

Board of Trustees  
**Academic and Student Affairs Committee**  
September 13, 2019 9:30am – 11:00am Alumni Room, Tower 11<sup>th</sup> Floor

**MINUTES**

Members present: Elisa Hamilton (Chair), Denise Korn, David Nelson (Ex-Officio).

Members absent: Hazel Afamefuna, Jan Saragoni (Ex-Officio).

Also participating: Maureen Keefe and Kym Pinder (Liaisons), Meg Adelman, Lucinda Bliss, Jamie Costello, Steve Gentile, Danielle Licitra, Jonathan Rand, Maryellen Schroeder, Gina Yarbrough, and Susana Segat (Secretary to the Board).

Call to Order

Chair Hamilton called the meeting to order at 9:40am. She welcomed participants and introduced Lucinda Bliss, our new dean of graduate programs.

Approval of the Minutes: May 31 2019

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

**VOTED: To approve the minutes of the May 31, 2019 committee meeting.**

Items Requiring A Vote: to approve the updated Community Standards

AVP Costello gave a brief history of the editing process for the proposed new community standards. She explained that the new edition is easier to understand and educational in nature. Trustees discussed whether this process would be used to address mental health issues, how each case would be individualized, the flow chart diagram, and the input provided by the Student Government Association. AVP Costello said that the college is fortunate because we do not have many community standards violations: data will be provided to trustees at their September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

**VOTED: To approve the updated Community Standards.**

Items Requiring A Vote: to approve the updated Preferred Name policy

VP Keefe introduced the proposed new Pronoun and Chosen Name policy, which addresses student concerns and creates systems to support the implementation of the policy. Registrar Rand said that his office had received 90 requests in 1.5 weeks and the system seems to be working smoothly. He explained that the new policy has a new title, a less restrictive ability to change and codify names, and the ability to coordinate with rosters and the production of identification cards.

Chair Hamilton thanked the registrar and noted that trustees were proud of the original policy as well as this new edition because of the responsiveness to student needs and thoughtful process. Trustees thanked the presenters for their efforts in updating the policy and keeping students engaged.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

**VOTED: To approve the updated Preferred Name policy and rename it “Pronoun and Chosen Name Policy.”**

Reports: Trustee Afamefuna on student issues

No report provided.

Reports: enrollment

No report provided.

Reports: resident hall occupancy/budget status

Director Licitra distributed a one-page housing data document. She reported that the resident halls opened at 101.2% occupancy rate this semester, allowing room for melt. Trustees discussed how double rooms become modified triple rooms, the highest possible occupancy rate (103%), and the percentage of incoming first time students who chose to live on campus (81%). President Nelson talked about the commuter population and the possible creation of transitional spaces. AVP Costello discussed the college’s new collaboration with the Board of

Higher Education in housing homeless students at a Malden group home. Trustees discussed this project as well as the option of using empty beds from our campus dormitories for homeless students.

Presentation: *student development department reviews AY2018-2019*

VP Keefe discussed the process used in reviewing three of her departments. She invited Career Development Director Schroeder to present the findings from her department review. Director Schroeder presented slides on the external review results for Career Development. She said that students will have 16-17 different jobs in 5 industries throughout their lifetimes so they need to have an understanding of how to ask thoughtful questions, frame and re-frame problems, provide insight from various perspectives, make sense of data and information, and adapt, iterate, and pivot at faster rates. The key strategies for the department would now be to integrate career planning with the curriculum, offer vocational options alongside the formal curriculum, assist students in transferring their learning from the classroom, employ technology to personalize career planning for students and provide the right training at the right time. Trustees discussed the complexities of art, practice, and methodology as integrated into curriculum as well as to employer needs. They discussed the impact on both the students and the employers of hiring interns instead of full-time workers.

Presentation: *academic department reviews AY2018-2019*

Provost Pinder explained that the common best practice is to go through internal reviews of departments before the accreditation process takes place. At MassArt, this practice was started last year and departments are appreciating the feedback and the engagement of external reviewers. Professor Gentile, Chair of the Animation Department, gave a history of his department and discussed the benefits of having an internal review. He noted that the major lessons learned during this review were that internal reviews are a lot of work, that they address issues and allow faculty to learn about what is working, that they create bonding opportunities, that the outside evaluators were positive, and that reviews apply structures and deadlines for improvement. President Nelson said that these reviews are the core work of the institution: students demanded changes and they engaged in a process that is creating these changes.

Adjournment

On a motion duly made and seconded at 11:00am, it was unanimously  
**VOTED: To adjourn.**