

Board of Trustees  
January 24, 2020 --- 11:15am-1:15pm  
Alumni Room

**MINUTES**

**Trustees present:** Linda Snyder, Peter Nessen (Co-Chairs). Elisa Hamilton. Jan Saragoni (Ex-Officio). David Nelson (Ex-Officio).

**Trustees absent:** Karen Keane.

**Also participating:** Robert Perry (Liaison), Don Arpino, Lucinda Bliss, Dave Carder, Howie LaRosee, Margaret Maki, Kym Pinder, and Susana Segat (Secretary to the Board).

Call to Order

Co-Chairs Snyder and Nessen called the meeting to order at 11:20am. Co-Chair Snyder said that the main agenda items consist of four votes on the financial operations of the college.

Consideration of the Minutes: November 8, 2019

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

**VOTED: To approve the minutes of the November 8, 2019 committee meeting.**

Items Requiring a Vote: Acceptance of FY2020 fiscal operations report through December 31, 2019

Co-Chair Snyder distributed the FY2020 fiscal operations report and noted that the projected end-of-year balance remains as projected. She asked VP Perry to present the highlights of his summary memo.

VP Perry said that revenues should exceed expenses and added that the college's goal is to land better than the original budget. He said that only two or three accounts might be over their budgets: Colleges of the Fenway lost a member college so the fixed costs distribution changed; and the adjunct budget increased due to more open searches. Trustees discussed housing and parking costs, the savings that offset costs under the adjunct budget, the impact of faculty retirees, and the potential eight new faculty hires. Co-Chair Snyder noted that every year, trustees caution against 4% undergraduate tuition increases, and the time is rapidly approaching to consider the alternatives.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

**VOTED: To approve the FY2020 fiscal operations report through December 31, 2019.**

Items Requiring a Vote: Approval of FY2020 tuition and fees for Graduate Program

Co-Chair Snyder brought forward the recommendation on graduate programs. She reminded trustees that for the past several years, this program has not had increased pricing, therefore, a 3% increase is a reasonable recommendation. She asked Dean Bliss to present her proposal.

Dean Bliss said that her department is developing a bigger strategy for Graduate Programs. They are preparing a five-year plan that includes fundraising goals. This year, they are proposing a 3% increase: with 128 unique students, this would yield \$75k. Trustees discussed whether that yield would be worth doing now, considering that a long-range plan was in the works. Provost Pinder said that this increase would be part of a steady process to allow for further changes.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

**VOTED: To approve the FY2020 tuition and fees for Graduate Program.**

Items Requiring a Vote: Approval of FY2020 tuition and fees for Professional and Continuing Education (PCE)

Dean Bliss said that her team was working on the PCE plan going forward. She said that they were developing a clear definition of what continuing education should entail: whether it would include certificate programs, on-line educational opportunities, and pathways. Provost Pinder said that the long-game was being developed, and that included evaluating discounts, credits, Art New England, and department staffing.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

**VOTED: To approve the FY2020 tuition and fees for Professional and Continuing Education**

Items Requiring a Vote: *Acceptance of FY2019 audit on federal programs (A-133)*

Co-Chair Nessen presented the A-133 audit document. He noted that traditionally, these types of audits tend to include an auditor's comment. He thanked the staff because this particular audit was impeccable, with no auditor's comments at all. He recommended that trustees approve it.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously  
**VOTED: To accept the FY2019 audit on federal programs (A-133)**

Items for Discussion: *Update on capital projects*

Co-Chair Snyder requested updates about DCAMM's reaction to MassArt's submission, the energy program, the link and masonry, and the gallery project.

**DCAMM**

President Nelson reported that he had received a routine response to the college's submission. The expectation is that that the Rawn study continue to prepare the college to be 'shovel ready.'

**Energy Program**

AVP LaRosee said that the energy efficiency program was in full force: the lighting is being replaced, starting in the common areas; the heat valves in South werer being replaced; North pipes were being insulated, and the long lead orders were in place.

**Link and Masonry**

AVP LaRosee reported that the college would be hiring a full-time employee to work on the masonry problems.

**Gallery Project**

President Nelson said that the remaining museum punch-list was minimal. The windows were receiving a temporary design and the exhibitions were being installed. The museum has garnered good press, including an article in Smithsonian magazine. He said that rest of the galleries are now all centrally located: Arnhein Gallery is 90% complete, and Brant Gallery is in the works. There are no other active capital projects.

Reports: *Admissions FY2020*

VP Perry said that it was still early in the admissions process, but the data seemed to be comparable to last year. Transfer numbers are healthy and deposits are higher: the trajectory is good for incremental growth. Trustees discussed the departure of Dean Wright and applicant recruitment.

New Business:

President Nelson said that MassArt would be adding 'equity' as a risk management factor in our Risk Assessment Chart. He would like to assess the risks produced if we fail in providing equity. Co-Chair Snyder welcomed the idea and said that trustees would look forward to a deeper discussion at a future BOT meeting.

Adjournment

On a motion duly made and seconded at 12:50pm, it was unanimously  
**VOTED: To adjourn.**