

Massachusetts Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
Executive Council Meeting
March 24, 2017
WPI

In attendance: **Jim Slattery***, **Shawn Morrissey***, **Alex Gonzalez***, **Emir Morais***, Monica Blondin, **Karen Van Dyne***, Alexis Guay, Tony Erwin, Julie Wickstrom, **Katie Kelsall***, **Susan Sullivan***, Ben Parsons, Nicole Cunningham, Christa Gilmore, Jason Marsala

Absent: **Meredith Stover***, **Sherri Avery***, **Stephanie Wells***, Julie Lawton, Ebony Carter, Jolene Coakley, Kristi Pierce, **Jennifer Muldowney***, Cheryl Constantine, **Sabina Yesmin***, Rosemary Hilliard, **Jeremy Greenhouse***, Shannon Eagan, Greg Chick, Jill Marr, Ryan Forsythe, Michele Kosboth, Kristin Hmielski, Keith Dimilanta

Bold italics* = voting member

Meeting started: 10:20 am

Secretary's Report: **Susan Sullivan*** for **Meredith Stover***

- Review of minutes from the February meeting. No additional updates. Motion was put forward by Katie Kelsall and seconded by Karen Van Dyne to approve minutes – all voting members in attendance approved.

Treasurer's Report: **Katie Kelsall*** and **Karen Van Dyne***

- We need to renew the patent for the trademark and it will cost \$2,500. Do we need to keep the trademark? Some feel that it is the cost of doing business.
- Karen shared the updated budget. She asked Membership and Conference for updated lists so she can cross-reference who has paid and who has not. Julie feels we can get the info from the website.
- Katie and Karen had a call with Edward Jones about the long-term investments. The reserves are healthy but we utilized them for the first time this year in a while. This was due to added expenses such as the website. One investment account has \$57,000 and \$245,000 in the other account. Katie asked about how the funds can become liquid if needed in the future.
- Follow up on the \$200 donation in memory of Anthony Crowe. Emir will provide Karen with the contact info. Motion was put forward by Emir and seconded by Alex to approve donation – all voting members in attendance approved.

President-Elect's Report: **Susan Sullivan***

- Susan is working on committee chairs for 17/18.
- Shaw will continue as EASFAA Chair.

Past President's Report: **Jim Slattery***

- Jim is working on nominations and strategic planning.
- We have a slate for President but trying to fill the rest of the slate. We will have to use a third party voting site so Jim will work with Technology to set that up. Karen recommended Formstack.com but Jim thinks he has a free site. There is some concern about the timing of the election but others feel that it won't be an issue. It was suggested to shorten the window for voting and should go out mid- April.
- Information about the strategic planning was sent to the listserv. Eileen O'Leary has agreed to participate. Jim has also reached out to Barbara Tornow. The plan is to plan to present at the retreat.

President's Report: *Shawn Morrissey**

- There is an EASFAA teleconference meeting next week. The conference is May 7-10 in Burlington, VT and registration is open. MASFAA will give a gift for the donation.

Committee Updates

FAFSA Day: Keith Dimilanta, Kristi Pierce, Ryan Forsythe

- No update.

Government Relations: Cheryl Constantine and Tony Erwin

- There was a co-sponsored event with AICUM at the State House on 3/22. Tony, Susan, Stephanie, Jennifer English, Robert Brun and Eileen O'Leary presented to legislators on the financial aid process, award letters, Shopping Sheet, OSFA and MEFA.
- They are working on a one-day virtual conference on a few topics. Possibly working with EASFAA at the end of April/early May.
- Shawn asked about doing a similar program of the Financial Aid Day with our federal representatives. But no one could recall. MASFAA did have a closer relationship with Senator Kennedy's office but we can step that back up.
- Tony suggested that the committee could move the focus from training to advocacy moving forward.

Access, Inclusion and Diversity: Ebony Carter, Jason Marsala

- There will be a spring/early summer event on international students and cross-cultural communication.
- They have a wonderful committee with some innovative ideas.
- The Profiles in Aid on the website are generating questions and interest.
- Jason got on the table and wow'd the crowd with his breakdance moves.

Graduate and Professional Concerns: Brooke Barbieri and Rosemary Hilliard

- They will have a year-end committee meeting.
- Emir mentioned that the GPCC Symposium went very well and the content was well received.

Financial Wellness: Monica Blondin and Kristin Hmielski

- Discussion about having a Literacy pre-conference before the conference. If not, they will have an event in October or November. Alexis recommended if it with the conference, that it could be in the afternoon on the 2nd day (Wednesday, 11/15). There was discussion about adding it to Monday, having a Literacy track throughout the conference and adding a financial incentive to register for both events.
- Committee is meeting next week and they will flesh out a tentative agenda.

Early Awareness: Jill Marr and Christa Gilmore

- The Spring Carnival will be at the Worchester East Middle School on 4/17. They have 3 speakers and working on a few more. Volunteers are needed from 12:30 to 3:45.
- Donations are needed for the backpacks. T-shirts should be size Large.

Conference: Shannon Eagan and Alexis Guay

- The committee has 14 members. They are working on a co-chair and a theme.
- Do we want to return to Southbridge for the 2018 conference? Susan will get some info on available dates and costs.
- There was no keynote at the 2016 conference. Alexis asked for feedback. Some people didn't notice, while others feel that we should do it if we can.

- Alexis will work with Technology to set up the session submittals.
- Please share any feedback about theme, keynote speakers, etc. with the committee.

Development: *Stephanie Wells**

- No update.

Professional Development and Training: Nicole Cunningham and Julie Lawton

- They are 4 new committee members. Next meeting is 4/6.
- Reminder – credentialing is available until 3/30. Once the 17/18 materials are available, there will be another opportunity available.
- The EASFAA training at Wellesley on SAP – 35 people attended.

Membership: Ben Parsons and Jolene Coakley

- Ben ran a report and there are \$9,000 of outstanding membership dues.
- Karen will look at the checks she has received.

Technology: Greg Chick and Julie Wickstrom

- They have turned off the auto reminder feature for membership.
- Greg is working with Digital Cheetah on fixing people with expired memberships.

Communications: Michele Kosboth

- No update.

Miscellaneous

New business:

- Alex mentioned that we need to start planning the year-end event. There was discussion about having an afternoon event first and then the year end event. Alex will look at sites in the metro West area for mid-June.

Old business:

- No update.

Karen motioned to adjourn, Emir seconded. All in favor to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 PM