MIAD board accepts Rindler resignation as president

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MILWAUKEE… The Board of Trustees of the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design announced today that Robert Rindler has resigned as president of the college, effective immediately, according to Claire H. Hackmann, board chair.

“MIAD will begin a search for new leadership of the college immediately,” said Hackmann. “Until that time, Mary C. Schopp, executive vice president who has been at MIAD since 1986, will fulfill the duties of the president’s office.”

“After a period of intense reflection during a recent month-long vacation retreat, I have sadly decided to resign my position as MIAD’s president,” said Rindler. “This has been a very difficult decision for me, but it comes with the realization that the opportunities and challenges before me as MIAD’s chief executive officer are not currently aligned with my own interests and skills. I leave the college with many fond memories, and with the hope that I have helped to position MIAD for the next promising period in its illustrious history as a premier college of art and design.”

During his tenure, which began on June 1, 2005, Rindler brought a national perspective to MIAD through 35 years of experience in studio practice and higher education administration; a high level of energy and commitment, especially as an articulate ambassador for the college; and an extensive knowledge and connections to the professional art world.

He is credited for successfully identifying and participating in negotiating a $125,000 grant from the Surdna Foundation in support of MIAD’s Pre-College Outreach program, and for initiating the process that brought internationally renowned graphic designers Ivan Chermayeff and Tom Geismar to campus to design a new brand identity.

Rindler also helped to initiate a strategic planning process that will begin this month, and he approved national searches culminating in the hire of four new full-time faculty members for the 2006-2007 academic year.

“MIAD looks to its future with confidence and the sense of purpose that characterizes the college,” said Hackmann. “Our strategic planning process, targeted for completion in 2006, will create a meaningful vision for our future and the roadmap to achieve it.

“Within the last four months, we elected seven new trustees and welcomed a new vice president of institutional advancement. Most important, in addition to sustaining our strong enrollment and hiring new faculty, we are solidifying new academic initiatives to continue our tradition of curricular excellence and our commitment to our students.”

MIAD is Wisconsin’s only college devoted exclusively to the education of professional artists and designers. Founded in 1974, it is accredited to award the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 11 majors. With 80 percent of its 1,800 graduates living and working in Wisconsin, the college contributes a vital “brain gain” to the state that shapes its creative and economic future.