

Board of Trustees
Academic and Student Affairs Committee
September 14, 2018 9:30am – 11:00am Alumni Room, Tower 11th Floor

MINUTES

Members present: Elisa Hamilton (Chair), Hazel Afamefuna, Christine Kondoleon, Jan Saragoni, Pamela Parisi, and David Nelson (Ex-Officio)

Members absent: None

Also attending: Maureen Keefe (Liaison), Lyssa Palu-ay (Liaison), Jamie Costello, Chris Wright, and Susana Segat (Secretary). Also attending: Student Brendon Kenny, sophomore, Fibers.

Call to Order

Chair Hamilton called the meeting to order at 9:30am and welcomed participants.

Approval of the Minutes: June 1, 2018

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the June 1, 2018 committee meeting.

Items Requiring A Vote

None provided.

Items for Discussion

Chair Hamilton invited Trustee Afamefuna to report on student activities. Trustee Afamefuna told trustees that the new board of the Student Government Association (SGA) had their first meeting on the year. They are working on a survey to get student input on whether to arm the MassArt campus police: the goal is to make sure everyone is heard. The SGA also reviewed the new sexual violence on-line training and approved a new creative writing club, formed from the new creative writing minor. President Nelson reported that he and the strategic planning co-vice-chairs presented the strategic plan at the SGA meeting. They talked to students about ways of giving feedback. Trustees discussed the composition of the new SGA board and the pipeline for student leadership.

Reports: Anti-Racism Conference: faculty and students and Reframing Critique: presentation with student leaders for orientation

Chair Hamilton received approval from the members to change the order of the agenda so the student presenting could be heard. The enrollment report was moved lower on the agenda.

Provost Palu-ay gave a brief update on the anti-racism conference, attended by a MassArt contingent of faculty, staff, and six students. MassArt delegates made presentations on their work in reframing critique. Brendon Kenny, one of the students who attended the conference, talked about his experience at the conference, the “zine” he developed for incoming students (distributed), and how new ways to critique were modeled for 500 students at this year’s MassArt orientation. President Nelson reported that there would be strategic planning work on developing new ways to critique, with the goal of making MassArt a national resource for learning and teaching. Trustees discussed the current gaps in critique training and how to best restructure orientation so that primers may lead conversations about critique. Provost Palu-ay noted that within the faculty, there is the beginnings of a cultural shift within their curriculum and an exploration of how to broaden our sense of assessment.

Reports: Enrollment Update

Dean Wright presented a snapshot of MassArt’s incoming class through a slide presentation (distributed). On questions on long-range enrollment goals, Dean Wright noted that the administration is starting discussions on this issue. In 2016, 473 students were enrolled. In 2017, 541 students were enrolled. This year, Dean Wright predicts that we will land at 523 students after the add/drop deadline. Next year, enrollment would probably be between 490 to 520 students.

On questions of where undergraduates are coming from, Dean Wright said that 74% are from Massachusetts. Every Massachusetts student who is qualified was accepted. Trustees discussed the geographic profile of the rest of the students. On questions about grade point averages (GPA), Dean Wright said that the GPA of admitted students last year was at 3.45. This year’s average GPA is 3.51. He stated that many students commute to campus from a two-three mile radius, and 16 students are dependents of members of the armed forces.

Dean Wright said that the net tuition revenue projection currently stands at \$7,806,700; and this number would change to \$7,710,700 post add/drop. The discount rate in 2016 was 33%; in 2017 it was 21%; and this year it is 19%. The college brought in more students and spent less money to recruit them. Trustees discussed the Board of Higher Education’s test-free pilot program. Last year, 53% of applicants did not submit standardized test scores: this year, 80%-85% of applicants did not submit these scores.

Trustees discussed the qualifications for students, commuting and residency expectations, the effects of lessening discount rates, and the benefits of out-of-state and International students.

Dean Wright provided a snapshot of the incoming graduate class. This year's goal was to enroll 39 students: we actually enrolled 68. Trustees discussed low residency programs, the upcoming graduate national portfolio day, and the work of the enrollment management strategy team. Chair Hamilton thanked Dean Wright for his report.

Other Business

Chair Hamilton asked Vice President Keefe for a brief update on the dialog groups. VP Keefe said that the data is still being reviewed. One impetus for the program was that several people attended the Undoing Racism Workshop last year. The college remains committed to make this workshop accessible through the Colleges of the Fenway twice for forty people. President Nelson explained that one of the five strategic planning priorities embeds diversity throughout, and that the diversity office would now have an expanded role to match the plan. He announced that Dr. Palu-ay had agreed to take leadership of that role, effective January 1, 2019 and will be doing transition work until then. President Nelson also informed trustees that a delegation of faculty, staff, and students would be attending and presenting at an upcoming University of Puget Sound Race and Pedagogy Conference.

President Nelson gave a brief update on the renovation of the Galleries/South Building. The state inspector had electrical and plumbing concerns so the building will remain closed for the year as planned future deferred maintenance projects are expedited. DCAMM has granted emergency waivers and agreed to expedite \$5.4m of MassArt's secured funding. A new deputy commissioner has been assigned to help on the project and weekly executive project meetings are being planned. Internally, all first year programs have been displaced for the year and attitudes remain positive. President Nelson plans to hire someone to do a post mortem on what happened.

Adjournment

On a motion duly made and seconded at 11:00 am, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn.

Documents provided: Meeting notice; Agenda; Minutes; enrollment report