

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

**MINUTES**

Members present: Elisa Hamilton (Chair), Hazel Afamefuna, Jan Saragoni. David Nelson (Ex-Officio)

Members absent: Christine Kondoleon

Also attending: Maureen Keefe (Liaison), Lyssa Palu-ay (Liaison), Jamie Costello, Chandra Mendez-Ortiz, Kymberly Pinder, Ernie Plowman, Dan Serig, Betsy Smith, Bethany Strohm, Chris Wright, and Susana Segat (Secretary).

Call to Order

Chair Hamilton called the meeting to order at 9:35am and welcomed participants.

Approval of the Minutes: September 14, 2018

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

**VOTED: To approve the minutes of the September 14, 2018 committee meeting.**

Items Requiring A Vote

Provost Palu-ay presented the applications for this year's sabbatical leave requests. She noted that Professor Liang is applying for this spring so he may be able to serve on search committees next year. She also noted that even though there were two professors requesting leave from the same department, leadership would continue to be ensured.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED: to approve the recommended sabbatical leaves:**

- **Kofi Kayiga, Fine Arts 2D, F19**
- **Gunta Kaza, Communic Design, F19**
- **Fred Liang, Fine Arts 2D, S20**
- **James McLeod, Fine Arts 3D, AY19-20**
- **Caitlin Pereira, Library, F19**
- **Joseph Quackenbush, Communic Design, S20**
- **Lisa Rosowsky, Communic Design, S20**
- **Wojciech Wolynski, Illustration, F19**

Reports: JED Foundation

Betsy Smith, Director of Counseling and Wellness Center, reported on the JED Foundation Campus Program, a non-profit organization that exists to protect the emotional health and prevent suicide for our nation's teens and young adults by partnering with colleges to strengthen their mental health, substance abuse and suicide prevention programs and systems. She presented data showing that the number of students with severe psychological problems on campuses has increased in the past year and that rates of anxiety and depression have skyrocketed in recent decades. At MassArt, the Counseling and Wellness Center (CWC) saw 510 students in 2017-2018 (as opposed to 242 students in 2008-2009) and 42% of graduating seniors were seen at CWC at some point during their college years. Director Smith discussed the "Campus Matters" program, "Don't Cancel that Class," and the composition of the Mental Health Task Force. President Nelson thanked Director Smith for her report and for her department's ongoing work. He said that these mental health efforts cost money, but they are worth it. If we can help student manage their issues now, their working lives will be better for it.

Reports: Artward Bound/Compass

Provost Palu-ay explained that Artward Bound and Compass programs are part of the *PK-16+* Pathways initiative in this year's strategic plan. Artward Bound covers 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade and Compass covers the college years. These programs support first generation college students with resources, opportunities by developing rigorous creative and critical thinking skills in young artists and designers. She introduced Artward Bound Director Chandra Mendez-Ortiz and Artward Bound Program Coordinator Bethany Strohm. They discussed the criteria for eligibility into each program, the participants' sending neighborhoods, the annual curriculum and program structures, and the need for more data collection. President Nelson thanked the group for their presentation and pointed out the importance of funding these initiatives. Trustees discussed "college readiness", Compass fellows, and the development of systemic academic pathways. Chair Hamilton thanked the presenters for working on these important programs that empower individuals and develop their self-agency.

Reports: Update from the Student Trustee

Trustee Afamefuna provided a brief update on recent Student Government Association (SGA) work, including outreach on the arming issue, the *Lead365* conference in Florida, *Fresh Check Day* at Boston Children's Hospital, and the ongoing conversations with Chartwell's Food Services. Trustees discussed the Chartwell's contract that expires in two years and the possibility of holding a dinner meeting with SGA leadership again this year.

Reports: Enrollment Update

Dean Wright distributed a packet of enrollment documents. He said that at this point in time, enrollment is 3% below the goal after add/drop, but said that these numbers are still on target with the fee tuition revenue projections. He added that enrollment is flat in Massachusetts, which is good since other colleges are experiencing a downturn. He said he was a little worried about New England numbers, but that these numbers are following the predicted trends. He added that Out-of-State numbers are up. Trustees discussed applications from transfer and graduate students. He said that the enrollment strategy is to reduce the merit side of aid and to increase the financial need contributions. Trustees discussed the pre-semester program and how admissions decisions are now being released on line instead of through the mail.

Other Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment

On a motion duly made and seconded at 11:05am, it was unanimously

**VOTED: To adjourn.**

Documents provided: Meeting notice; Agenda; Minutes; sabbatical memo and background documents