

MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

April 7, 2020
4:15pm

In accordance with Governor Charles 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 meeting of the Massachusetts College of Art and Design Board of Trustees will be held through remote participation via conference call number: 1 929 436 2866, Meeting ID: 621 798 612, Password 719296 .

MINUTES

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

Trustees absent: David Lee.

Also presenting: Marjory O'Malley, Bob Perry, Kym Pinder. Dan Serig, and Susana Segat (Board Secretary).

Call to order

Chair Saragoni called the meeting to order at 4:22pm and thanked everyone for their hard work as the college carries on during this extraordinary time.

Items requiring a vote: promotions

Chair Saragoni yielded the floor to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee Chair, Trustee Hamilton. Committee Chair Hamilton spoke of the impressive commitment from our faculty and librarians and voiced her regrets that everyone could not be physically present for this happy occasion. She asked AVP Serig to present the candidates for promotion.

AVP Serig described the criteria, the promotions committee, and the evaluation process needed for receiving promotional recommendations. He listed the faculty members recommended for promotion from assistant professor to associate professor: Wesley Bedrosian, Illustration; Martha Rettig, Communication Design; Daniel Rowe, Animation; and Tamara Roy, Architectural Design. In addition, Danielle Sangalang is recommended for promotion from assistant librarian to associate librarian. AVP Serig then listed the faculty members recommended for promotion from associate professor to professor: Scott Bakal, Illustration; Jennie-Rebecca Falcetta, Liberal Arts; and Lisong Liu, Liberal Arts. He attested that all of these candidates produced evidence that met the criteria for promotion.

On a motion duly made and seconded, by a vote of 10 in favor, none against, and none abstaining,
VOTED LOG 20-21: To approve candidates for promotion, effective 9/1/2020

- i. To Associate Professor
 - 1. Wesley Bedrosian, Illustration
 - 2. Martha Rettig, Communication Design
 - 3. Daniel Rowe, Animation
 - 4. Tamara Roy, Architectural Design
- ii. To Associate Librarian
 - 1. Danielle Sangalang
- iii. To Professor
 - 1. Scott Bakal, Illustration
 - 2. Jennie-Rebecca Falcetta, Liberal Arts
 - 3. Lisong Liu, Liberal Arts

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

Items requiring a vote: tenure

Committee Chair Hamilton asked AVP Serig to proceed with the tenure recommendations. AVP Serig noted the importance of tenure by reading its description as listed in the collective bargaining agreement. He then recognized the members of the tenure committees and proceeded to describe each recommended candidate: Film/Video Assistant Professor Tammy Dudman, Liberal Arts Associate Professor Maura Smyth, and Studio Foundation Associate Professor Evelyn Ryzd. AVP Serig attested that the candidates for tenure produced substantial evidence based on prior academic and professional work to warrant the distinction of tenure.

Trustees celebrated this important occasion and thanked AVP Serig for his powerful, descriptive endorsement. Trustee Intoppa informed the board that he was currently taking a class from Professor Smyth so he felt compelled to provide an oral disclosure now and a written disclosure as soon as possible.

On a motion duly made and seconded, by a vote of 10 in favor, none against, and none abstaining, **VOTED Log 20-22; To approve candidates for tenure, effective 9/1/2020**

- Tammy Dudman, Film/Video Associate Professor
- Evelyn Ryzd, Studio Foundation Associate Professor
- Maura Smyth, Liberal Arts Associate Professor

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

Items requiring a vote: FY2021 undergraduate tuition and fees

Chair Saragoni yielded the floor to Administration and Finance Committee Co-Chair Snyder. Committee Co-Chair Snyder told trustees that the recommendation was to approve the proposed FY2021 undergraduate tuition and fees. She summarized the full year costs: in-state student charges would increase by 3.8% to \$13,800; non-resident student charges would increase by 3.7% to \$39,400; New England student charges would increase by 4.7% to \$31,400; and the MassArt capital fee would remain at \$400. VP Perry noted that the annual in-state tuition would rise by \$500, and the other two tuition categories would rise by \$1,400.

Co-Chair Snyder explained that it was hard for the committee to approve this recommendation in a vacuum, given the financial situation in the coming year. She said that both she and her co-chair, Trustee Nessen are considering this a leap of faith and ask for trustees' approval because the rate, which they consider to be reasonable, needs to be published for the fall.

Trustees discussed how this recommendation would have been perfectly appropriate before the COVID-19 crisis appeared. They agreed that at least they want to be aware and responsive to what is occurring in the world of higher education. Trustees agreed to have further discussions about different potential scenarios for next year.

On a motion duly made and seconded, by a vote of 10 in favor, none against, and none abstaining, **VOTED Log 20-23: To approve FY2021 undergraduate tuition and fees**

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

Report: Enrollment update

Chair Saragoni said that Dean Wilshusen was unable to attend this meeting but that she provided the following bullet points to summarize her enrollment update:

- Undergrad deposits down a little from last year. given more than doubled our deposit amount, and given COVID-19, then these numbers are very good.
- We continue to receive deposits every day. Incredibly positive.
- Number will increase as roll out *Virtual Accepted Student Day* and other virtual options.
- Deposit deadline extended from 5/1 to 6/1.
- Transfer decisions are taking a bit longer to release. But they are being released and will continue over next few weeks.
- Still taking and reviewing undergraduate applications for all levels.
- Grad deposit deadlines also extended: May 1 for summer, June 1 for fall. Deposits down for grad mostly due to large international population.

Provost Pinder said that Admissions is not worried about deposits being down a little. The strategic decision to double the deposit amount has worked in our favor, since it shows commitment and it also shows value comparable to other schools of art and design who charge more for deposits. Admissions has also extended some of the deadlines, like most other universities. They have also experienced some positive outcomes from the online format.

VP Perry said that the college was in good shape overall. The higher deposits weeded out people who were not committed, and our non-reliance on international students has been helpful. He said that while we don't know what we don't know, it is good to have these tuition and fees numbers approved so that the applications for financial aid can commence.

VP Perry discussed the refunds issued to students for housing and board. He mentioned that the quick turnaround should help with retention. To manage the budget, the college would be cutting back on expenses, saving through the end of June.

Discussion: Impact of COVID-19

President Nelson provided an update on COVID-19 activities. He said that the college was transitioning from crisis management to scenario planning and financial modeling. The transition to remote learning, which was a monumental effort, has been completed. The day to day operations of the college continues, remotely, with restricted access to the physical plant. His message to the community has been that financial times would be tough, but that employees would be taken care of and classroom instruction would be supported. President Nelson discussed Advancement's crowdsourced fundraising and their plan for distributing the funds to the neediest students.

President Nelson discussed scenario planning. The president's cabinet would be devoting April to fleshing out financial models and academic scenarios based on different contingencies and financial implications for enrollment levels, different academic calendar start dates, and different modes of instruction. He offered to give trustees a brief so they may contribute their questions.

As for the budget, President Nelson said that the room and board refunds added up to \$3m at MassArt and that all of the state universities would be seeking state reimbursements. He said that the MSCBA would be voting to refinance, which would also help the state universities: the terms would have annual savings and also buy some time. He added that the state university presidents have been in discussions with our congressional delegation about federal funding, including through the CARES Act. He projected that MassArt would receive \$1.5m from the Cares Act. He would like to see some Title IV flexibility, more Pell funding, and more money for student supports and mental health resources.

Provost Pinder said that academic chairs have started their scenario planning about curriculum delivery for this summer and fall. On a question about the expectations, effectiveness, and value of remote learning, Provost Pinder said that academic chairs were surprised by how easy the transition has been and pleased by how well it was working. She said that it was an advantage that faculty had two weeks to plan before classes were put online, and that students were reporting more 1:1 contact. She offered to send trustees some sample animation projects done at home.

VP Keefe said that the student perspective was positive and that the Student Government Association was actively engaged in soliciting student feedback. Trustee Intoppa said that he was not having problems with his online classes, and maybe it was easier for him because he was a commuting student. He noted that in general, learning online needs a motivation adjustment which is dependent on each student's unique situation.

Trustee McQuillan left the meeting at 5:32pm.

Report on delegation of authority

President Nelson said that at the March 27th BOT meeting, trustees delegated authority for COVID-19 emergency actions to the president, in conjunction with the chair, and that it was his duty to report to the board on the actions taken under this motion. He said that the college had signed a contract with the hospitals for their use of parking and residence halls.

Trustees discussed their wish to place on the record their appreciation and gratitude for the extraordinary leadership shown by MassArt to our communities in the face of this pandemic and how exceptional everyone has been during this unprecedented time.

President Nelson left the meeting at 5:34pm

On a motion duly made and seconded, by a vote of 9 in favor, none against, and none abstaining, **VOTED Log 20-24: The BOT formally documents for the record their appreciation and gratitude for the extraordinary leadership shown by MassArt in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and thanks the MassArt community for their exceptional work during this unprecedented time.**

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

New business

VP O'Malley provided an update on the upcoming virtual action. She gave some details on the novel new procedures and the expectation to triple participation levels. She asked trustees to help get the word out about the live virtual auction on April 25th. Trustees thanked VP O'Malley for her team's innovative work and looked forward to a wonderful event.

Adjournment

Trustees agreed to adjourn the meeting and logged off around 5:45pm, before a roll call could be taken.