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
    o Please let Monica know if you need zoom. Send an email to her
  • We are sending out nominations for MAFSAA positions next week
    o 7 openings
    o Elections went out March last year
    o 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
    o 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
    o 400 attendees
    o One in Spanish
  • 3 more coming up
    o 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
    o 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