MASSART

Board of Trustees

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2026
Zoom

Committee Members in Attendance: Committee Chair Giraldo; Board Chair Bascome; Trustees Bhattacharya, McCreary, Talland and Young

Committee Members Absent: Vice Chair Korn

Other Trustees in Attendance: Trustees Bump and Saragoni

Others in Attendance: Elena Belle White, Robert Chambers, Patrick Clay, Jamie Costello, Tim Cusack, Antony Flackett, President Mary Grant, Hannah Johnson, Brenda Molife, Lyssa Palu-ay, Kate Russell, Corey Zink, Temple Gill

1. **Call to Order**
   Chair Giraldo called the meeting to order at 12:33 pm.

2. **Vote on Meeting Minutes -** *May 29, 2026*

   On a motion made by Trustee Young and a second by Trustee Bhattacharya, it was then **VOTED: to approve the *May 29, 2026* meeting minutes.**

   Yes: Committee Chair Giraldo; Board Chair Bascome; Trustee Bhattacharya, Trustee Talland, Trustee Young

3. **Student Trustee Report**
   In his report, Student Trustee Jeffrey Young highlighted the warm welcome that new and returning students received from RAs and Primers. He also recognized John Intoppa and the MassArt Activities Council for hosting another successful Bingo night the week prior.

4. **Annual Clery Act Report**
   Chief Patrick Clay provided this year's Clery report. He noted that the only notable change in statistics was due to motorized scooters newly being included in motor vehicle theft reports, which accounts for the increase in the report. He reported that there were no hazing incidents to report at MassArt.

5. **Academic Affairs Report**
   Provost Molife reviewed initiatives that the academic affairs team will be taking on this year, including working with Technology on researching AI use in the curriculum and establishing a BFA in Visual Arts, a new 120 credit degree program that would utilize existing course offerings to structure a

curriculum that emphasizes interdisciplinary practice. Provost Molife noted that the proposed BFA in Visual Arts will require approval by the Department of Higher Ed, as well as the Board of Trustees, after being vetted and approved through the campus governance process.

6. **Student Success and Enrollment Management Report**
   Vice President Corey Zink provided an overview of MassArt's first-ever mid-summer orientation. Two-thirds of incoming students attended one of two sessions this June. Admissions is settling into their new space on the first floor of the South Building. Enrollment figures show that while MassArt admitted fewer new students this year overall undergraduate enrollment is up slightly, while graduate numbers remain steady. MassArt is seeing increased enrollment in transfer, First Generation, and BIPOC students, as well as students from New York, who now have access to the New England tuition rate, as a "Neighboring State."

7. **Civic and Community Engagement Report**
   Elena Belle White, Director of the Center for Art and Community Partnerships (CACP) shared that CACP connected Professor Irena Roman's Professional Illustration for the Community class with the Du Bois Freedom Center in Great Barrington for a project about Elizabeth Freeman, a young woman who sued for her freedom in 1781, helping lay the legal foundation for slavery's end in Massachusetts. Students created portraits and courtroom illustrations developed through historical research and collaborative critique. Their work is on display through October 30th, 2026 and two illustrations were selected for a permanent kiosk. VP Lyssa Plau-ay shared that the Summer Youth Programs hosted 219 students in more than 12 creative disciplines, such as sculpture and fashion.

8. **New Business**

   There was no new business.

9. **Adjournment**

   Chair Giraldo adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m.

Meeting materials:

1. *May 29, 2026 meeting minutes*
2. *Academic & Student Affairs Committee Updates Memo*
3. *Clery Report*
4. *Clery Report Memo*
5. *Meeting Slide Deck*