MASSART

Board of Trustees
Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2026
Zoom

Committee members in attendance: Committee Chair Giraldo; Board Chair Bascome; Vice Chair Korn; Trustees Bhattacharya, McCreary, and Muzac

Other Trustees in Attendance: Trustees Bump and Keane

Others in attendance: Robert Chambers, Jamie Costello, Tim Cusack, Antony Flackett, Emily Foster Day, Temple Gill, President Mary Grant, Hannah Johnson, Brenda Molife, Theresa O'Bryant, Lyssa Palu-ay, Robert Perry, Kate Russell, Corey Zink, Elizabeth Smith-Freedman

1. **Call to Order**
   Chair Giraldo called the meeting to order at 9:07 am.

2. **Vote on Meeting Minutes - November 21, 2025**
   On a motion made by Trustee Korn and a second by Trustee Bhattacharya, it was then **VOTED: to approve the November 21, 2025 meeting minutes.**

   Yes: Committee Chair Giraldo; Board Chair Bascome; Vice Chair Korn; Trustees Bhattacharya, McCreary and Muzac

3. **Student Trustee Report**
   Student Trustee Muzac reported on their engagement and outreach efforts. These include attending recent MAC Board Bingo and the Late Night Breakfast. Trustee Muzac also discussed the upcoming SGA full council meeting and the Black Artist Union (BAU) opening.

4. **Academic Affairs Report**
   Provost Brenda Molife provided a presentation on the two-year, $98,880 grant that MassArt received from the Davis Educational Foundation for the Learning and Teaching Center. She also reported on MassArt's successful reaccreditation process. The NECHE visiting team specifically highlighted trustees' high level of engagement in the process.

5. **Student Affairs Report**
   Vice President of Student Success and Enrollment Management Corey Zink provided an update on how funds from the Student Success Grant are being used in year two of the grant cycle. He also provided information on CRM Advise, an advising tool that can assist in identifying at-risk students so that staff can respond with appropriate interventions. A pilot will launch next fall for first year students and Studio Foundation faculty. Associate Dean of the Academic Resource Center Elizabeth Smith-Freedman presented on the

Student Success Coach Program, which is expanding this year. Coaches are Simmons graduate social work students who help first-year and transfer students transition to MassArt. There were discussions about graduation rates and the level of support needed for students.

6. **Civic and Community Engagement Report**
   Vice President of Civic and Community Engagement Lyssa Palu-ay announced MassArt's Carnegie Community Engagement Classification, recognizing MassArt's deep, pervasive, and integrated practice of civic and community engagement.
   She also announced several community members and initiatives nominated for the Campus Compact Impact Awards. President Grant was awarded the Richard Guarasci Presidential Leadership Award. The CACP team and sparc! the ArtMobile received the Civic and Community Engagement Programming Award. Illustration Professor/Chair Lisa Kennedy was nominated for the Civically Engaged Faculty Award. MassArt Industrial Design Students, MIT's D-Lab, & the Atlantic Fellows were nominated for the Excellence in Community Engaged Partnership Award.

7. **New Business**
   There was no new business.

8. **Adjournment**
   Chair Giraldo adjourned the meeting at 9:50 am.

Meeting materials:

- *November 21, 2025 meeting minutes*
- *Academic & Student Affairs Updates Memo*
- *Meeting Slide Deck*