Massachusetts Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators  
Executive Council Meeting  
March 13th, 2020  
Zoom Meeting

Executive Council: (Voting Members)

- Kevin DeRuosi □ Shannon James ■ Donna Shelby
- Monica Blondin □ Korinne Peterson ■ Ross Glover
- Melissa Metcalf □ Robyn Butterfield □ Ebony Carter
- Linna Tran ■ Ben Parsons

Committees:

□ Siobhan Keenan □ Amy Staffier □ Jan Combs ■ Jennifer Bento-Pinyoun
□ Brandon Cipoletta ■ Susan Kolls ■ Jonathan Sparling □ Lisa Tablot
■ Betsy Mayotte □ Thomas Hunt □ Ina Frye ■ Beth Feinberg Keenan
■ Sarah Bergeron □ Dawn Batchelor ■ Jennifer Sheely ■ Robert Picoriello
■ Lauren Sullivan ■ Julie Lawton □ Michelle Clifton □ Ramon Soto
□ Jaron Tucker □ Jeff Bentley □ Kaitlyn Ma ■ Monique Howell

Other Attendees:

Meeting started at: 10:04AM  
Motion to start: Ben Parsons  
Second: Kevin DeRuosi

Welcome: Monica Blondia
- Reviewed agenda
- Checking in everyone is okay amidst COVID

Executive Council Reports:

Past President: Melissa Metcalf
- No updates

President: Kevin DeRouxi
- Checking again with everyone’s wellness
- Elections
  - Graduate and Professional – Monique Howell
  - Treasurer – Dawn Batchelor
One Candidate for president
- Four year private has one candidate
- We will go live with the election next week

**President Elect: Monica Blondin**
- Monica asked everyone to go through their committees and let her know who does not have and needs a co-chairs
- All chairs must provide their dates
- EC Minutes pending Shannon
- Motion to approve minutes: Ben Parson

**Treasurer: Shannon James – Updates from Monica Blondin**
- We are still working on taxes and it was extended
- We have investment reserves
- Budget will be sent out for individual committees next week

**Committee reports**

**FAFSA Day: Jen**
- All events have been completed
- There were 27 sites
  - This is down a few from last year
- 770 students in total and 157 volunteers
  - Again, a little bit down from last year
- There will be a yearend meeting online soon
- FAFSA Day Committees will continue to provide help desk
  - 10 calls per weeks
- Greeted % for most completed for small school, large school, and most approved $750 scholarship
- We sent thank you letters for principal and president of host sites
- Amy and Jen will stay on the committee
- Monica – is there someone you have in mind?
  - Jen said they are still finding a person

**Development: Donna Shelby**
- No updates
- Donna mentioned that they heard from a couple of new vendors from last year conference
- 30+ vendors
- Donna will be co-chair and Jeff will be backup

**Early Awareness: Ben Parson**
- Southbridge Middle School
• Reach out to Department of Education
  o She will start looking for a new school
  o A school in East Boston
• Kaitlyn will stay on
  o Her colleague may also be invited

Financial Wellness: Sarah Bergeron
• Lisa and Sarah spoke early this week
  o The plan is to delay food and insecurity podcast
• Considering everything, the podcast will be paused until the summer

Government relations: Betsy Mayotte
• Co-chair is Barbara from Middlesex Community College
• There was a call this week
  o COVID was the top conversation
• They are in the works of creating a single source to regulate any guidance
• On MASFAA page
  o Link is only for people living in Boston
  o Overall best practices
    ▪ How are you handling x, how you are handling y
• Kevin will put a press release about the page later today
  o All information is fact-based and related to higher education
  o Government agency, NASFAA, department of education
    ▪ There’s no sharing from Boston Globe or other new source
• Betsy asked which committee can take charge of the best practices
  o We are creating a temporary new committee for this
• Kevin mentioned best practice for MASFAA email, and everything will go to a mailbox
  o Any volunteer?
    ▪ Monica
    ▪ Kevin
    ▪ Melissa
    ▪ Jeff
• Example: Those who are closing their physical campus, appeals – what are your criteria?
  o Refunding room and board
  o Work study
• Kevin mentioned what he is doing for his campus and some best practices
  o Work study – He wrote a query to find students who live on campus
    ▪ He will share this query to find students
  o Page will be a great for professionals
  o We are the first to put this out
• Betsy said we do not know what’s happening because this could end in 3 weeks or be ongoing or seasonal
  o Prepare for the worse and hope for the best
• Betsy will resume priority once everything is settled

GPCC: Robert Picoriello
• GPCC symposium was last Friday
• 60 people attended
• The topics were food scarcity, income share agreement, overborrowing, etc.
• From the evaluation, things have gone well
• Reimbursement went great
• Rob and Maria are staying on as co-chairs
• Kevin mentioned that his colleague loved the symposium and stayed the entire time
  o She also brought back information to work to share with her colleagues
• Everyone was engaged and asked questions

AID: Updates from Robert Picoriello
• June 19th Friday at northeastern
• We have a keynote speaker
• Chief of staff from Mass Education is coming
• There is one presentation on supporting low income
• Jaron will stay on

Membership: Jen Sheely
• There is not too much to report
• Everything is very quiet
• 635 members

PDT: Lauren Sullivan
• Lauren mentioned that they have not held a meeting for a while but they are communicating through emails constantly
• MLA session
  o Diversity session
• The other event we have is in June
  o Support Staff event at Wellesley

Technology: Monica updates
• There will be a meeting for this month
• Two new members
• Google docs of vendors are still open
• Will this be combined with membership?
Kevin said no because we have not presented it the entire committees yet
  • Kevin also mentioned that we will consider combining technology and membership together
    o A lot easier because they relay on each other for events and registration
    o Jonathan is joining the committee

Conference: Monique Howell
  • Monique mentioned that they had their first meeting last month
  • They are working on ideas of keynote speakers
  • Plan to meet remotely at the end of the month
  • Betsy and Melissa went to visit Plymouth
    o They were able to get Wednesday for pre-conference
    o There are a lot of areas for vendors places
    o Betsy showed pictures of the conference
      ▪ Went through where we have sessions, overflow, vendors and so on
    o Key note One anne shore – autism
    o The location is across the ocean and a lot of great places to visit

EASFAA: Melissa Metcalf
  • EASFAA is canceling social events
  • They are also canceling conference

Miscellaneous
  • Is there a travel ban in your institution?
    o Jonathan mentioned that for his institution there is a ban for the next 30 days
    o Beth mentioned they have a travel ban until the end of April
    o Donna said there is no official ban but no flights
    o Monique mentioned that at Brandeis there is a ban of university business
      ▪ Travel ban for international
      ▪ Closed events to large group events and individual meeting with family
      ▪ Remote flexibility – all grad school remote for the rest of the semester
    o Ben – mentioned students are all going home today for the rest of the semester
      ▪ Cancelled all campus event
    o Melissa said that Boston College’s students are being sent home and events cancelled
      ▪ Offices are still open
  • Monica asked if any of the school decided to prorate and/or give refunds?
    o Melissa – prorating room and board
    o Monique – prorating room and board as well
    o Ben – also prorating room and board
      ▪ He also mentioned another school is not changing anything
New Website

- Jonathon said that they did an initial research
  - Memberclicks, Member365, Digital Cheetah
  - Jeff, Sarah, Monica, and Kevin will be a part of this
  - Memberclicks
    - Jonathan mentioned that he feels confident in the platform
      - The website provides what we need and everything we need as an association
    - We are moving forward with this
    - A contract is in the works
    - The website is a powerful solution for us
    - Do we need to make a decision soon for March discount?
      - Jonathan will confirm with them
    - Ask NH and NY because they moved to Memberclicks
      - Pros/cons
  - Make sure we have the support that we need
  - Jonathon will follow-up
  - Monica – Kevin mentioned that when we have a retreat in August to have Memberclicks show a demo
  - Melissa – as far as bylaws, do we vote for the new website?
    - Monica will check with this

End of Year Event

- Typically held in June
- Members of Large was planning this
- Monica remembers that one year we combined a professional and educational event
- Last year was a social
- Betsy – ax throwing? A social in Plymouth?

Motion to end meeting: Monica Blondin
Second: Ben Parson
End time: 11:35AM