

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CONTROL OF THE ART STUDENTS LEAGUE OF NEW YORK, HELD FEBRUARY 9, 2022, PURSUANT TO NOTICE DULY GIVEN, VIA INTERNET TELECONFERENCE (ZOOM).

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. with President Robin Frank in the chair.

Board of Control (BoC) Members Present: Robin Frank, Marcie Bronkar, Yoko Cohen, Stephen Durkee, Jack Gordon, Jack Howard-Potter, Fran Jacobs, Harriet Lester, Stephen Rosenthal, Jonathan Spies, Jacquetta Szathmari, Charles van Horne

Also present: Michael Hall, Executive Director; Karen Gaines, CFO; staff member/Assistant Secretary Thomas Tacik, taking minutes.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting of the Board of Control, held January 12, 2022, having been circulated to the Board Members, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, were approved.
3. **Membership Reinstatement Requests:** There were no applications for reinstatement.
4. **President's Report:**

President Robin Frank provided an update on recent donations and bequests. President Frank noted the passing of member Herbert Oppenheim, and commented on a recent Daniel Chester French documentary which mentioned The League. President Frank also noted the need to replace staff member Thomas Tacik as Assistant Secretary to the Board of Control.

5. **Executive Director's Report:**

Artistic/Executive Director Michael Hall notified the Board of instructor Rhoda Sherbell's transition to emeritus status. Mr. Hall also provided updates on recent staff changes, in-person and online instructors, recent enrollment data, and efforts for planning the 150th anniversary of The League.

6. **Committee Reports:**

Development: Committee Chair Marcie Bronkar discussed plans for future committee meetings, and reported on a recent meeting with Director of Development Elizabeth Kingman to review current development department activities. Ms. Bronkar also discussed reviving events at The League that would be inclusive of the entire community. Ms. Bronkar noted the potential for an advisor to join the committee.

Finance: Committee Chair Vice President Charles van Horne asked CFO Karen Gaines to review the 990 forms for The League and the American Fine Arts Society.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board of Control unanimously approved both the 990 for the Art Students League of New York, and the 990 for the American Fine Arts Society.

Ms. Gaines then went on to review the following reports: financial statements for the period ending December 31, 2021; budget forecasting with gross margin analysis for fiscal year 2022; the history of price increases; comparative pricing.

There followed a discussion regarding the impact of tuition increases. It was noted that price increases did not produce noticeable attrition. Further discussion involved obtaining more detail on the actual cost of classes and services in order to understand sustainability.

Board member Stephen Durkee discussed strategic planning efforts regarding tuition, affordability, and development efforts. Mr. Hall discussed tuition relief in the form of Director's Scholarships. Board member Jack Howard-Potter noted that The League's mission was being fulfilled by providing subsidized art education. There followed a discussion regarding a review of current tuition and fee policies.

Vice President van Horne noted the importance of understanding all financial data in order to gauge sustainability. Board member Stephen Rosenthal noted that affordability may help in fundraising. Board member Harriet Lester asked if it would be possible to ask students about donating to The League, or about financial need, at the point of registration. Ms. Gaines stated that this was being discussed by the administration.

President Frank then called for a resolution to accept online class registration hours towards membership eligibility through May 31, 2022. There followed a discussion led by Board member Yoko Cohen regarding the in-person class requirement for membership eligibility as members could impact the disposition and health of the building. Board member Stephen Durkee noted that it was unknown how membership would impact students with only online registration

Vice President Jacquetta Szathmari noted that the question could be put to the membership. President Frank asked the communications committee to draft a proposal for the inclusion of online hours towards membership eligibility. The resolution was tabled pending feedback from the membership at the April business meeting.

Programs: Committee Chair Harriet Lester reported on a recent meeting with Director of Programs Robert Telenick. Dr. Lester noted that closing The League for in-person classes in January was a good decision. Dr. Lester also reported that Mr. Telenick was pleased with registration for online classes. Board member Stephen Rosenthal led a discussion on offering “beginner” designated classes in order to attract new students. There followed a discussion on how to frame current offerings in this context. Mr. Hall noted the potential for this from analysis of e-telier registration data.

Collections: Committee Chair President Frank noted that the committee would be focused on reviewing The League’s formal Collections Policy.

Building: Committee Chair Stephen Rosenthal noted that any future renovations to the first floor skylights would have to include programming considerations in order to understand the impact on classes.

Member Outreach & Communications: Committee Chair Vice President Jacquetta Szathmari invited all board members to the next scheduled committee meeting.

Strategic Planning: Committee chair Stephen Durkee reported on a recent meeting with Mr. Hall to discuss defining board and staff involvement in strategic planning.

Constitution Reform Committee: Committee Chair Yoko Cohen provided an update on current committee activities and an overview of upcoming amendments to the by-laws, noting that the proposals would be presented at the next board meeting.

7. New Business:

President Frank led a discussion on holding the next board meeting in-person at The League. Vice President Szathmari asked if the meeting could be both online and in-person. President Frank responded that yes, the board meeting, as well as the upcoming members business meeting, could be a hybrid of in-person and remote access. Board member Marcie Bronkar discussed plans for an off-site meeting of the board.

President Frank noted that board members who receive complaints should refer students to the office.

There being no further business, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.



Robin Lechter Frank, President

March 9, 2022

Date:



Thomas Tacik, Staff Member & Asst. Secretary
(Taking Minutes)

March 9, 2022

Date: