MASSART

Board of Trustees
February 3, 2026, 4-6pm
Huntington Room

Trustees in Attendance: Chair Bascome, Vice Chair Korn; Trustees Keane, Bump, Giraldo, Sherman, Ramapriya, and Bhattacharya

Trustees Absent: Trustees Saragoni, Muzac, and McCreary

1. **Call to Order**
   Chair Bascome called the meeting to order at 4:10pm.

2. **Action Item: Approval of the minutes: December 9, 2025**
   On a motion by Vice Chair Korn and a second by Trustee Bhattacharya, it was then unanimously VOTED: to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2025 board meeting.

3. **Report of the Chair**
   Chair Bascome thanked the MassArt team for a joyful Opening Day celebration and congratulated President Grant on receiving the Pinnacle Award for Achievement in Arts and Education from the Boston Chamber of Commerce Women's Network and using it as an opportunity to lift up MassArt. He also shared that Student Trustee Muzac was unable to attend this meeting due to conflict with one of their classes.

4. **Report of the President**
   President Grant acknowledged work of the Joy Committee and AVP and Dean of Students Jamie Costello on making the opening breakfast a bright start to the spring semester. She also thanked the facilities, public safety, and residence life teams for their work responding to the recent snow storm, and asked everyone to observe a moment of silence for Institutional Security Officer Richard Spalding, who had recently passed after serving at MassArt for over a decade.

   The President shared that MassArt is the only art and design school to have received the Carnegie Classification this year, a reflection of MassArt's extensive community work. She also discussed the Governor's budget that had recently been released and how MassArt is focused on and advocating for its state budgetary priorities the advancement of the BRIGHT Act.

5. **Reports of the Standing Committees**
   a. **Advancement Committee**
      Trustee Sherman gave the Advancement Committee Report in Chair Saragoni's absence. She reported that the Committee covered admissions marketing efforts, including the first physical admitted student packets in several years–with clings and beautiful materials to

get admitted students excited about MassArt, and social media and public transit campaigns underway to promote MAAM.

She shared that the committee also heard from the Institutional Advancement team about FY26 fundraising progress, which has reached over 57% to goal by December 31st, halfway through the Fiscal Year. MassArt had its best Giving Tuesday yet, raising $82K, a 40% increase over last year. Upcoming initiatives include the MAAM campaign, the Auction on April 11, Fashion Show Party on May 16, and a new online alumni platform launching in May that will feature an online alumni directory, community networking, affinity groups, and much more.

b. Executive Committee

i. Board Meeting Calendar, FY26-27

Chair Bascome reported that Admissions Dean Lauren Wilsusen gave the Executive Committee an overview of spring 2026 incoming students and fall recruitment efforts and noted that MassArt is seeing a slight increase in Early Action applications. Spring 2026 recruitment events include Accepted Students Days and Scholarship Breakfasts at MassArt and additional Accepted Student Receptions in Worcester and Brockton.

VP of Student Success and Enrollment Management Corey Zink also gave a presentation on annual graduate and undergraduate enrollment data and anticipated trends. He covered the impact of the enrollment cliff and plans to develop an enrollment management plan with the assistance of a firm specializing in this work.

Brendan O'Bryant, Director of Government and Corporate Relations, briefed the Committee on plans for advocacy on the BRIGHT Act and for the MassArt campus line item in the State budget, as well as on other issues like financial aid. In follow up to her briefing with the Executive Committee earlier this academic year, General Counsel Theresa O'Bryant discussed the State Auditor's report on state agencies' settlement agreements, including MassArt.

Chair Bascome also noted that the Board meeting calendar for the next year was in the trustees' meeting packets.

c. Administration & Finance Committee

Trustee Bump shared that at the January 23rd Administration and Finance Committee meeting, the Committee voted favorably on a recommendation from the Investment Advisory Group to implement a new investment allocation strategy of moving toward a portfolio of 60% equities and 40% bonds. This aligns with MassArt's Investment Policy, commitment to responsible investing values, and specific objectives for both return and liquidity.

The Committee also had a briefing on the Campus Master Plan. Consultancy Studio Enee is in the information-gathering phase, with campus tours and stakeholder meetings, including one with Trustees and Foundation Board Directors on February 17. The Master Plan will be informed by MassArt's strategic plan, changes to teaching and learning on the horizon, the campus's physical needs, and the Commonwealth's goals regarding sustainability and decarbonization.

Trustee Bump reported that VP Perry provided an update on the New York Rate Pilot, which will be under the umbrella of the "Neighboring State" program for both prospective and currently enrolled students. Applications from New York are currently up 17%—tracking at 205 compared to 175 at this time last year.

VP Robert Perry then provided trustees with an update on the FY26 Budget. The College's budget is currently on track to end the year on balance, despite increased delivery charges for utilities.

d. Academic & Student Affairs Committee

Trustee Giraldo reported that at the Academic & Student Affairs Committee meeting, Trustee Muzac had reported on student engagement and outreach. The Academic & Student Affairs Committee also heard from Provost Brenda Molife on the $98,880 two-year grant that MassArt received from the Davis Educational Foundation to support the Learning and Teaching Center and MassArt's successful reaccreditation process. Trustee Giraldo thanked trustees for their high level of engagement in the process, something noted by the visiting team in their report.

Vice President of Student Success and Enrollment Management Corey Zink provided a report on the usage of Student Success Grant funds and CRM Advise, an advising tool that assists faculty and the Academic Resource Center with the early identification of students who may be struggling so that staff can respond with appropriate interventions. Elizabeth Smith Freedman, Associate Dean of the Academic Resource Center, presented the Student Success Coach Program, staffed by coaches who are Simmons graduate social work students helping first-year and transfer students through their transition to MassArt.

VP of Civic and Community Engagement Lyssa Palu-ay reported on MassArt's Carnegie Community Engagement Classification and announced that several of community members and initiatives had won or been nominated for the Campus Compact Impact Awards:

- President Grant has been awarded the Richard Guarasci Presidential Leadership Award for her deep commitment to civic and community engagement.
- The CACP team and sparc! the ArtMobile are receiving the

Civic and Community Engagement Programming Award for their community work.

- Professor/Chair Lisa Kennedy from Illustration was nominated for the Civically Engaged Faculty Award for her work in Graphic Medicine and community engaged curriculum
- MassArt Industrial Design Students, MIT's D-Lab, & the Atlantic Fellows were nominated for the Excellence in Community Engaged Partnership Award for their project on health equity in South Africa partnering with The Reliable Community Access for Public Health Center.

6. **Presentation:**
   a. **MAC Board**

   John Intoppa, Program Coordinator for Student Engagement and former MassArt student trustee was joined by five MassArt Activities Council (MAC) Board student leaders to present the work of MAC:
   - **Noah Pirperis** '26, Director of MAC (Illustration)
   - **Elise Riddell** '26, Assistant Director (Glass)
   - **Grace Melo** '27, Secretary (Communication Design)
   - **Ella Berard** '27, Campus Connections Coordinator (Communication Design & Painting)
   - **Ava Halter** '28, Live Entertainment Coordinator (Illustration)

   MassArt celebrated MAC Board's 25th anniversary last year, and the anniversary celebration showed the impact MAC has had on alumni's career trajectories and connections. They also developed a MAC Board branding system, and discussed how the MAC Minis program allows students to get experience and prepare to step into leadership roles.

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

8. **Adjournment**
   Chair Bascome adjourned the meeting at 5:07pm.

Meeting materials:

- *December 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes*
- *Powerpoint slide deck*
- *FY26-27 Board Meeting Calendar*