisi, yes; Snyder, yes; Saragoni, yes.

Enrollment report:

Chair Hamilton thanked Dean Wright and welcomed Interim Dean Wilshusen. Dean Wilshusen distributed two enrollment documents. She said that there was a 12% bump in early actions and that the numbers were overall up. Since the college was still receiving applications, the numbers are in flux but they are positive. Our deposit numbers are higher than last year's, even though we more than doubled our deposit amount. There has also been an uptick in ALANA and International applications.

Dean Wilshusen described the second report she distributed, which compares data in 2019 with 2020. She said that the target number this year was 512 students, and that we have received 608 deposits to date, which is on target. Last year, MassArt's number was 494 students.

Sabbatical presentations

VP Keefe presented the three faculty members providing reports about their recently completed sabbaticals. Chair Hamilton asked each faculty member to make their presentation:

- Jennie-Rebecca Falcetta received her Ph.D. from University of Connecticut and her MA from Baylor University. As a literature scholar and professor, she studies the intersections of literature and pop culture writing, among other topics. She has developed courses that engage students in the interrelationship among literature, image, and meaning. In addition, she has been a faculty leader in considering how to assess students on their development.
- Matthew Monteith studied at the International Center of Photography before earning an MFA from the Yale School of Art in 2004. He has held multiple residencies and his work is exhibited globally. His editorial work has appeared in many magazines, including *The New York Times Magazine* and *Dwell*.
- Jan Kubasiewicz received his MFA from the Academy of Fine Arts in Poland. He is the founder of our Dynamic Media Institute and an internationally known and respected designer. He is an artist, author and curator having curated many exhibitions here in Boston at Harvard.

Chair Saragoni thanked the faculty for their wonderful presentations of their work. Trustees discussed the importance of sabbatical leaves.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

On a motion duly made and seconded at 6:05pm, it was unanimously VOTED: To adjourn.