

**MEMBERS:**

Co-Chair: Christopher Hart, Boston University

Co-Chair: Donna Kendall, Bentley University

Members:

Furey	Brendan	Manager, FFELP Compliance	American Student Assistance
Goodwin	Zack	Director of Financial Aid	Harvard University Division of Continuing Education
Hart*	Christopher	Sr. Assistant Director for Customer Service	Boston University
Kendall*	Donna	Executive Director of Enrollment Management and Financial Assistance	Bentley University
Lawton	Jennifer	Director of Financial Aid	Hampshire College
McArdle	Oliver	Senior program Manager	Massachusetts Department of Higher Education
McGuire	Christine	Director of Student Financial Services	Boston University
McLaughlin	Sharon	Consultant	McLaughlin Education Consulting
Myers	Lynne	Director of Financial Aid	The College of the Holy Cross
O'Leary	Eileen		Stonehill College
Osmond	Kathryn	Consultant	
Pekala	Bernie	Director of Student Financial Strategies	Boston College
Rossi	Dan	Financial Aid Officer	Harvard University Kennedy School of Government
Russell	Mark	Director of Financial Aid	New England School of Photography
Wells	Stephanie		Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority
Wyatt	Peter		Wellesley College
Anderson	Ellen		Assumption College

**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. Enter the purpose of your committee here.*

#### 2012-2013 OBJECTIVES:

1. Promote communication between the membership and Massachusetts legislators:
  - a. Connect with key State legislators and administrators, and educate them on behalf of MASFAA members on key issues and concerns in the financial aid community.
  - b. Facilitate communication between State legislators/legislative staff and MASFAA members as needed.
  - c. Increase participation of students and institutions in the State House Day event, with particular emphasis on participation from public colleges and universities.
  - d. Provide information on the MASFAA list-serve and website to alert the membership to important changes in State regulation and legislation as needed.
  - e. Strengthen working relationships with Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance staff.
  
2. Keep changes in Federal legislation in the forefront of membership awareness:
  - a. Connect with key Federal legislators and administrators, and educate them on behalf of MASFAA members on issues and concerns in the financial aid community.
  - b. Facilitate communication 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.

#### 2012-2013 MASFAA GOALS:

- Advance the Art and Science of our Profession

- with students, families, on and off-campus colleagues, faculty and administration, elected and governmental officials
- Increase engagement of members
- Continued commitment to high quality, cost effective training and professional development
- Update the Association's Strategic Plan

## MONTHLY REPORT: MAY 2013



## MONTHLY REPORT: MARCH 2013



## MONTHLY REPORT: FEBRUARY 2013

**MASFAA Government Relations Committee**  
Conference Call Minutes  
February 1, 2013 @ 2 pm

**On the call:** Chris Hart (co-chair), Donna Kendall (co-chair), Brendan Furey, Stephanie Wells, Rob McCarron (AICUM), and Brad Freeman (AICUM)

The main agenda item was the preparations for State House Day. The date for State House day was confirmed to be Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, from 1 pm – 4 pm. Brad Freeman and Rob McCarron from AICUM joined the discussion. Key documents were discussed and reviewed. These documents included the evite to MASFAA members, the student sign-up sheet along with the announcement from AICUM confirming the date and details of the day.

Additionally, it was announced the Governor Patrick will be in attendance and will kick off the event. Stephanie Wells is coordinating the e-vite to MASFAA members. We are also preparing some take away items; a book mark and a postcard for legislative members to use as quick reference with key contacts which include the Massachusetts Department of Education, AICUM, MASFAA, MEFA, OSFA, ASA, and Your Plan for the Future (formally Your Plan for College).

The bookmark has been approved and is ready to go to the printer. The quantity = 400.

## MONTHLY REPORT: JANUARY 2013

**MASFAA Government Relations Committee**

Conference Call Minutes

January 25, 2013 @ 11 am

**On the call:** Chris Hart (co-chair), Donna Kendall (co-chair), Brendan Furey, Stephanie Wells, Kathy Osmond, Ellen Anderson, Christine McGuire, Rob McCarron (AICUM), and Brad Freeman (AICUM)

The purpose of the conference call was to start planning for State House Day, which is scheduled for Tuesday, February 26 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm at the MA State House.

Stephanie continues to serve as our liaison to AICUM for this co-sponsored event.

**Format of the event:** The start time was changed to 1 pm this year in response to feedback from schools to avoid mornings due to student schedule conflicts and to allow more travel time to the State House. The time is also dependent on the availability of facilities at the State House. This year we will once again have the Great Hall.

The event will start at 1 pm in the Great Hall. Students will be provided with either lunch or a snack while they listen to speakers. AICUM has contacted the Governor (and his senior advisor); hoping that he will be available to speak—especially in light of the \$112 million MA Grant increase he included in his FY14 budget. House Speaker DeLeo will be invited as well, since he is a fan of this event. AICUM will also work on securing other legislators to speak to the students.

Students will fan out across the State House at about 2:30 pm to meet individually with their hometown senators/representatives. They will return to the Great Hall prior to 4 pm to gather belongings and informally debrief their visits with AICUM staff and provide anecdotes.

**Communication to MASFAA members:**

AICUM sent a “Save the Date” e-mail today (right after our call) to the aid directors and VPs/Directors of Government Relations of AICUM members schools. It included the sign-up sheet (with school contact and student information) and the details of the event.

The GRC will work to get a communication out to MASFAA members as soon as possible. Our e-mail will include a tip sheet for school coordinators on how to get good student participation and how to contact legislators prior to the event to make appointments. Stephanie will draft the e-mail and send it to the co-chairs and Iris for feedback before it goes to the MASFAA membership. Stephanie also suggested sending a separate e-mail to public colleges and universities to encourage participation (she will get Iris’s feedback on how best to approach the publics).

AICUM is increasing efforts to notify legislators of the event. Schools are asked to give AICUM their list of students by February 22 so that they can contact legislators to let them know they will have students from their district at the State House that day. AICUM is also planning to use the e-mail list generated from the recent Financial Aid 101 event at the State House to publicize the event. AICUM will provide that e-mail list to the GRC as well.

**Student Packets**

AICUM will prepare a packet for each student including things like a state house map, directory of representatives, talking points for students, etc. We discussed the postcard that has been used in the past to help explain the reason for the event and a little bit about AICUM and MASFAA. Rob is going to send us the postcard

used last year. We will need to decide if we want to “co-brand” the postcard, or use our MASFAA bookmark as a separate piece to give during the legislator visits.

### **Cookies**

AICUM will ask the Newbury College culinary arts program to provide the cookies that students will present to legislators as a small token of appreciation.

MASFAA has a small budget to help defray the cost of the cookies and/or the postcard, if that is the route we go.

### **GRC committee involvement**

All committee members are asked to reach out to colleagues to encourage participation in this event. AICUM will let us know which colleges have indicated participation so that we can contact schools that haven't responded. We especially want to encourage participation from the public sector as AICUM communications will not reach them. *(Not discussed on the call, but in our planning notes from last year is to encourage GRC participation at the event—even if a member does not have any students attending, or is not at a school. It's always nice to have extra adults on hand to help students with their visits—especially for schools that bring a large group of students.)*

**We will have another conference call next Friday, February 1, at 2 pm** to check in on our progress. Brendan will arrange the call (thank you Brendan and ASA!) and we will let everyone know what the dial in and pass code is prior to the meeting.

## **MONTHLY REPORT: NOVEMBER 2012**

No meeting – MASFAA Conference. The GRC sponsored two presentations at the Conference: From Washington to Your Campus and Consumer Information Compliance.

## **MONTHLY REPORT: OCTOBER 2012**

The committee had its kick-off meeting Friday, October 5. Three main activities were identified for the year: **MASFAA Conference Sessions:** The GRC is presenting two sessions—*From Washington to Your Campus*, and *Consumer Information: Compliance*.

**State House Day:** Once again, the GRC plans to partner with AICUM to sponsor an advocacy day for students to meet with and thank their legislators for their support of financial aid programs. The date has not been set and most likely won't be set until early 2013 when the legislative schedule is available. This event typically occurs in late February, early March. Stephanie Wells (MEFA) volunteered to serve as the GRC liaison with AICUM. **Financial Aid 101 for State Legislators:** Several years ago the GRC coordinated a session to give senators and representatives basic information on financial aid. Staff from MEFA, AICUM, and OSFA spoke at the event. The GRC feels it's time to revive this session. Several committee members are reaching out to legislative representatives and aides to get ideas on the best timing for this event. Late spring is most likely the target time.

The next GRC meeting will be a conference call on Monday, October 22 from 1:00 to 2:30 pm.

## **MONTHLY REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2012**



## **MONTHLY REPORT: AUGUST 2012**

