

Massachusetts Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

May 8, 2015 at 10:00 am

MGH Institute of Health Professions

Charlestown, MA

In attendance: Kathy Anderson*, Meredith Barnhart, Diana Beaudoin*, Christina Coviello, Joanne Dashiell*, Roxanne Dumas*, Shannon Egan, Beth Feinberg Keenan, Jeremy Greenhouse*, Katie Kelsall*, Donna Kendall*, Emir Morais, Cathy Nelson*, Christine Padgett, Wenimo Poweigha, Jim Slattery*, Stephanie Wells

Absent: Michael Albano, Bill Buescher, Ebony Carter, Anthony Crowe, Josh DeMaio, Kevin Deruosi, Vy Doan Callahan, Jennifer English*, Alex Gonzalez*, Jennifer Keenan-Jolie, Carla Minchello, Kelly Morrissey, Kathy Osmond, Amy Proietti, Bonnie Quinn*, Kate Rajbhandari, Colleen Russo*, Julie Shields-Rutyna, Amy Stewart, Susan Sullivan, Alcira Zadroga

*Voting Members

Meeting Started: 10:15 am

President's Opening: Kathy Anderson*

- Kathy A. called the meeting to order and explained that we have a good amount to discuss. Thanked everyone for coming to Charlestown and announced that this was the last regularly scheduled meeting. Next event is Year-End Event.

Secretary's Report: Cathy Nelson*

- Minutes from the March meeting were emailed previously.
- Katie motioned to approve March meeting minutes, seconded by Roxanne. Unanimous vote to accept the minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Katie Kelsall*

- Thanked everyone who submitted budget requests. Finance committee will meet before Year-End Event to review budget requests and determine 2015-2016 budgets. Requested that the few committees who still need to submit expenses submit them soon. Stephanie asked how long committees have to spend budget. Katie wants all expenses by June 30. Emir asked about budget for GPCC as it looks lower than the initial budget. Budget for the year is listed and expenses are what have been spent to date. Difference is what remains.
- Katie and Kathy A. met with Edward Jones and are looking in to other investment options.

Past-President's Report: Donna Kendall*

- Voting closed Monday and Nominating Committee began making calls and ensuring that Technology Committee is confirming results. Two members of Nominating Committee need to confirm results and then we will wait three days for candidates to contest result. Donna will notify nominees and announce results in an email and online.

President-Elect's Report: Jim Slattery*

- Updates are conference related so postponed until Conference update.

President's Report: Kathy Anderson*

- Announced she is serving six months on task force committee to create educational resources for Massachusetts. They will meet with representatives from banks and social services agencies, MEFA and Community Colleges. Kathy A. is representing MASFAA. The task force will meet six times and create report and resources on financial literacy. Goal of committee will evolve as they progress.
- Asked if we should have a page on MASFAA website to post and house financial literacy resources. Christina said Boston University partnered with Cash Course as they have resources. Beth said that the Federal Reserve Bank in Boston has a lot of resources on their website.
- Katie indicated that our Edward Jones representative will come to a council meeting to explain our investments.
- Kathy A. and Donna requested committee chairs submit nominees for Volunteer of the Year. Jim will send email requesting nominees. Kathy A. asked chairs to start thinking of volunteers to nominate.

PD&T Report: Christina Coviello

- Final Leadership Academy session is next week. Not having Support Staff Workshop due to site coordination.
- Explained that we paid for Jim Briggs for next year as he was unable to attend due to weather. Talked about doing two sites for Jim Briggs and which they included in 2015-2016 budget as we already paid for one session. Asked for thoughts. Looking at having a new trainer present the second session. Kathy A. liked the idea of having two locations every few years as Boston/Wellesley is difficult to attend for people in Western Massachusetts. Having a session in Worcester/Central Massachusetts every few years would be ideal. Jeremy concurred that for people in Western Massachusetts, commuting to Boston is difficult but that Worcester is manageable.
- Kathy A. asked about FISAP in August. Amy is working on CORE materials.

Conference Report: Shannon Egan

- Jim and Kevin did a site visit to the Crown Plaza in Woburn. They have invested \$14-\$20 million in the hotel. They have the space, great rooms and perfect prices, but they got there and the costs were higher than initially quoted and space was not conducive. Have a booking at Sheraton Four Points in Norwood. They have a 50 room limit, but cannot commit to more. They will visit Norwood before this Friday's meeting. They are checking a few places but will sign for Norwood for Wednesday and Thursday, November 11th and 12th if they do not find something better within the week. Stephanie pointed out that one of the days is Veterans Day so Jim will be looking at dates. Suggestions were made for different days and locations which Jim and Kevin will contact.
- Thinking of back to the future, embracing technology and human connection. Will email request for session proposals in June.

EASFAA: Kathy Anderson for Kathy Osmond

- EASFAA Conference is coming up. Please register if you have not already.

Technology: Kathy Anderson for Mike Albano

- Spoke with Mike about updating the website. Noetic is winding down operations soon so finding a new web host is now urgent. Mike will poll Technology Committee to put together list of what requirements. Look for designer/host who can perform some of the maintenance/updates. There are two main hosts that other state organizations use but will research additional options.
- Thought about combining Technology and Communications Committees because much of communications involves technology.

- Meredith asked who FAFSADay should get to host their website because Noetic hosts the FAFSADay website as well.
- Emir asked about what level of expertise would a Technology Committee volunteer need and can we offer training to volunteers who are interested but not necessarily comfortable that they know enough. Jeremy said that if you think you are technologically savvy, you have enough skills. Katie said it is a large time commitment. Emir said by having training we may be able to spread the responsibilities over more people and if we have training, we can determine those people.

Old Business:

- Year-End Event – Roxanne announced event at Northeastern University Alumni Center, June 11th at 6:00 pm. Meeting to discuss menu options and parking. They will send invitations to MASFAA members but also to schools who do not have members or not very many so that they can come for free and try to get them more involved. There is a garage across the street and Jim believes that parking is free if you are attending an event at the Center. Jim asked if people have opinions about any schools that should be targeted. Roxanne will check with Carla about membership. Emir suggested that we reach out to for-profit schools to build volunteers from that sector.
- Discussed drafting a letter from MASFAA to OSFA regarding the ineligible letters sent from their office. Jeremy met with other Community College Directors and the five who attended the meeting liked the idea because their students get very confused by the letter. Roxanne concurred. Kathy A. is going to consider how to proceed as we want feedback but we may not want to send it out to the entire listserve. She suggested introducing topic at next OSFA Advisory Committee instead of a formal letter. Joanne recommended asking organizations at the high-school level (i.e. guidance counselors, TRIO programs, etc.) what kind of feedback they receive. Jeremy said the eligible letters also cause confusion. Stephanie asked if we can reach out to other state associations to see if their states send the letters. Kathy A. said she will gather information and feedback and will consider bringing it up at the OSFA Advisory Committee to determine a solution. Then determine if we should create a formal letter and then reach out to the MASFAA members.

New Business:

- Kathy A. understands that May is busy but needs Committees to submit updated monthly reports for website.
- Needed to replace Proprietary Sector Representative as Colleen Russo no longer works for a college. Reached out to James Dergay at North Bennett Street School. Kathy A. nominates James Dergay to serve out remainder of Colleen's term, Jeremy seconded. Jeremy spoke highly of James. Emir asked if he would finish out the term and could run for the next term. Kathy A. said yes. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion carried. Kathy A. asked Donna to include information in MASFAA election results announcement.

Katie motioned to adjourn, Joanne seconded, unanimous in favor to adjourn at 11:46 am.