

**MINUTES OF A CAUCUS MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ART STUDENTS LEAGUE OF NEW YORK, HELD WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2019, PURSUANT TO NOTICE DULY GIVEN, IN THE GALLERY AT THE LEAGUE'S BUILDING AT 215 WEST 57<sup>TH</sup> STREET, NEW YORK CITY.**

President Thomas Harvey called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.  
Staff member Tom Tacik acted as Recording Secretary.

**I. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the April 10, 2019, Business Meeting were read and approved without opposition.

**II. Address of the President**

President Harvey introduced Board of Control members in attendance, and delivered the following report:

*Good evening, All.*

*My name is Tom Harvey, and for the past two years, it has been my honor to serve as the President of the Board of Governors of the Art Students League.*

*Tonight is a special evening for a number of reasons, primarily because tonight you have the opportunity to nominate candidates for President and the two vice presidents of the League, one nominated by men and the other by women. That is certainly an anachronism — and most likely not even legal today. But at the time that a “Vice President nominated by women” was included as a part of the Constitution of the League, I believe that it was considered to be quite progressive. This assured that there would be a woman artist in a position of prominence in the management of the League.*

*We will also be nominating others to fill three elected positions on the Board of Control. Shortly after the election results are compiled in December, the elected officers and members will meet to select an additional six League members to serve on the Board. I do hope that many of you will express your interest in being considered for appointment. We always hope to have a diverse Board, composed of artists active with different mediums — drawing, painting, sculpture and print making — who can assure that each of those has a voice in League management. And also artists with a variety of different professional backgrounds which we will be able to call upon.*

*I would like to thank so many of you who have participated in the survey of League members and in the many focus groups held over the summer. These exercises were designed to elicit what each of the League constituencies — our students, our instructors, our models and our staff — value about the League. And there is a lot. One thing that I find particularly gratifying is that each of our constituencies values each other. One consistent theme is that everyone values the sense of camaraderie in the safe, respectful and nurturing environment that is the League.*

*Perhaps the most common comment made in each of these encounters is: “I just love the League.” And there are many reasons that that is so. I have said before, the League offers young people an introduction to the arts. It offers journeyman artists seeking to make art a career with the instruction and mentorship that will help them to make that come to pass. And the League offers others — like myself — who have had long careers in other areas a chance to express the creativity that has been suppressed for so long. How could one not love an institution that offers so much to so many.*

*And it does so at an affordable cost. The League's tuition payments cover only about 39% of the cost of running this institution. We are fortunate to have a substantial endowment from which we draw funds each year to help make up our tuition shortfall. We are also fortunate to have many generous donors who support the League on an on going basis and who remember the League in their estate plans. But we*

*need more of you to join the donor group. Only about 16% of our membership actually donates to the League. As we apply for grants from other funding organizations, among the statistics they look at include the percentage of membership that actually demonstrates their love for the League through financial support.*

*So, if you are not currently a donor, please do consider including the League in your philanthropic plans. And if you are a donor, please consider increasing your annual donation. And, of course, do consider including the League in your estate plans.*

*One thing that came out of the recent membership survey is that, while members value the fact that the League is relatively low cost — and everyone would like that to remain so — many also said that they would consider donating to the League if it would help to keep tuition low. That is, in fact, what your generous contributions do.*

*In a recent conversation with one of my colleagues on the Board he mentioned how often we hear that today's League members were actually introduced to the League by an parent or other relative. He made reference to that oft mentioned line, I just love the League — and he added to that: “and pass it on.” We have a strong institution here. We are well endowed, and with your continued support, we will be able to pass the League on to generations of artists to come.*

### **III. Election of New Members**

A list of candidates applying to become members was projected. The new members were approved without opposition.

### **IV. Deferred Business**

There was no deferred business.

### **V. New Business**

- a. Nomination of Board of Control candidates.

The following members were nominated to run in the Board of Control elections:

#### President

Thomas Harvey  
Robin Lechter Frank  
Jaron Newton

#### Vice President Nominated by Men

Ezra Bookstein  
Judah Feigenbaum

#### Vice President Nominated by Women

Charlotte Bialek  
Luz-Mary Harris  
Lola DeMiguel

#### Board Members

Beth Berns  
Cathy Blake  
Val Brochard  
Jack Gordon  
Robert Morris  
Julia Salinas  
Raj Shahani  
Nelsena Burt-Spano  
Jeff Sundheim

- b. Other new business: The floor was opened to comments from the members.

Board member Charlotte Bialek suggest randomly listing the candidates on the ballot. There followed a discussion regarding the order of names on the ballot. President Harvey suggested drawing the names at random.

Instructor Bruce Dorfman discussed confusion regarding instructors and membership status. Member Andy Reiss stated that this was two separate issues.

Member Val Brochard stated that staffers cannot serve on the board.

Instructor Deborah Winiarski proposed an amendment to the By-laws to exempt Instructors from the rule concerning employees and electioneering.

There followed a discussion regarding electioneering and instructors.

Member Andy Reiss asked a question regarding Board of Control candidates and electioneering among members.

Instructor Deborah Winiarski asked if Board members have to be members of The League. President Harvey responded that yes, Board candidates have to be members of The League.

A member asked if candidates for President and Vice President are also eligible to be candidates for regular Board position during the same election. President Harvey responded that no, they are candidates only for either of those two positions.

Member Sergio Lora requested more information regarding candidates. Board member Robin Frank suggested scheduling multiple meetings for candidates to meet with members. Member Andy Reiss discussed the timing of these meetings and suggested holding separate meetings at noon, 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m., and Saturday.

Board member Robin Frank proposed sharing member email lists with candidates.

Member Andy Reiss discussed email distribution of information among candidates and members, and member Jeff Sauber suggested creating an online chat board as being more efficient to share comments and information among members and candidates.

At this point in the meeting President Harvey introduced Board member Julia Salinas, who then read a summary draft of the in-progress Strategic Plan which had been distributed to the members (see below). Ms. Salinas thanked all who took part in the recent survey and focus groups, which generated much important information. Ms. Salinas reviewed the draft and highlighted goals identified by the membership and invited members to submit further feedback.

***This is not the Strategic Plan. This is the beginning of the drafting process. These are the proposed categorical headlines only, synthesized from the focus groups and member survey, that will guide the plan.***

***Next 6 Months – Finish writing Strategic Plan and get BoC approval***

***2 Year Plan – Complete strategic & renovations planning, develop Capital Campaign***

***5 Year Plan – Conduct Capital Campaign & initiate renovations; celebrate 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025***

***10 Year Aspirations – Our diverse and engaged community of instructors, students, and staff enjoy a vibrant program in our beautiful 57<sup>th</sup> Street building as an iconic, enduring, and vital part of the New York arts community.***

- 1. MISSION: Uphold and Protect Core Values and Traditions***
- 2. VISION: Increase Profile and Relevance of ASL in Art World***
- 3. PROGRAM: Sustain Core Program Strengths and Address Current and Future Student Needs***
- 4. FINANCE: Achieve Long-Term Financial Sustainability***
- 5. FACILITIES: Optimize Facilities for Projected 20-Year Needs***
- 6. OPERATIONS: Optimize ASL Internal Institutional Functioning***
- 7. MEMBERSHIP: Build an Engaged and Diverse Membership***

Instructor Bruce Dorfman suggested informing all instructors when focus groups are to take place.

A member asked if the focus groups included monitors. Board member Charlotte Bialek discussed future focus groups with monitors. Board member Julia Salinas assured members that there would be better communication. Board member Jeff Sundheim noted that monitors have a good grasp of what students want at The League.

Instructor Costa Vavagiakis read the By-law regarding instructor membership status.

Member Sergio Lora commented that there should be engagement with the maintenance staff to gain a better understanding of what is going on in the building. Board member Julia Salinas discussed how staff were included in the focus groups. A member suggested including former monitors in focus groups.

Member Mary Poerner commented that The League is becoming too bureaucratic and too complex, to the detriment of a sense of camaraderie among students and members. Board member Luz-Mary Harris discussed further strategic planning, including a survey of a broad range of League constituents, and noted that the importance of such feedback.

Member Dorine Oliver shared her negative experience in printmaking class with a monitor. A member identifying herself as a former school administrator spoke about the importance of having rules, regulations and procedures.


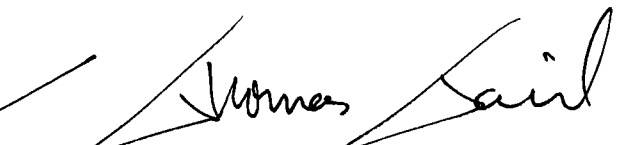
Instructor Bruce Dorfman noted that he was honored by having the first exhibition in the AFAS Gallery for instructors, but commented on the difficulty communicating with Administration to get a simple sign placed on the AFAS door when it was closed due to cold weather.

Member Sidney Edwards spoke about the lack of clear communication and noted that it is everyone's responsibility to participate in members meetings. Mr. Edwards also suggested creating T-shirts that say "We just love The League."

Instructor Deborah Winiarski commented on the summary of the focus group which had been circulated to instructors and participants noting that it did not accurately reflect what took place in the meetings. Board member Beth Berns responded that Board member Luz-Mary Harris's email, which included the transcript, asked participants for their feedback, but that there was very little response.

Board member Ezra Bookstein suggested that members not wait for business meetings to voice their opinions.

There being no further new business, President Harvey asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Such a motion was duly made and seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

	
_____ Thomas E. Harvey, President	_____ Thomas Tacik, Staff Member (Taking Minutes)
_____ 12/16/19	_____ 12/16/19
_____ Date	_____ Date