

Massachusetts Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

Executive Council Meeting

February 5th, 2020

Zoom Meeting

Executive Council: (Voting Members)

- Monica Blondin
- Ebony Marsala
- Kevin DeRuosi
- Linna Tran
- Shannon James

- Beth Feinberg
- Korrine Peterson
- Robyn Butterfield
- Ben Parson

- Ross Glover
- Jennifer Sheehy
- Dawn Batchelor
- Donna Shelby

Committees:

- Jaron Tucker
- Amy Staffier
- Jennifer Bento-Pinyoun
- Mike Goodwin
- Brandon Cipoletta
- Monique Howell
- Melissa Metcalf
- Julie Lawton

- Katelyn Ma
- Betsy Mayotte
- Ellen Anderson
- Maria Morelli
- Rob Picariello
- Lisa Talbot
- Alia Georges
- Jonathan Sparling

- Jeff Bentley
- Sarah Bergeron
- Lauren Sullivan
- James McGehee
- Tanika Smith
- Leanne Zemrok

Other Attendees:

Welcome: Monica Blondin

Meeting started at: 10:15AM

Motion to start: Ben Parsons

Second: Jennifer Sheehy

Motion to approve January minutes: Kevin DeRuosi

Second: Ben Parison

Executive Council Reports:

President: Monica Blondin

- We sent nomination out a little late, but we're still ahead from last year
- If you know anyone who's interested in running any position, please encourage them to run
 - We do not know what's in store about meetings for next year
 - Our meeting will most likely be virtually
 - Time committed is probably the biggest reason for people do not want to be involve, so having virtual meetings will be good.

Past President: Kevin DeRuosi

- Strategic plan is done!
 - This will be up on the website

President Elect: Ebony Marsala

- No updates

Treasurer: Beth Feinberg/Shannon

- No updates
- No activity in the past month

Committee reports

FAFSA Day: Amy

- We are nearing the end of the presentations
 - 1 on Sunday which is the 2nd Spanish session
 - 34 signed up
 - The next is Thursday
 - 251 signed up
 - Participation is great as the people who signed up actually show up
- We partnered with MEFA with our FAFSA challenging and awarding scholarships
 - Increasing awareness around FAFSA
 - FAFSA filing down and in MA about 9 percent down
- Amy will be a panelist next week at 2pm
 - Two presentations
 - They are trying to have conversations with guidance counselors
 - Panel is a few people just talking about what they are doing while navigating through this
 - They are working on a toolkit
 - This will go on the FAFSA website, where you click on it and open the toolkit
 - There will be resources such as recorded presentations, one English and one Spanish presentation
 - People can use this and send out to families, whether it's people in our community or on the high school level
 - We are creating a robust FAQ
 - Being remote and doing sessions virtually means that we have a transcript of all the questions and answers
 - Checklist will also be a part of the toolkit
- Monica – If folks are interested, Monica will send out an email to everyone. The sessions are open.
 - This is a hot topic!

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

- Jaron mentioned that they were trying to get a February date for working with low income first-generation students.
 - The presenter wanted more time.
 - They are now arranging this in June.
- The focus is now shifted to arranging a COVID panel discussion.

- The committee is scheduled to meet again next week.
- For the COVID panel,
 - They have a list of questions
 - People who want to be a part of the panel
 - Then, we are getting students on the panel
 - Incoming students
 - First year students
- Questions set up:
 - For Higher Education Representative - How that officer adjusted some of their regulations regarding professional judgement or matters such as budgeted field between circumstances etc. to what has the experience benefited the institution? What are some things that you think can be done to make it better?
 - Then for current college students we focused on what have the experience been for you. What are the things you struggled with this year that you need support with? What financial needs have you experienced as related to COVID? What type of support did you feel needed for student financial services at your school?
 - For incoming student, what factor goes to your college decision as a result of COVID? How has COVID change your college plan for the future?
 - These are the list of questions already set up. Does anyone have any questions particular category or what they want to throw in?
- Jaron mentioned that they are building the questions to make everyone prepared.
- This panel will be set up for March.
- Kevin – is there any that has come out of the pandemic? Are you choosing or will choose to continue to do once the pandemic ends? Kevin mentioned that his institution has switched to online forms such as appeals.
- If anyone comes up something later, please feel free to send an email to Jaron.
- The panel will be on Zoom

Development Committee: Donna Shelby

- No updates
- Donna mentioned that she will be okay with staying on for Development chair next year.
- Ebony doesn't have an issue with Donna staying on, as this does not validate any bylaws.
 - Do you have a co-chair in the future?
 - Donna mentioned that she has someone in mind.
 - Jeff mentioned that there are nominations as well, so someone could run against Donna
 - Donna can also continue staying on as co-chair or a member

Early Awareness and Outreach Committee: Katelyn Ma

- No updates

Financial Education & Wellness Committee: Lisa

- No new updates
- Another meeting is coming up

Government Relations Committee: Betsy Mayotte, Ellen Anderson

- No updates, the next meeting is next week
- Betsy mentioned as a reminder that they are working:

- To having someone at every district and
- Reaching out and reintroducing MASFAA
- Policy initiatives to both Federal and State, Senators, and House Representative
- Senator Warren issued a resolution in regard to loan forgiveness
 - \$55,000 of loan forgiveness
 - No details of who it applies to or whether it's based on income, if it will go towards graduate or parent loans, etc.
 - Betsy mentioned that she has seen students make financial decisions about this, such as an engineering student who never took out loans and is planning to get the loan for the loan forgiveness.
 - This is something to keep an eye for!
 - Betsy will send the text of the resolution which is about a dozen pages, what forgiving \$55,000 will do for the economy, etc.

Graduate and Professional Concerns Committee: Rob and Maria

- No updates

Membership & Technology Committee: Jeff and Sarah

- Nothing new
- Nominations are on the website
- 416 paid members
- 551 accounts past due
- Jeff mentioned that they are sending up communication on how to pay the membership
- Membership has increased to \$60 for this upcoming July 1st, 2021
- All the past due accounts will get an email next week. The email will state that if they will like to renew the membership, here's how to do so.
- Sarah mentioned that if the membership is not renewed, they can't get in the website, directory, or nominate people

Professional Development & Training Committee: Lauren

- Lauren mentioned they got through Just the Facts
 - Bumpy at the end, as the reminder was sent to the wrong listserv
 - Only 6 people showed up
 - This triggered that GoToWebinar is a better format than Zoom
 - To get surveys to be completed and better participation
 - Is there a way to send an automatic reminder?
 - Sarah mentioned that they can send a reminder but it's still the same as having one person remembering to send one
 - Participation dropped by half. 40 in the beginning, then 20 people
 - If we get it virtual and the same time as before.
 - As having 4 weeks at a time may be difficult
- Lauren also said they are in search of what they used to do
 - A Spring mid-level support staff presentation
 - If anyone has a topic, please let Lauren know
 - The committee will work on this
- February 26th 10 AM and March 3rd 2PM for tax sessions
 - These are the same tax sessions

- For tax workshops, they were unable to upload it
 - A quick fix is a YouTube channel
- Sarah mentioned we can add it to the newsletter
 - This will have the tax training and the old training
- Monica mentioned that with the GoToWebinar for the Conference, they sent an automated message about the Conference coming up
 - Monique said that their might be an option for the reminder on it

Communications: Leanne Zemrok

- Leanne is working on this month's newsletter
 - This will be out early next week
 - If anyone wants anything included, please let Leanne know
- Donna will be the spotlight this month for Committee Spotlight to get members to sign up for development
- Leanne will also add the nominations in the newsletter

EASFAA: Kevin DeRuosi

- No further updates

Conference Committee: Monique Howell, Melissa Metcalf, and Julie Lawton

- No updates
- The committee will revisit again about the Conference in person.

Members at Large: Ben Parson

- Winter/Spring event
 - Loan workshop, updates done by Betsy
 - About all the loan changes
 - Student Loan updates
 - This will be useful for all levels
- Year End Event
 - First: Video platform that is friendly for networking. It's a video game where you are walking your avatar and the closer you get to other people, there's a chat. It's a virtual version of going through a bar to chat.
 - Ben reached out to the founder and waiting to hear back
 - The cost is still unknown
 - Second: Panel discussion on student services practices on the virtual world
 - As financial aid officers are facing the increase of online learning and services
 - What are best practices?
- Monica mentioned that members at large met at 9:30-10AM. She will move Exec Council Meetings to 10AM.

Motion to end meeting: Kevin

Second: Dawn

End time: 11:12AM