

Board of Trustees  
Executive Committee  
Friday, March 25, 2022  
12:00pm – 1:15pm

## MINUTES

Committee Members present: Hamilton, Keane, Korn, Nessen, Snyder, Saragoni

Other Trustees present: Bhattacharya, Parisi, Stone

Trustees absent: von Huene, Bascome

Staff present: Hannah Voit, Robert Chambers, Lauren Wilshusen, Marjorie O'Malley, Robert Perry, Kathy Calnan

1. Chair Hamilton called the meeting to order at 12:03pm.

2. Approval of the minutes: January 21, 2022 and attendance:

Committee: Hamilton- yes, Keane- yes, Korn- yes, Nessen-yes, Snyder- yes, Saragoni-absent

Other Trustees: Bhattacharya: present, Parisi: present, Stone: present

3. Updates & Discussion:

- President Grant gave an update on the search for MassArt's next provost. She shared that there is a strong pool of candidates being interviewed by the Provost Search Committee and that she will be meeting with the candidates that have advanced as well. Trustee Korn added that the training for the interview committee has been impressive and helpful.
- President Grant shared that she will serve on the Department of Higher Education's search committee to replace outgoing Commissioner Carlos Santiago.
- President Grant also discussed the school's Partnership Plan with the State. The Partnership Plan is a status that MassArt has been granted by the Board of Higher Education. Since 2004, it has afforded MassArt greater operating flexibility due to its unique character as compared to traditional higher educational institutions. It is renewed every 5 years. President Grant shared with the Committee that although the next iteration of the Plan was in progress, she had requested an extension on plan submission from Commissioner Santiago, who is supportive of the extension. Robert Perry explained the financial setup regarding tuition retention and state appropriations. Trustee Snyder added that MassArt is at the beginning of President Grant's term and needs time to work through strategy and programs, etc. All of the trustees were in support of the extension. President Grant will proceed with the extension request.

*Trustee Saragoni joined the meeting at 12:20pm.*

- President Grant told the Committee that she has been having meetings with the Boston State House legislative delegation and added that she intends to meet

with the Chair of the State Legislature's Art, Culture and Tourism Committee as well.

- President Grant also gave an update on the Tower building, noting that a focused scope for the building is the priority, that Bill Rawn has been re-engaged, and that the team is working with DCAMM on moving forward as well. She has also connected with Secretary Peyser on this to make sure it sustains any changes in administration. The Committee discussed the importance of making progress on this and how redoing the Tower is an opportunity to reimagine how space is used and the ways in which people are making art is changing.
- Lauren Wilshusen, Dean Of Admissions and Enrollment, shared 2021 and 2022 application rates, showing a 2.5% increase year over year in the number of overall applications. She shared that application numbers are going back to pre-pandemic levels and that numbers of admissions of transfer students have increased. MassArt also welcomed accepted students to campus this month at the first on-campus accepted students day since April 2019.
- President Grant thanked the team working on COVID on campus and noted the opening of the campus this week. She also talked about communications efforts around boosters and the continuation of masking and the search to fill two positions on public and environmental health. Trustee Bhattacharya asked about resistance to masking that has been seen at other institutions and President Grant noted that there is some fatigue, but that students, faculty, and staff have been really great about keeping masks on.
- Marjorie O'Malley, VP of Advancement/Executive Director of Foundation, shared an update on the upcoming MassArt Auction, including that sponsorship commitments are \$53,601.50 over the goal, at \$393,601.50 total thus far and thanked Trustee Bascome for co-chairing the auction, Chair Hamilton for her art, and Trustee Keane for her service as auctioneer. She invited trustees to attend the Auction. She shared that as of the same morning as this meeting, about 8 pieces had been sold via Bidsquare. She also talked about Finish Line Fund grants and the Raise Your Paddle initiative that would take place in support of those grants.
- The Public Safety presentation will be deferred to a future meeting to allow for more time.
- President Grant went through each of the three speakers scheduled to meet with the Board at the Board Retreat on May 2. They will be Francesca Purcell (Senior Lecturer on Education and the Faculty Director of the Higher Education Program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education), Vincent Pedone (Executive Director of the Massachusetts State University Council of Presidents), and Michael Bobbitt (Executive Director of the Massachusetts Cultural Council).
- President Grant shared the list of honorary degree recipients for this year's commencement. They are former Mayor Kim Janey; Executive Arts Editor, GBH and Host of Open Studio Jared Bowen; and MassArt alum, contemporary artist and educator Steve Locke.