

MassArt Board of Trustees
October 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes
Kennedy 280

Trustees in attendance: Chair Hamilton, Trustee Bascome, Trustee Bhattacharya, Trustee Keane, Trustee Nessen, Trustee Snyder, Trustee Stone, Trustee Thompson

Trustees absent: Trustee Korn

1. Call to Order

Chair Hamilton called the meeting to order at 4:12 pm, expressing how wonderful it was to see everyone and to be together in person, and to welcome student trustee Nick Thompson to his first full board meeting. The Chair then welcomed community members in attendance and asked everyone to take a minute to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of the Minutes: BOT Full Board meeting, June 7, 2022

It was then **VOTED to approve the minutes from the June 7, 2022 board meeting**, with all in favor, save one abstention.

Yes: Chair Hamilton, Trustee Bascome, Trustee Bhattacharya, Trustee Keane, Trustee Nessen, Trustee Snyder, Trustee Stone

Abstained: Trustee Thompson

3. Report of the President

President Grant shared that the start of the new academic year was incredibly energetic and strong and provided an overview of several high-level issues that are influencing higher education, including:

- Challenges related to the “Great Resignation”, which is happening in every sector and industry, and the impact of housing market, inflation, and salary issues on our ability to attract and retain talent. One way we can add to our competitive advantage is to do our best to be an empathetic, engaged community and a place where people can do their best work.
- The President provided a high-level overview of the EY Parthenon study – sharing a copy of the presentation deck from the DHE with the Board. She noted that there are lots of concerns about the study including the timing as we are about to have a transition in statewide leadership.
- She also noted the high school enrollment cliff coming in 2025, which will hit New England harder than the rest of the country. Of note, MassArt has the only increase in enrollment amongst Massachusetts 4-year state universities this year (not including the UMass system) and that we need to understand what is driving student interest and examine our strategy for enrollment management.

- There is a political landscape that has led to deep divisions across the country and that once-trusted institutions, like higher education institutions, are not as trusted as they used to be and there are increasing questions about the value of a college education/degree.
- Lastly, there are significant financial pressures and worries that are impacting our students and our workforce. On the good news front, we can report that MassArt's average student debt level has dropped by over 30% from 2014 to 2020 – but we must continue to pay attention to affordability and access.

She noted that despite these challenges, life on campus is vibrant and hopeful and shared some of the energizing and inspiring work happening as the new year begins, including Clay for Change, fundraising initiative by a member of the faculty to support the Shelf, the Student Government Association Executive Board's work, governance committees, and a book talk with Dr. Tia McNair.

President Grant then updated the Board on and shared a presentation regarding the ongoing work to advance the Tower project and the range of meetings with community and government stakeholders, such as a visit with the Mayor of Salem.

4. Report of the Chair

a. Report of the Student Trustee

Trustee Thompson introduced himself to the Board and cited that clubs and organizations have been quite busy and there is increased interest and new clubs taking shape, especially amongst the freshman class. He shared that he's been working with MassArt staff to address concerns and answer questions about campus dining changes, migration/curriculum issues, and the student payroll process.

5. Report of the Standing committees

a. Administration and Finance committee

Trustees Snyder and Nessen noted that with a budget of \$89.3 million there was an almost \$7 million surplus, largely thanks to one-time revenues, strategic and careful management of resources, and unfilled positions.

i. Budget Presentation

VP Perry presented an updated FY23 budget. He also gave updates on housing and enrollment numbers, and an overview of the \$1.3 million in strategic reinvestments to advance areas and initiatives such as community engagement, a new Learning Management System, and Strategic Enrollment Planning. There was a discussion of some of the breakdown of one-time revenues and savings and student financial aid, to be further discussed at a subsequent meeting.

1. VOTE: To approve the proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Budget

It was then **VOTED to approve the proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Budget**, with all in favor.

Yes: Chair Hamilton, Trustee Bascome, Trustee Bhattacharya, Trustee Keane, Trustee Nessen, Trustee Snyder, Trustee Stone, Trustee Thompson

ii. Audit Presentation

Trustee Nessen noted the accessibility of the language and explanation in the audit and that the Administration and Finance committee had voted to recommend to the full board the acceptance of the audit. He thanked the A&F team for their diligent work.

Brian Crowley from O'Connor & Drew then took the Board through the FY22 audit at a high level, noting it was a clean audit and recent and upcoming changes in GASB.

1. VOTE: To accept the FY22 audit

It was then **VOTED to accept the FY22 audit**, with all in favor.

Yes: Chair Hamilton, Trustee Bascome, Trustee Bhattacharya, Trustee Keane, Trustee Nessen, Trustee Snyder, Trustee Stone, Trustee Thompson

b. Executive Committee

Chair Hamilton shared the President's overview at the committee of all the happenings since the last meeting in June, such as the members of the Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts and Culture Committee of the State Legislature visiting to meet at MAAM and tour the campus. She shared that the Dean of Admissions and Enrollment Management Lauren Wilshusen briefed the committee on the demographics of the incoming class and strong enrollment numbers. She noted that more will be done on the by-laws after this fall semester.

c. Academic and Student Affairs committee

Trustee Bhattacharya noted that the committee welcomed the new student trustee and new staff. Provost Molife had reported on the new full and part-time faculty and the new faculty mentorship program. VP Keefe and Dean Costello had recounted orientation and upcoming initiatives. Dean Palu-ay had briefed the committee on the Compass program.

iii. Clery Report Presentation

Public Safety Chief Deborah Crafts provided an overview of the Clery report, noting the very low levels of crime in a broad array of areas, including drugs and weapons-related crimes.

iv. Student Community Standards

AVP/Dean of Students Jamie Glanton Costello took the Board through the changes to the Student Community Standards, which includes a reorganization and updates to language to make it clearer. It was also examined through an equity lens.

1. VOTE: To approve student community standards

It was then **VOTED to approve the student community standards**, with all in favor.

Yes: Chair Hamilton, Trustee Bascome, Trustee Bhattacharya, Trustee Keane, Trustee Nessen, Trustee Snyder, Trustee Stone, Trustee Thompson

b. External Affairs committee

Trustee Saragoni noted that the committee received a report regarding the Brand Refresh. The trustees will have a briefing with Moth on the Refresh on October 20. She noted that VP O'Malley gave an overview of the 150th Anniversary planning and notable giving. Trustee Saragoni also shared that MassArt Art Museum Executive Director Lisa Tung gave an update on the events at MAAM.

7. New Business

The group discussed using iPads for BoardEffect, a book by Dr. Tia McNair on student success that was distributed, and going over to the Tower building to preview the artwork on the elevators prior to the public opening.

8. Adjournment

Chair Hamilton adjourned the meeting at 5:55 pm.

Meeting Documents:

June 7 2022 meeting minutes

Tower Presentation

EY Parthenon Deck

Article: The Return of College as a Common Good

Article: Higher Ed's Hiring Crunch Was Already Bad. It Got Worse Over the Summer

Budget presentation

Budget FY23 memo

Fiscal Ops FY22 memo

Fiscal Ops FY22 report

Chairs report FY22

Audit

Public Safety Memo

Clery Report

Student Community Standards memo

Student Community Standards