# MASSART

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2026, 9:45-10:15am
*Student Life Gallery, Kennedy Building, 2nd floor, MassArt*

**Trustees in attendance:** Chair Bascome; Vice Chair Korn; Trustees Keane, Ramapriya, Giraldo, Bump, McCreary, and Sherman

**Trustees absent:** Trustees Young, Saragoni and Bhattacharya

1. **Call to order**

Chair Bascome called the meeting to order at 9:53am and acknowledged Trustee and Past Board Chair Karen Keane, who is cycling off the board after 10 years, for her substantial contributions, leadership, and dedication to the College. He also thanked General Counsel Theresa O'Bryant upon her upcoming retirement for her service to MassArt and her wise counsel to the Board.

2. **Action Item: Approval of the minutes: April 14, 2026**

On a motion by Trustee Bump and a second by Trustee Sherman, it was then unanimously **VOTED: to approve the April 14, 2026 meeting minutes.**

3. **Report of the Chair**

Chair Bascome highlighted accomplishments from the academic year, including MassArt's leadership in the arts and culture space, progress towards securing funding for the Tower building, and graduating a new class of outstanding artists, designers, and educators. He praised President Grant and her leadership team for looking forward and advancing important planning processes such as the Campus Master Plan and Enrollment Planning to set MassArt up for future success. The Chair also thanked the President, staff, faculty, and trustees for their commitment and hard work in supporting MassArt.

a. **Report of the Student Trustee**

Student Trustee Jeffrey Young was unable to attend the meeting due to a personal emergency.

b. **Executive Committee Report**

Chair Bascome shared that Brendan O'Bryan, Director of Government and

Corporate Relations, had briefed the Executive Committee on the Dept. of Education regulations around graduate earnings outcomes, the state budget, and the BRIGHT Act. VP and Chief of Staff Robert Chambers covered the annual presidential evaluation.

i. **VOTE: to elect the Chair and Vice-Chair, effective 7/1/2026**

Trustee Keane called for a motion to reelect Daren Bascome as Chair and Denise Korn as Vice Chair for the 2026-27 academic year. On a motion by Trustee Ramapriya, and a second by Trustee Sherman, it was then unanimously **VOTED: to elect Daren Bascome as Chair and Denise Korn as Vice Chair, effective 7/1/2026.**

ii. **VOTE: to appoint standing committee chairs and standing committee members, effective 7/1/2026**

On a motion by Trustee Bump and second by Trustee Keane, it was then unanimously **VOTED: to accept the Chair's recommendation of committee chairs and members, as reflected in the board meeting materials, effective 7/1/2026.**

iii. **VOTE: to Delegate Authority**

On a motion by Trustee Keane and a second by Vice Chair Korn, it was then unanimously **VOTED: to delegate authority for the summer 2026 months.**

4. **Report of the President**

*President Grant's report is included at the end of these meeting minutes.*

5. **Reports of the Standing Committees**
   a. **Administration & Finance Committee**

Trustee Bump noted that a highlight from commencement for her was the greeting that every student received from their faculty as they crossed the stage, a testament to the culture created at MassArt.

i. **VOTE: to approve the FY27 Undergraduate Rates and the Proposed FY27 Budget**

Trustee Bump shared that the A&F Committee had a thorough discussion at their last meeting about approving the FY27 interim budget, and concluded that since the state budget was not complete and enrollment numbers yet to be finalized, the strategy of doing an interim budget was the right one. She also noted the work done to minimize fees for students and the leadership's important efforts to engage with students regarding the tuition and fee

increases. There was brief discussion about the potential impact of the income tax ballot question on public higher education and how that made the strategy of an interim budget an even smarter way forward. Should there be any major changes over the summer, the A&F committee will be convened.

VP Perry thanked President Grant on behalf of all in the room for her outstanding leadership and then presented the proposed undergraduate fees and interim budget. There were discussions about achieving a level budget given the current conditions, how more information about the budget will come over the summer, meeting with students about the rates and their understanding of the necessity of increases given higher costs in the overall economy, and that this interim budget does not sacrifice important priorities like academic and student support.

On a motion by Trustee Sherman and second by Trustee Ramapriya, it was then unanimously **VOTED: to approve the FY27 Undergraduate Rates and The FY27 Interim Budget.**

VP Perry also gave an FY26 fiscal update and Trustee Bump shared that the A&F Committee had also been briefed on facilities, including DCAMM critical repair projects taking place through FY28 and thanked the hardworking facilities team for their hard work.

**b. Academic & Student Affairs Committee**

Trustee Giraldo shared that Provost Molife had provided highlights from the 4th annual Climate and Justice Teach In and the Integrative Sciences and Biological Arts Department's Bio Bonanza and shared that Art Education Professor Beth Balliro will become the new Director of the Learning and Teaching Center. VP Zink had given an overview of the new on-campus summer component to the undergraduate orientation program, which will maintain student engagement over the summer and had reported that the Admissions Office will be moving back across the street this summer from the Artists Residence to the more visible first floor of the South Building. Also at the meeting, VP Palu-ay had discussed the success of the Repair Project, CACP workshops, and collaborations between the ALAANA Collective and student Affinity Groups.

Vice Chair Korn noted the amount of events that have flourished since President

Grant's arrival, which shows the support of the academic leadership and the ideas coming from MassArt into the community. She noted the role of these events in introducing the community to MassArt as a place of resourcefulness and expertise.

**c. Advancement Committee**

Trustee Sherman had chaired the Advancement Committee meeting while Committee Chair Saragoni was traveling, and reported that the Committee received updates on strong MassArt Art Museum winter marketing campaign results, admissions marketing efforts, the new Alumni Connect platform that had attracted 450 sign ups before its full launch, and fundraising currently outperforming goals by 25%.

**6. New Business**

There was no new business.

**7. Adjournment**

Chair Bascome adjourned the meeting at 10:44am.

*Meeting materials:*

- *April 14, 2026 Meeting Minutes*
- *Current and proposed Committee roster*
- *Presentation slides*
- *Approval of the FY27 Interim Budget Memo*
- *Budget spreadsheets*
- *Chairs report*
- *Financial ops report*
- *FY27 Tuition and Fees for Undergraduate Programs Memo*

**Remarks shared at the 2026 MassArt Annual Board meeting by President Mary K. Grant:**

As we wrap up this academic year – and what a year it has been – there are so many issues that I could talk about, but I'm not going to – we know what they are – there are plenty of threats and challenges. I want to take this time today to share some thanks and gratitude.

Graduation was a spectacular culmination of this year – and all the days and years for our students that lead up to it – and, it was a joyous and hopeful beginning for

our graduates as they head out into the world – that gives me hope.

MassArt holds an important place. We are a public college, we are a convener, a creator, and a collaborator for art, design, and culture. We are an anchor institution with a public and civic mission that grounds us in our city but reaches communities far and wide.

Artists and designers make, shape, and chronicle history. They approach the work, the problem, the issue, the challenge, or the opportunity, with curiosity, generosity, imagination, an eye for details, and with great heart and courage. And they are brave. They put themselves out there. They stick with it, and their path is not always an easy one.

They have the skills to help us rebuild and reimagine a democracy that is under threat. That's not hyperbole or an overreaction – it's where we are at. In the face of that, working with our graduates gives me great optimism and a deeply held belief that our mission is even more important.

We do this good work together and there are so many thanks to share – so please sip your coffee and indulge me:

Thank you to Hannah, Lorraine, and Schuyler for every day making things happen, for getting things done, and for going above and beyond. Hannah and Lorraine have the unenviable task of figuring out how to sometimes find eight days a week. I'm so grateful for them, for all they do and how they do it!

Thank you Robert for the nine days a week you have somehow found and your patience when I come into your office and ask for something and then return three minutes later wondering where it is. My thanks to the 24/7 public safety and IT teams that you lead and partner with and who keep us safe, secure, and connected.

Thank you Theresa for your expert legal guidance but even more so for your wise and generous counsel. We will miss you upon your upcoming retirement.

Thank you Brendan for the well-worn path to City Hall, the state house, the capitol and, frankly, anyone who will let us in.

Thank you Temple for jumping in with both feet so quickly and for the entire marketing/comms team for supporting you in the leap and in the important work of getting the good word out in so many ways.

Thank you Brenda for leading with grace, patience, and empathy and to your academic colleagues for the powerful educational and creative mission that they deliver on every day. From new programs to program reviews, to a powerhouse Museum, to partnerships and innovative opportunities every day we continue to make progress and I'm grateful to have you as a partner in this work.

Thank you Bob for the work of you and your teams in getting everything, everywhere, all at once done. And, then, sometimes redone. From purchasing, to payroll, to painting, to planning, to financing our students' futures, and so much in between – if you all don't operate well, none of us do either. So, thank you!

Thank you Corey for joining us and for the energy and can-do spirit you have brought to this new role and to your incredible teammates who are working so hard every day to recruit the next generation of MassArt alumni and to the brilliant, empathetic colleagues who work day and night with our students on rounding out the classroom experiences in so many ways.

Thank you Emily for lifting up MassArt and for building support for the future and my thanks to your team for engaging our alumni and so many supporters and friends in ways that will set our students and our community up for lasting success. My thanks to our Foundation Board and Alumni Leadership Council who give of their time, resources, and expertise so generously.

Thank you Lyssa for keeping the powerful work of equity, inclusion, diversity, and cultural humility centered and central and for the enriching and high impact work of community, civic, justice, and youth pathways. Thank you for inviting all of us to be a part of this.

To the faculty who bring our students along – challenging them and lifting them up and celebrating their accomplishments at Commencement and to the librarians, staff, and administrators all across this campus who do remarkable work day in and day out – my thanks.

To our students who trust us and enrich us, thank you and to our alumni who continue to carry MassArt into the world – thank you.

And to you trustees – you do so much for MassArt, for public higher education, for the Commonwealth. You are true champions of the mission. You help us do our work better. You hold us accountable and you have our backs – wow, what a privilege to do this work with you, thank you for the trust and confidence.

Thank you Karen for your decade of board service and leadership.

At times like this I'm reminded of Corita Kent who was a brilliant educator, artist, and advocate and a sister in the Immaculate Heart of Mary. She did groundbreaking, inspirational work. She famously created 10 rules for the art department at Immaculate Heart – I will close with three, that seem fitting:

- "Find a place you trust, then try trusting it for a while." Thank you all for trusting MassArt.
- "Nothing is a mistake. There's no win and no fail, there's only make." So, let's keep making.
- "The only rule is work. If you work it will lead to something. It's the people who do all of the work all the time who eventually catch on to things."

Thank you for trusting, making and doing all the work, all of the time. It's a privilege and an honor to do this work together.