

MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
November 27, 2018 - 4:15 pm
Huntington Room

MINUTES

Trustees Present: Pamela Parisi (Chair), Hazel Afamefuna, Elisa Hamilton, Karen Keane, Denise Korn, Bill McQuillan, Peter Nessen, Jan Saragoni, Linda Snyder and David Nelson (Ex-Officio).

Trustees Absent: Christine Kondoleon, David Lee

Staff/Faculty Presenting: Maureen Keefe, Marjorie O'Malley, Lyssa Palu-ay, Bob Perry, and Susana Segat (BOT Secretary).

Call to Order

Chair Parisi called the meeting to order at 4:15pm. She announced that there would be no vote on campus safety, including whether to arm campus police, at this meeting.

Adoption of the Agenda

On a motion made and seconded, it was unanimously
VOTED: To adopt the agenda as submitted.

Consideration of the Minutes of Prior Meetings: September 25, 2018 Regular Meeting; October 2, 2018 Roundtable

On a motion made and seconded, it was unanimously
VOTED: to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2018 board meeting.

On a motion made and seconded, it was unanimously
VOTED: to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2018 roundtable on arming.

Report of the President

President Nelson said that once trustees approve the 2018-2023 strategic plan, the campus would then move to the implementation phase. He envisioned three main considerations for trustees to deliberate: 1) the philosophy behind the costs and tuition; 2) campus planning and capital needs; and 3) strategic development of a comprehensive campaign to create an endowment to support programs. He then announced that Professor Morell's new book has been published and is on display in the president's office.

Report of the Chair

Chair Parisi said that the BOT annual retreat, previously scheduled for December 14th, would be rescheduled for some time during the spring semester. The focus of this retreat would be the board's involvement in making the strategic plan successful.

Chair Parisi informed trustees that the BOT's External Affairs Committee, a currently-dormant standing committee, would be re-established. She recommended that Vice-Chair Saragoni serve as chair and asked trustees to speak with Trustee Saragoni directly if they were interested in serving as members of this committee.

Report of the Student Trustee

Trustee Afamefuna provided an update on the work students were organizing around the arming issue. The Student Government Association is also working with Chartwell's to provide healthy food options and to get to know the food service workers better. Chair Parisi thanked Trustee Afamefuna for her report. A group of students in the audience then interrupted the agenda to make a presentation. Chair Parisi exercised her discretion to allow this address to the Board and asked for a copy of their statement, which is included here:

We are today here as students, alumni, and community members in the vicinity of MassArt. Trustees, when the time comes, you must vote in the interests of the community and vote against arming campus officers with these lethal weapons. Arming campus officers would increase the risk of gun violence, increase discrimination against marginalized groups on campus, and prioritize the needs of campus officers over the needs of the community. A vote in favor of arming would be in flagrant disregard of community voices, especially students, and put our lives at risk. The reasons we know that arming officers is unnecessary and dangerous are as follows:

1. Crime data statistics from 2015-2017, released in MassArt's Clery Report for 2018, reflect an extremely low rate of incidents of escalated violence on campus. This demonstrates that there is no basis for the arming of campus police.

2. Arming campus police officers has historically and disproportionately affected black, brown, neurodivergent, trans, and other marginalized groups. MassArt officers are no exceptions, and projects such as the Real Talk Race on Campus and BLM teach-in have reported on such behavior.
3. MassArt has not been timely nor accountable to the community with the release of their research on campus safety, and has discredited more accurate data acquired by the Student Government Association. This data reveals that the majority does not want armed officers. The Board of Trustees must represent the interests of the community.

MassArt is a public institution that is frequented by people outside of the immediate MassArt community. This decision affects people beyond just faculty, staff and students. Therefore, this petition addresses everyone who interacts with, visits, and potentially will visit MassArt's campus. This document brings to question the legitimacy of who MassArt claims to be protecting and who they are protecting themselves from. MassArt cites projected crime data from the local neighborhood of Roxbury as the reason for arming. This shows that MassArt fears the people in the community and would target them. Perpetuating that we need to arm officers is violent, racist and upholds tenants of white supremacy and patriarchy. The arming of campus officers will result in discrimination of and harm to students, especially of marginalized identities.

We the undersigned demand that:

1. The board vote against the proposed measure to arm MassArt campus police officers.
2. MassArt hold consistent and frequent anti-racist trainings with reputable educators and community members for campus police officers, faculty, and staff, and make this information accessible to the MassArt community.
3. MassArt provide training for faculty and staff to develop protocols responding to emergency situations such as an active shooter with the MassArt community.

MassArt Board of Trustees, you claim you do not have enough information to make this decision. We are presenting you with the petition we just read with citations, and over 500 signatures from the community. Read and understand these points and do what is right for our community. No firearms at Massart!

Report of the Standing Committees: Executive Committee

Update on campus safety: Trustees continued the campus safety discussion. They agreed that anti-bias and active shooter trainings were important and that the college should move forward with this training. President Nelson said that the administration is reviewing the implementation of the recommendations from last spring, paying special attention to the Kennedy Building and also creating a campus safety advisory group. Trustees discussed next steps and requested that the next executive committee meeting time be extended for further discussion. President Nelson said that he would provide an "if/then" summary for their deliberations prior to the next executive committee meeting.

At 5:06pm, Chair Parisi called for a five-minute break so that microphones may be provided for trustees. At 5:15pm, the meeting resumed. VP Perry gave an update on the implementation of physical infrastructure safety changes. VP Keefe explained that regardless of an arming policy, the administration commits to creating an advisory campus safety group.

FY18 MassArt audit (Log 19-02): Chair Parisi reported on the actions taken by the executive committee with the authority delegated to them by the BOT regarding MassArt's annual audit. She said that the auditors reported a clean audit and she thanked the staff for their efforts. There were no questions for the auditor.

FY18 MassArt Foundation Audit: Chair Parisi explained that the executive committee had also reviewed the Foundation audit and it is now before trustees for their approval. There were no questions.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED Log 19-03: To accept the FY18 MassArt Foundation audit.

New MassArt Mission: President Nelson said that the MassArt mission had been edited during the strategic planning process. This proposed new mission statement was proposed as its own motion so as to conform to the BHE's process.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED Log 19-04: To approve MassArt's updated Mission Statement to read as follows:

Massachusetts College of Art and Design is a public, independent institution that prepares artists, designers, and educators from diverse backgrounds to shape communities, economies, and cultures for the common good.

The Board further authorizes the president to submit the same to the Board of Higher Education.

MassArt Strategic Plan 2018-2023: Chair Parisi asked trustees to vote on the proposed 2018-2023 MassArt strategic plan. Trustees noted their appreciation for the work done to produce such an exemplary plan.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED 19-05: To approve the MassArt Strategic Plan 2018-2023 and to submit the same for BHE approval.

Report of the Standing Committees: Administration and Finance Committee

FY19 Fiscal Operations Report through 10/31/18: Committee Chair Snyder brought forward the FY19 fiscal operations report through October 31st. She explained that this report had been discussed in detail at the A&F committee meeting

and appreciated the staff's effort to maintain a balanced budget. She pointed out that the notable risk would be the galleries/South Building construction: the college may have to bridge a gap of up to \$1m between paying costs and receiving pledges. This would be related to the timing of payments, not to budget deficits.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED Log 19-06: To approve the FY19 fiscal operations report through 10/31/18.

Fees for PCE's programs: Chair Snyder asked trustees to approve modest increases for selective PCE programs, as recommended by the A&F committee.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED Log 19-07: To approve the fees for PCE's Art New England, youth programs, Teaching for Artistic Behavior, Studio pre-semester, and cooperating institutions, effective summer 2019.

Fees for Boston Low Residency MFA: Chair Snyder introduced the documents relating to the Graduate Program's request on FY19 fees for Boston Low Residency MFA. She explained that there was a small increase for supplemental fees and that the department would be further discussing a long-range strategic approach to graduate costs. Trustees thanked Dean Paturzo for his efforts and congratulated him for returning to the faculty.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED Log 19-08: To Approve the Graduate Program's AY19 fees for Boston Low Residency MFA.

Report of the Standing Committees: Development Committee

Committee Chair Nessen noted that the next committee meeting would be held on December 17th. VP O'Malley presented information on the upcoming auction and invited trustees to attend.

Report of the Standing Committees: Academic and Student Affairs

Committee Chair Hamilton brought forward the recommended sabbatical leave applications.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED Log 19-09: To approve the recommended sabbatical leaves:

- Kofi Kayiga, Fine Arts 2D, F19
- Gunta Kaza, Communication Design, F19
- Fred Liang, Fine Arts 2D, S19 (amended)
- James McLeod, Fine Arts 3D, AY19-20
- Caitlin Pereira, Library, F19
- Joseph Quackenbush, Communication Design, S20
- Lisa Rosowsky, Communication Design, S20
- Wojciech Wolynski, Illustration, F19

Other Business

Trustees discussed sending a message to the president of the Student Government Association, explaining that trustees welcome student participation and engagement about all aspects of college life. They also discussed the balance between being heard and being disruptive and considered effective ways for being heard during public meetings.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED Log 19-10: To request that Chair Parisi craft a letter to the Student Government Association that conveys trustees' invitation for students to attend and carry conversations at board meetings regularly.

Chair Parisi exercised her discretion and allowed an alumna and current educator in the Boston Public Schools to present her viewpoint on arming campus police and the possibility of setting an example of what a safe, welcoming community might be.

Adjournment

On a motion duly made and seconded, at 5:45pm it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn