

MEETING MINUTES
21/22 MASFAA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
March 25, 2022

Motion to begin:

Second:

Meeting began at: 10:03am

Welcome/Officer Reports: Ebony

President: Ebony

Motion to approve January meeting minutes

January Exec Council Meeting Minutes were approved

President Elect: Amy

- Volunteer of the Year award should be given out at the year-end event
- Nomination email should be sent out to MASFAA committee members
 - Current Exec Council, Chairs and Co-Chairs are not eligible for this award

Past president: Monica

- A MASFAA nomination email was sent out to the MASFAA community last Friday looking for a number of positions to be filled for the upcoming academic year for MASFAA Executive Council
- Request that nominations be provided by end of day, Friday, April 8th
- Open positions and responsibilities are listed on the MASFAA website
- Thank you to Sarah for getting the website up and running
- Monica suggested to current Exec Council members that outreach would be helpful
- Monica to Ebony and Amy: an EASFAA representative needs to be appointed from Exec Council by Amy

Treasurer: Beth

- Sent out updated Treasurer's reports
- Up to date on reports as of the end of February
- Another \$2500 going to conference
- \$1000 that was just deposited for sponsorship
- Ebony will be checking mailbox soon
- Beth advised there may be items being sent to the PO Box

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Committee Reports and Goal Setting

Conference Committee: Julie

- Planning is underway for the November conference
- The Conference dates are November 17th and 18th in Plymouth at the Hotel 1620
- Theme and logo have been decided, thank you Amy Staffier
- Going live on website soon with conference information
- Julie discussed the idea of holding in-person committee meetings at breakfast Friday morning of the Conference. Meeting in person is also a great opportunity for committee subsets to attend the conference and for additional networking
- Would like the conference to be more official this year and add tracks to the conference agenda
 - Julie asked if committees could put together 3-4 sessions in order to create tracks
- Call for session proposals will go out in April
- Asked PD&T to offer NASFAA credential sessions at the conference
 - Offer as a pre-conference or part of conference

FAFSA Day: Jennifer

- Concluded monthly virtual events in February
- Numbers dipped throughout month
- Co-hosting final virtual event with MEFA on 4/28/22, at 5:00-8:00pm
 - The format will be the same as previous event
 - Requesting volunteers for this event
 - Emailed flyer to help promote event

Access, Inclusion & Diversity Committee: Jaron

- There are 13 volunteers signed up as mentors for the 1st Gen Mentoring program
- In contact with Barnstable High School and have students ready to start the program
- In the process of securing students from a local Boston High School to join the pilot program
- Jaron will be presenting their committee's next presentation on support for low income 1st Gen students
 - Presentation should be completed and offered towards the end of April
- Ebony asked how the committee recruited 13
 - Jaron shared the committee was able to recruit some volunteers at the conference and they sent out a blast email on the list serve. There may be one volunteer currently who is a current Exec Council member.

Development Committee:

N/A

Kim Oikle
5/18/22

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Early Awareness and Outreach Committee:

N/A

Financial Education & Wellness Committee: Jenn

- 1st Webinar on March 2nd, A Problem of Fit: How the Complexity of College Pricing Hurts Students and Universities, Professor Phillip Levine of Wellesley College
 - Over 50 attendees
- 2nd Webinar on March 23rd, Looking Beyond the HEERF Cliff: Building Sustainable Models for Emergency Aid, Tim Lehman, Southern New Hampshire University
- 3rd Webinar will be on April 2nd, Begin with the End in Mind: Assessment and Evaluation for Financial Wellness Programs, Dr. Zach Taylor, University of Texas.
- Looking into how to produce a podcast series
- Monica and Jenn will be co-chairing EASFAA Financial Wellness Committee
- Jenn is no longer main representative for MA and will be rolling off of MASFAA committee
- Since Dan is now working in RI he is not sure if he will remain as co-chair of Financial Wellness Committee
- Will be asking committee members if there is interest for Chairs as well as doing some outreach

Government Relations Committee: Betsy and Ellen

Ellen:

- The State sent the budget to be signed off, \$22 million for high education private schools in that budget
- Not sure if MASSGrant will be increased
- The State collected the highest collection rate of taxes ever this year resulting in the budget proposal looking positive for higher education.
 - <https://www.mass.gov/news/baker-polito-administration-files-fiscal-year-2023-budget-and-tax-relief-proposals>
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Betsy:

- Betsy stated that most of the negotiated rule making proposals did not come to consensus
- Neg/Reg session was about gainful employment. This is the 3rd Administration that tackled these issues
 - Obama Administration-while the proposals apply to all schools, can't say they were not targeting specifically for profit schools
 - Trump Administration- pulled back on all of proposals
 - The current proposals are meant to put more protections in place for students
 - 90/10 Rule did come to consensus, for profit schools
 - Eliminates the loophole that is currently in place where funds from the military are not counted, i.e. GI Bill.
 - Will include language about income share agreements
 - Not going to count funds received for Non-Title IV eligible programs
 - Gainful Employment proposal will include language regarding a new metric where the median earnings of graduates from a gainful employment program will be bumped up against average earnings of people that only have high school diploma
 - Cosmetology schools are proposing that income reported from graduates of cosmetology and hair dressing schools be excluded from the earnings comparison reports. A good portion of income earned by these students is unreported tips so the earnings reported are not reflective of actual income
 - This Neg/Reg also includes information about financial responsibility and administrative capabilities and they are looking to add additional language addressing discretionary triggers. If a school hits one of those triggers the Dept of Ed could put the school on provisional certification and the school would be required to create an escrow fund or take out insurance to ensure that if there are any closed schools or borrower defense discharge claims that the Dept of Ed and the US taxpayer would be reimbursed
- In the near future, expect to see similar proposals and stronger proposals around gainful employment
- Preparing to do regulatory updated training for MASFAA
 - After draft rules come out over the summer
 - After final rule comes out
- Betsy shared thoughts on the extension of the repayment pause
 - predicts the pause will be extended another 6 months
 - Hearing chatter that Dept of Ed has advised servicers to stop sending out repayment restart reminders to students
 - President of SLSA, Scott Buchanan, tweeted out a reminder about repayment restart which conflicts with the Dept of Ed advising servicers to stop sending out repayment restart reminders
 - TISLA has discontinued their social media campaign that put a humorous slant on repayment restart reminders

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- Betsy shared her thoughts on broad student loan forgiveness
 - Spoke with a Democratic Congressional staffer who is heavily involved with this conversation. This staffer did not think there would be an announcement about broad student loan forgiveness
 - Spoke with a Republican Congressional staffer who is strongly opposed to loan forgiveness. This staffer seemed to think there may be something done on the lower end and based on income
 - Possibly working on a permanent reduction of interest rates
 - Biggest barrier to congress looking into loan forgiveness is the cost
- About halfway through PSLF temporary waivers
- TISLA is conducting a number of webinars and is currently working with Senator Warren's office to see if TISLA can offer a webinar free of charge for Mass State employees.
- Working with colleges and universities about PSLF education
- Ebony stated that she hopes that the loan repayment pause info will be released sooner than later because time is getting closer and it would be helpful to borrowers to know what to expect
- Betsy stated that if they are not going to extend the pause then there is a very small window for robustful outreach that need to be done
- Betsy shared that she does not feel the pause should be extended. The longer it goes the harder it will be to get borrowers in repayment back on track and the pause has cost the Federal Government \$50 billion per year

Membership and Technology: Jeff

- Thank you to Sarah for getting the website up to date
- Working on getting the, Save the Date, for the conference posted on the website
- 478 paid members with \$567 past due
- Working on recruiting members for next year
- Programs and events help recruit members

Professional Development and Training Committee: James

- Robert, Iron Bridge, is offering update on 2021 taxes
 - 65 MASFAA members currently signed up
- Last month Betsy presented a webinar for the membership on PSLF
 - Approximately 40 participants attended
 - James is working on getting video posted on YouTube
- PD&T is working on bring back the Leadership Academy
 - The program is more successful as an in-person event, mainly due to networking
 - Hoping to bring the program back this fall
 - Revised from a 2year program to a 1year program
 - Shifting the focus in some areas
- Spring event in June will be for mid-level financial aid professionals

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Communications Committee: Leanne

- Sending out monthly newsletters
- Working on April newsletter
- Let Leanne know if you want anything included for the April newsletter due to go out April 1st

EASFAA: Monica

- Conference is coming up in May
- Recent EASFAA meeting in February, not able to attend
- Will be having a June meeting in RI which Monica and Jenn will be attending

Members at Large: N/A

- Private 4 year
- Career/Technical
- Graduate/Professional
- General
- Associate Member

Additional Topics

- **Year End Event**

Motion to adjourn: Lauren

Second: Beth

Meeting ended at: 11:15am