

MEETING MINUTES  
21/22 MASFAA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
January 28, 2022

Motion to begin: Amy

Second: Dawn

Meeting began at: 10:05am

**Welcome/Officer Reports: Ebony**

- Ebony welcomed new member, Annette Kaminski and discussed the importance of recruiting at conferences and events.
- Ebony advised the Auburndale storage locker is up and running. Monica has key  
Contact Monica to schedule a time if access to storage locker is needed

**President Elect: Amy**

- Will be appointing committee chairs by April first
- Ebony: current chairs are to reach out to committee members for possible chair positions
- Amy: awards nominated by committee chair or exec council
- Will be looking for possible MASFAA award candidates for spring
- Retreat mission/vision statement: felt like perhaps needs to be focused on more and engaging people in this organization.

**Treasurer: Beth**

- Beth shared she has moved \$20,000 from savings into checking to ensure there was enough to cover all conference expenses and still have funds available for incidentals
- Beth has had a conversation with Edward Jones representative. Edward Jones is going to rebalance investments but keep current investment plan in place
- Beth asked if there are any unpaid expenses or invoices

**Committee Reports and Goal Setting**

- Ebony: Thanked all of the committees, volunteers, speakers, presenters, and entertainment for a wonderful and successful conference

**Conference Committee**

- Julie thanked all committee members for their part in a successful conference
  - 140 people were in attendance making the conference more than successful
  - Overall the hotel was great to work with, some minor issues, excellent hosts, receptive and attentive
  - We are looking forward to having the 2022 conference on November 17 and 18 at the same hotel.
- 30 rooms have been secured for August 7 and 8 for the retreat.
- Melissa agreed the conference went well.
  - The hotel conference personnel were responsive to all of our needs over the past few years, including pivoting to a virtual. There were some staffing and cleanliness issues, otherwise great. The Committee is in planning stages for 2022

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**Conference Committee cont.**

- Melissa asked if any committee members know anyone who may be interested in joining the conference committee.
- Committee is working on a theme and will meet again in February.
- Julie reiterated that the Plymouth location is secured for 2022 and it is now time for the executive committee to work on a location for 2023.
- Melissa commented that there have been 2 conferences in Western Mass and 2 in Southern Mass and spoke about moving the conference Central Mass or the Boston area
- Ebony asked about conference survey results
- Melissa advised that Monique coordinated the survey and that overall feedback was positive
- For the 2022 conference the committee is rethinking the vendor/lender area set up and break areas
- Donna completed own survey. Outcome was evenly split about the vendor location.
  - Donna agreed that the break/snack areas could be moved to a different location.
- Donna advised that all invoices have been paid in full.
- Julie thanked Donna for her hard work in having a good vendor turnout

**FAFSA Day: Mike**

- FAFSA information sessions began in October by zoom and have been hosted by Amy Staffier
- There were approximately 50 families signed up for November, 40 families for December, and 25 families for January for one on one sessions
- Registrants difference number than actual attendees, could be due to high school out reach and available online tools
- Sessions are recorded and resources are available on website
- Thank you to all of the volunteers and a shout out to Migdalia at Harvard and Carmen from MassEdCo for their assistance with Spanish speaking families
- There will be one more session in February and then committee will monitor need for additional session.
- Amy shared that the one on one sessions are enjoyable to do
- Michael and Amy shared that on occasion volunteers were spending the whole session with families and able to meet their needs
- FAFSA Day Gmail account is active weekly for questions and answers
- Mike feels that these sessions are successful and that they are meeting people's needs.

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**Access, Inclusion & Diversity Committee: Jaron**

- Committee successfully help their first event of year, Communication Strategies with Autistic Students
- Presenters were Tammy and Anna from QCC
- Received feedback that this is a popular topic and Jaron suggested there could be sessions at conference next year
- Key takeaways:
  - 1 out of 55 children are diagnosed w/ autism
  - 45% will go to college
  - 2% of college students in 2011 had disclosed an autism diagnosis
  - 550,000 children will autism will be transitioning into adulthood in the next decade
  - 45% will seek higher education
- Jaron shared that an IED plan does not always carry through college. Presentation highlighted the importance of understand social queues
- Jaron asked, who he should send the presentation
- Ebony suggested that Jaron send the presentation to attendees who signed up and showed interest in subject matter
- Amy suggested highlighting event and mention a session will be available at conference in the next MASFAA Newsletter
- Leanne advises she is able to add the content to the newsletter
- Jaron discussed key points of presentation
- Jaron is looking for volunteers for the committee's First Gen project. Jody Conway is leading the project and The Cape Code school involved. The group is looking to expand to other schools and involve other populations

**Development Committee: Donna**

- Donna's update was part of the Conference Committee's update.
- Donna suggest that the Development Committee update be on the Agenda to follow the Conference Committee updates since the two committees work closely together

**Early Awareness and Outreach Committee: Katelyn**

- Katelyn has been conducting preliminary research w/a friend from the Lynn Public Schools.
- Currently gaining an understanding with the priorities of North Shore regarding enrollment
  - Chris Smole- is assisting Katelyn on this committee
- Katelyn is having difficulty getting information about the Gear Up piece and is experiencing time restraints since she is currently the only person on this committee. Suggested reaching out to previous volunteers for this committee to assist with this event
- Katelyn noted that it has been difficult to find available facilities due to COVID/vaccination restrictions and noted that logistics and time issues are hindering the ability to plan events
- Ebony will assist with the committee and also help with recruiting volunteers and possibly a co-chair
- Amy volunteered to assist with the committee as well
- Katlyn explained that she has limited guidance and welcome assistance with planning event

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**Other Business**

Ebony ask for a motion to approve 11/17 meeting minutes

Amy: motion

Laure: second

**Financial Education & Wellness Committee: Dan**

- Committee is planning 3 events in the spring.
  - Tim Lehmann from SNHU will host a webinar on Emergency Funds
  - Committee is working on a podcast with Jaron and Tamika about First Gen students
- Committee is surveying the financial aid community for financial wellness thoughts and ideas
- Dan announced and discussed his new job at RISD.

**Government Relations Committee: Betsy**

- Other NE states have joined committee
- RI, NH, VT have attended meetings. Maine may attend in the future
- It is good to be able to share individual State level information and trends between the NE States
- Focus on negotiated rule making especially regarding the loan-based negotiations that just ended and one that just started about school accountability (school account ability)
- Neg Reg will hold off on webinar until draft rules come out, probably early summer
- At MA level, there is a bill about to go to committee which prohibits institutions from denying transcripts for credits that have been fully paid for even if student still has an outstanding balance. SUNY schools have voluntarily adopted this procedure.
  - Betsy shared that she wrote an op ed regarding this bill
- Committee discussed pros, cons, and scenarios regarding this policy.
- Working to get PSLF webinar out to MASFAA constituency
- Schools should ask their HR departments to send an email to employees and alumni with information regarding PSLF
  - <https://studentaid.gov/announcements-events/pslf-limited-waiver>
  - <https://freestudentloanadvice.org/loan-forgiveness/public-service-loan-forgiveness/>
- Betsy noted that the TISLA page has information available that is not available on Department of Ed site

**Membership and Technology: Jeff and Sarah**

- In the process of collecting outstanding conference fees
  - \$2400 from 6 organizations- waiting for payments
- Membership cleanup push: recent report shows \$2300 in outstanding invoices for membership dues that have not been paid.
- There are currently 435 paid members
- Cleaning up membership records of people that are not active members

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**Professional Development and Training Committee: James**

- Tax trainings were held in December. There was good attendance for the virtual events
- 175 registrations for verification and conflicting information training
- 45-50 registrations for business only training
- The tax training recordings are available online, thank you Jeff
- Planning a Spring event offering mid-level professionals advanced training topics
- Planning on some fun topics for personal development trainings
- Leadership academy discussions for an in- person networking event. Current restrictions on in person events are being monitored
  - Discussions for possible 1-year event instead of 2-year event due to attendance numbers for 2<sup>nd</sup> year event
- There is a new committee member, thank you Julie for conference recruitment
- Lauren is getting full list of all co-chairs and executive council members in one place for efficient organization and communication with committee co-chairs so the Leadership Academy members can jump in on committee meetings while working on leadership academy material

**Communications Committee: Leanne**

- Working on monthly Newsletter
- A second page has been added for additional announcement or information
- Send requests to Leanne

**Members at Large: Ebony**

- Ebony asked suggestions regarding the below events. No defined requirements.
  - Year-end event
  - Passing of gavel
  - Awards
  - End of year send off

Ebony requested a motion to adjourn meeting

Lauren: motion to adjourn

Dawn: second

Meeting ended at 11:27am