

MEMBERS:

Co-Chair: *Zack Goodwin, Harvard University*

Co-Chair: *Patty Reilly, Tufts University*

Members: *Lianna Baimas-George, Boston University*
Rob Baumel, Middlesex Community College
Janice Dorian, Mansfield Beauty Schools
Alexis Fishbone, Boston University Medical School
Brendan Furey, American Student Assistance
Phylis Gedeon, University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Christopher Hart, Boston University
Katie Holland, University of Massachusetts-Boston
Gardner Key, Lesley University
Betsy Mayotte, American Student Assistance
Christine McGuire, Boston University
Sharon McLaughlin, McLaughlin Education Consulting
Shawn Monks, New England College of Business
Lynne Myers, College of the Holy Cross
Ray Nault, Higher Education Assistance Group
Eileen O'Leary, Stonehill College
Bernie Pekala, Boston College
Dan Rossi, Harvard University Kennedy School of Government
Mark Russell, New England School of Photography
Shabeeb Tauhid, Boston University
Andrea Vojtisek, Boston Architectural College
Stephanie Wells, MEFA

PURPOSE:

To review, analyze, and/or evaluate and respond to regulatory, legislative, and programmatic issues, and to assist in the dissemination of information when appropriate. This committee also identifies, considers and develops Association positions on long-range policy issues and serves as a resource for legislators and their aides.

2010-2011 MASFAA GOALS:

- **Sharpen the focus of the Association on serving students**
- **Increase engagement of members**
- **Continue commitment to high quality, cost effective training and professional development**
- **Update the Association's strategic plan**

2010-2011 OBJECTIVES:

1. Promote communication between the membership and Massachusetts legislators:
 - a. Establish relationships with key State legislators and administrators, and inform them on behalf of MASFAA members on key issues and concerns.
 - b. Support and conduct visits between State legislators/legislative staff and MASFAA members as needed.
 - c. Maintain and update the list of MASFAA members in each legislative district who will act as primary contacts when issues arise.
 - d. Increase participation of students and institutions in the State House Day event, with particular emphasis on participation from public colleges and universities.
 - e. Provide information on the MASFAA list-serve and website to alert the membership to important changes in State regulation and legislation as needed.
 - f. Strengthen working relationships with Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance staff.

2. Keep changes in Federal legislation in the forefront of membership awareness:
 - a. Establish and maintain relationships with key Federal legislators and administrators, and inform them on behalf of MASFAA members on issues and concerns.
 - b. Support and conduct visits between Congressional staff and MASFAA members as needed.
 - c. Provide training sessions at regional gatherings, the MASFAA Conference, and throughout the year on new Federal regulations and programs, and/or changes in existing programs.
 - d. Provide information on the MASFAA list-serve and website to alert the membership to important changes in Federal regulation and legislation as needed.
 - e. Compile federal compliance resources for MASFAA members regarding requirements such as loan counseling, consumer disclosures, and Constitution Day.

MONTHLY REPORT: May 2011

The Government Relations Committee has held no meetings and no activities since the previous report.

Our last meeting of the year will be held on May 13 at 2:00 at Wellesley College in the Wang Center Room 415.

MONTHLY REPORT: March 2011

Student Financial Aid Day at the State House was held on March 1, and was our best-attended State House event ever. Over 100 students joined staff representing over 30 schools, who led students to legislators' offices to thank them for their support of Massachusetts aid programs and to request ongoing support for these programs in tight budgetary times.

The success of the event was due in great part to the hard work of many Committee members. Chris Hart, with help from Dan Rossi, designed a bookmark for the students to distribute to legislators, which provided information about MASFAA as well as useful links for use in helping constituents with financial aid issues. Lianna Baimas-George, Christine McGuire, Gardner Key and Patty Reilly drafted and distributed an email template for schools to use to recruit students to attend the event. Debbie Gronback and Zack Goodwin ensured that Student Financial Aid Day information appeared on the MASFAA website and calendar. Patty Reilly brought cookies for students to hand out, and she and Stephanie Wells coordinated event details with AICUM. Finally, Katie Holland succeeded in bringing a group of University of Massachusetts students, making this year's event the first at which students from a public institution attended!

Sharon McLaughlin recently reviewed the GRC page of the MASFAA website and submitted a comprehensive list of updates, corrections, and links that needed to be removed or repaired, on which Debbie Gronback has followed up. Bernie Pekala is working on updating the posted RFI documents.

The group scheduled its final meeting of 2010-2011 for May 13 at 2:00 p.m.

MONTHLY REPORT: February 2011

The Committee met most recently on January 14 and February 4, primarily to plan the upcoming Student Financial Aid Day.

Student Financial Aid Day will be held in collaboration with the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Massachusetts (AICUM) at the State House on March 1. Since March and April are traditionally such busy months in the financial aid office, the Committee will not reconvene until May 13 unless an issue arises that requires meeting sooner.

Chris Hart and Dan Rossi are working to create a bookmark listing Massachusetts State aid resources, as derived from the comprehensive MASFAA financial aid guide. This bookmark will be used as a leave-behind for legislators at Student Financial Aid Day.

Patty Reilly and Lianna Baimas-George have drafted an email template to distribute to MASFAA members, as a note to send to students to drum up participation. Katie Holland is working with her public institution colleagues to bring students from State schools to the event.

In addition to preparing for the Student Financial Aid Day, the Committee has been focused on updating and improving its MASFAA web page content.

MONTHLY REPORT: December 2010/January 2011

The Committee met most recently on December 3. Many thanks to the members of the Committee who conducted five sessions at the recent MASFAA conference.

AICUM staff have already begun planning their spring 2011 Student Financial Aid Day, tentatively scheduled for March 1. We would like MASFAA to play a more significant role overall in the event, with increased participation from Massachusetts State institutions especially. Zack and Patty will coordinate with AICUM, and at the next GRC meeting we will create a project plan.

The Committee is reviewing the GRC portion of the MASFAA Website. We plan to update, streamline, and emphasize live links instead of static documents which need to be regularly updated.

The GRC Committee will talk with the Professional Development and Training Committee about offering the NASFAA Cost of Attendance Training. The Co-chairs hope to have a discussion at Exec Council about which committee should be responsible for this type of training, since there seems to be some overlap between the responsibilities of these two committees.

The next GRC Committee meeting will be held on Friday, January 14 at Boston University.

MONTHLY REPORT: November 2010

The Committee met most recently on October 15.

Goals and objectives for 2010-2011 were finalized.

AICUM staff have already begun planning their spring 2011 State House Day. Stephanie Wells of MEFA, who has coordinated our participation in this event in the past, has offered to do so again. We would like MASFAA to play a more significant role overall in State House Day, with increased participation from Massachusetts State institutions especially.

Volunteers were solicited to moderate Committee sessions at the MASFAA Conference.

Committee members have been moving forward in preparing their assigned sessions for Conference. The Co-Chairs will also be working with Scott Buchanan (Sallie Mae) on his legislative update session.

Peter Wyatt and Debbie Gronback (Technology Committee) have volunteered to serve as web analysts this year, to facilitate the updating and improvement of the GRC portion of the MASFAA website.

The next GRC Committee meeting will be held on Friday, December 3. Locations are being explored at UMass-Boston and at Boston University.

MONTHLY REPORT: October 2010

The Committee met on September 21.

Goals for 2010-2011 were discussed and will be finalized at the next meeting. Peter Wyatt volunteered to be the Communications liaison for the GRC.

GRC Conference sessions were assigned and discussed:

1. Neg Reg Wrap-up –Brendan Furey and Zack Goodwin will work on this one.
2. Net Price Calculators –Patty Reilly will try to get a Think Ahead user, a College Board user and a federal template user to do a panel
3. Turning Regs into Policy – Eileen O’Leary and Bernie Pekala have already presented this at NASFAA so it is ready to go.
4. Year Round Pell – Iris Godes and Patty Reilly will work on this one.
5. Consumer Information and Disclosures – Jen Thompson will present this one and will try to find a co-presenter to work with

The next GRC Committee meeting will be held on October 15 in the Wang Center at Wellesley College.

MONTHLY REPORT: September 2010

The Committee’s first meeting of the year is scheduled for September 21. The report of September activities will be included in the October report.