

MassArt Board of Trustees
Executive Committee
January 24, 2020 - 1:30 pm, Alumni Room

MINUTES

Members present: Jan Saragoni (Chair), Elisa Hamilton, Peter Nessen, and Linda Snyder. Karen Keane joined via phone due to geographic impediments. David Nelson (Ex Officio)

Members absent: Pamela Parisi.

Also participating: Don Arpino, Bob Perry, Kym Pinder, Kate Russell, Gina Yarbrough, and Susana Segat (Board Secretary)

Call to order

Chair Saragoni called the meeting to order at 1:40pm.

Approval 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: *President's semi-annual expenditures report*

Director of Operations Russell distributed the president's expenditures summary document. She explained that the business office was in the process of changing their systems so the report is not as streamlined as it should be. Director Russell said that three-quarters of the expenses were comparable to last year's expenses. The differences include: less spent on travel; increased membership fees; Community Initiatives funding has yet to be encumbered for the Drawing Act initiative; and that only 34% of Strategic Initiatives had been incumbered to date.

Trustees discussed Foundation-based expenses, the value of being a member of the New England Council, whether to join the Boston Chamber of Commerce, and memberships in general. President Nelson said that he would provide a comprehensive list of all of the college's memberships to the committee.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: that the executive committee accepts the president's semi-annual expenditures report (internal to exec).

Other business

Chair Saragoni asked trustees to consider new business before initiating the discussion portion of the agenda and they agreed. President Nelson presented his recommendation, as offered by Provost Pinder, to grant Dean Stein the title of dean emerita. Trustees asked whether any benefits might accompany this title. Provost Pinder said that there might have been some parking benefit in the past but that she was not aware of any benefits. President Nelson said that he would present trustees with a clarified policy on the granting of emeritus titles.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: As per BOT Log 07-02, to accept the president's recommendation to grant Anne Marie Stein the title of Dean Emerita (internal to exec).

Item for discussion: *Strategy for upcoming partnership plan submission*

President Nelson said he would like to discuss what the Partnership Plan is, what it intended to accomplish, how it got to where it is, and what really happened along the way. He said that MassArt has had three versions of the original plan and that the time has come for a new plan. He gave a brief history of the era and of the state's past attempts to regionalize higher education.

The key features of the first partnership plan (2003-2008) were that MassArt would retain its tuition, would receive a baseline line item from the state, and would agree upon a set of metrics to be achieved. This original plan projected that the key drivers of the budget were enrollment growth and tuition. MassArt also committed to raise \$20m in these first five years. In exchange, the in-state cost of an education would be paid by the state and tuition and fees; and the out-of-state charges would pay for their education entirely. At that time, the state contribution covered two-thirds of the cost of an education.

The outcomes were that in-state enrollment never got to 60%-40% and the proposed undergraduate costs were never fully paid by the state. In addition, in the past few years the state has not been paying their full share of collective bargaining costs. The question is: how do we now generate \$3m per year?

Trustees discussed how to best identify what the state needs from the college. They discussed how the Drawing Act initiative had excellent momentum in expanding MassArt's visibility. They asked for the development of messaging on the value of MassArt that includes the issues of higher education, the Drawing Act, and the Partnership Plan.

Trustees discussed the need to explore other funding sources, such as establishing MassArt as the resource for arts education in the Commonwealth. They also discussed the historically low rating Massachusetts receives in national higher education funding surveys. Their questions included: what can we offer the state, what can we get from the state, how can we maximize what we do receive, and what are we going to do to take care of ourselves? Can we graduate students in three years? Online education? Move to a different tier in the higher education system?

President Nelson listed some of the major impediments, including: size and condition of plant, the cap of 40% out-of-state students, and union rules. He said that we would need to sketch out our strategy by October. He offered to provide data and a communications plan by early summer.

Adjournment

On a motion duly made and seconded at 3:05pm, it was unanimously

VOTED: to adjourn.