

Massachusetts Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

Executive Council Meeting

January 8th, 2020

Zoom Meeting

Executive Council: (Voting Members)

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| ■ Monica Blondin | ■ Beth Feinberg | ■ Jennifer Sheehy |
| ■ Ebony Marsala | ■ Korrine Peterson | □ Dawn Batchelor |
| □ Kevin DeRuosi | ■ Robyn Butterfield | ■ Donna Shelby |
| ■ Linna Tran | ■ Ben Parson | |
| ■ Shannon James | □ Ross Glover | |

Committees:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| □ Jaron Tucker | □ Katelyn Ma | ■ Jeff Bentley |
| □ Amy Staffier | ■ Betsy Mayotte | ■ Sarah Bergeron |
| □ Jennifer Bento-Pinyoun | □ Ellen Anderson | ■ Lauren Sullivan |
| □ Mike Goodwin | □ Maria Morelli | □ James McGehee |
| □ Brandon Cipoletta | ■ Rob Picariello | □ Tanika Smith |
| ■ Monique Howell | ■ Lisa Talbot | ■ Leanne Zemrok |
| ■ Melissa Metcalf | □ Alia Georges | |
| ■ Julie Lawton | □ Jonathan Sparling | |

Other Attendees:

Meeting started at: 10:01AM

Motion to start: Ben Parsons

Second: Jennifer Sheehy

Motion to approve December minutes: Ben Parsons

Second: Jennifer Sheehy

Welcome: Monica Blondin

-

Executive Council Reports:

President: Monica Blondin

- We have a zoom account through MASFAA
 - Please let Monica know if you need zoom. Send an email to her
- We are sending out nominations for MAFSAA positions next week
 - 7 openings
 - Elections went out March last year
 - Melissa mentioned elections usually runs in November
 - We're late, but we are catching up

Past President: Kevin DeRuosi

- No updates

President Elect: Ebony Marsala

- No updates

Treasurer: Beth Feinberg/Shannon

- No updates
- Shannon and Beth spend time updating individual budgets
 - How much everyone is spending, etc.
- Beth is working on reallocating funds
- If any needs checks, please let Beth know

Committee reports

FAFSA Day: Jennifer

- 4 virtual FAFSA Day
 - 400 attendees
 - One in Spanish
- 3 more coming up
 - 1 in January and 2 in February
- We have awarded \$300 scholarship to a student attending an opening event
- Collaboration with MEFA on FAFSA Day challenge
- 3 \$1,000 scholarships for highest completion rate (one for small and one for large school) and random draw
 - Scholarships are coming from MASFAA

Access, Inclusion, & Diversity Committee: Jaron Tucker, Tanika Smith

- No updates

Development Committee: Donna Shelby

- No updates

- We received all the payments

Early Awareness and Outreach Committee: Katelyn Ma

- No updates

Financial Education & Wellness Committee: Lisa

- Nothing new
- Wrap up meeting was in December
- Preparing for Spring

Government Relations Committee: Betsy Mayotte, Ellen Anderson

- No new updates
- The committee is working on making connections and restarting to rebuild relationships with out State and Federal Representations
- After the inauguration, they are reaching out
- The Student Loan Service Act passed
- The CARES Act Waiver – For students who withdrew for COVID reasons, you do not need to return the loan and they are written off
 - The Department of Ed advised the servicer to handle them like discharges
 - Borrowers who are not aware of this happening, they are receiving letters stating “congratulations your loan has been partially discharged for coronavirus”
 - There is a trend going on that there is a coronavirus discharged, which there is not
 - Betsy mentioned that what will be really helpful is to inform the students
 - IFAP guidance
 - Betsy will send an email about this

Graduate and Professional Concerns Committee: Rob

- The committee met yesterday
- Some of the topics are
 - Mindfulness and managing stress during difficult time/the current chaos
 - How to manage whether is remote learning or students who are not used to that
 - Trying to talk through the current status of public loan forgiveness
 - Who’s eligible
 - How do you apply
 - Graduate Student Federal Update
- 3 mini sessions instead of a conference, hour long
 - Late March
- Monica mentioned about a professor at Assumption who offers mindfulness and stress reduction strategies to faculty and staff
 - She advertised about doing a bootcamp
 - If you need her to present, please let Monica know
- Betsy also mentioned about assisting and presenting about public loan forgiveness
- Rob mentioned that they are still open to suggestions of any topics
 - Betsy suggested about how to manage your loans post-COVID
 - An overview of options available, what to do if they can’t reach their loan services and what timeframe to expect

- Monica mentioned that the Graduate department get ignored often and there's not a lot of resources – We can have a session about what other schools do i.e. communication, emails, websites

Membership & Technology Committee: Jeff

- The committee is working on updating everything
- 392 paid members
- 576 outstanding accounts and some of which are inactive. They are updating all of these and making sure the memberships are current
- If you need help with updating you committee pages, please let Jeff and Sarah know

Professional Development & Training Committee: Lauren

- Halfway done with all the Just the Facts
- So far, no questions
- Lauren mentioned that they may use a different platform because Zoom is not very interactive
 - They will continue to use zoom
- Polls are been great and positive
 - They will send more polls at the end
- 3 topic left, Federal, verification, and Pell
- Direct Loans may be the next topic in Spring
- Lauren is working on posting the tax training on the site
 - This can't be downloadable and paid members can only view it

Communications: Leanne

- Leanne came up with a newsletter for January
 - There will be a new spotlight every month
 - This will be sent out soon
- The newsletter will be emailed, posted on websites – MASFAA, Facebook
- Monica what social media do we have?
 - Facebook
 - Twitter – 2 accounts, last time was posted was 2014 and 2017
 - Leanne mentioned we will look into this

EASFAA: Jeff

- EASFAA committee met yesterday
- Conference is virtual in May
- This will be spread out like MASFAA conference
- Email for sessions proposal will go out next month

Conference Committee: Monique Howell, Melissa Metcalf, and Lisa

- No updates
- Next conference is Plymouth
- Korine asked about doing a virtual option because there are some members who can't leave the office
- November 17th-19th

Closing

- Monica mentioned about the members at large
 - We have the end of year event in June
 - We should make this virtual on the safe side
 - Please brainstorm ideas of what we are planning to do
 - This is also the time that the current president passed the gavel to the new president
 - Ebony mentioned that we had it at a Brewery

Motion to end meeting: Betsey

Second: Jeff

End time: 11:05AM