

MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Special Meeting**  
March 27, 2020 – 11:00am  
Via conference call<sup>1</sup>

**MINUTES**

**Trustees Present:** Jan Saragoni (Chair), Daren Bascome, Elisa Hamilton, John Intoppa, Karen Keane, Denise Korn, David Lee, Bill McQuillan, Peter Nessen, Pamela Parisi, and Linda Snyder. David Nelson (Ex-Officio)

**Trustees Absent:** none

**Staff Present:** Susana Segat (Board Secretary)

Call to Order

Chair Saragoni called the meeting to order at 11:00am. She thanked trustees for attending this special meeting of the board to consider the critical next steps moving forward to find a replacement for our outgoing president.

Chair Saragoni said that having gotten notice this week of the president's intention to resign his position, trustees must consider next steps. Trustees discussed possible scenarios and factors, including an interim/acting presidency; a search process, structure and timeline; and the choosing of a search firm. President Nelson noted that he would be starting his new position on July 1, 2020, so that an ideal transition would occur in June.

Trustees discussed the role of the Board of Higher Education (BHE) and the role of Commissioner Santiago in the presidential search process. They discussed the BHE's policy on appointing interim/acting presidents and whether current staff would be eligible. President Nelson said that he had spoken with the Commissioner about the possibility of having an interim/acting president be eligible to apply for the permanent position and that more deliberation would be necessary.

Trustees discussed how best to appoint an interim/acting president and considered whether Provost Pinder might be interested in the position. President Nelson said that it would be a common practice to appoint current staff to an interim role. Trustees discussed whether Provost Pinder would accept an interim position if she were then prohibited from applying for the permanent job. Trustees agreed that the Commissioner would have to officially waive the prohibition of acting/interim presidents from applying for the permanent vacancy before offering the interim/acting president position to the provost.

Trustees discussed whether to wait a full academic year for the search and agreed that they would discuss this with the Commissioner. President Nelson urged the board for a speedy resolution because he had already made a commitment to another institution.

Chair Saragoni suggested that trustees consider serving on a special BOT committee to map out the search process and make a recommendation to the full board. She asked trustees to express their interest so she could subsequently appoint these special BOT presidential planning committee members. Trustees Hamilton, Intoppa, Nessen, and Snyder expressed interest. Trustees discussed the possible composition of a search committee, the possibility of launching it in the fall, and noted that the student voice would be important in this effort.

Trustees agreed that there would be no public announcement about filling the interim position until they hear back from the Commissioner about the rules for applying for the permanent position. Trustees also asked to learn more about prior MassArt presidential searches.

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, § 20" and the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office's March 12, 2020 Guidance, please note the following: Notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the Massachusetts College of Art and Design Board of Trustees as called by the Chair to consider a personnel action will be held through remote participation via conference call number: 386-401-8649, Access Code:706317021#.

On a motion duly made and seconded, by a vote of 11 in favor, none against, and none abstaining, it was **VOTED Log 20-20-02: that the board offer an acting/interim president position to Kym Pinder on or about 6/15/2020, with the expectation that the BHE would allow her to apply as a candidate for the permanent position for president if she so desires.**

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

Trustees Korn and McQuillan left the meeting at 12:02pm.

President Nelson told trustees that a delegation of the Colleges of the Fenway was working with MASCO to determine if the hospitals in the Longwood Medical Area might need to use campus facilities. He asked for delegation of authority since the hospitals might make a request before the next full BOT meeting.

On a motion duly made and seconded, by a vote of 9 in favor, none against, and none abstaining, it was

**VOTED Log 20-20-03: to delegate authority for COVID19 emergency actions**

To delegate to the president, in conjunction with the chair of the board, authority to take such actions as are deemed necessary or desirable and as permitted by law over the next 14 days, 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.

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

Chair Saragoni thanked trustees for attending this conference call meeting and for helping to develop the strategy on the sensitive issue of replacing a president.

On a motion duly made and seconded, at 12:15pm, it was unanimously

**VOTED: to adjourn.**