

Massachusetts Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
Wellesley College
February 11, 2011

In attendance: Christine McGuire*, Bernie Pekala*, Gail Holt*, Leah Barry*, Patty Reilly, Debbie Gronback, Pamela McCafferty*, Julie Shields-Rutyna, Jill Desjean*, Jillian Glaze, Karen Grant*, Kerry Jacobs, Jennifer English*, Martha Savery, Cheryl Constantine*, Christina Coviello, Lori Moore, Bonnie Quinn, Tanya Tanaro, Jeff Bentley*, Melissa Metcalf*, Catherine Ryan*

Absent: Ray O'Rourke*

*Voting members

President Christine McGuire called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Christine McGuire

chmcguir@bu.edu

- No major update on Strategic Planning
- Support letters were sent for College Access Challenge Grants which feeds back into College Goal Sunday
- Martha Savery from MEFA wanted to thank MASFAA for their support of the College Access Challenge Grant Application
- A conversation was held with Rich Doherty on State House Day
- Concern about Pell Grant funding. AICUMM may travel to DC

PRESIDENT-ELECT'S REMARKS

Bernie Pekala

bernard.pekala@bc.edu

- Conference 2011 update
- Conference Committee met yesterday at BC to thank the committee for all of their work on last year's conference and to pull together thoughts about next year's conference
- Bernie thanked the conference committee for all of their hard work
- Reviewed conference evaluations and session evaluations
- Conference evaluations were very positive
- Emails will go out next week to presenters to see if they want session evaluations
- Committee is exploring conference themes
- Survey will be sent to entire MASFAA membership about conference. Hope to use the MASFAA website instead of survey monkey
- Discussed offering a \$20 Dunkin Donuts gift certificate to encourage members to complete survey
- Conference Committee will email evaluation results to EC
- Discussion of survey took place

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Catherine Ryan

cryan@wsc.ma.edu

- No changes made to the January minutes
- Handbook updates continue
- Motion offered to accept January 2011 minutes offered by Karen Grant, seconded by Pam McCafferty and unanimously accepted

TREASURER'S REPORT

Leah Barry

Lbarry@bu.edu

- Some budgets may need to be increased
- Still waiting for some invoices
- Finance committee will need to meet to move some money around
- We are in very good shape financially
- We do not need to go to the reserves
- Christine and Leah have already met to review financials to cover our costs
- Unpaid members are getting email reminders
- We have 4 conference attendees who have not paid yet
- Committees have been very good turning in receipts on a timely basis
- No changes on overall net worth. CD due at the end of March
- Motion offered to accept Treasurer's report offered by Pam McCafferty, seconded by Jill Desjean and unanimously accepted

NOMINATIONS/PAST-PRESIDENT'S REPORT and EASFAA

Gail Holt

gholt@mtholyoke.edu

- EASFAA elections are open so please vote if you are a member
- EASFAA's next meeting is 2/18/2011 in Philadelphia
- Will have more information soon on EASFAA MA site selection
- Discussion of bringing student mentees to conference to expose them to financial aid profession, networking activities, attend sessions
- It has worked well in Connecticut so EASFAA is considering
- EASFAA is looking for emerging leaders to attend the conference. Gail will reach out to our emerging leaders committee
- EASFAA members will receive an email from Neville about collecting photos that will help to promote what we do as financial aid professionals
- Tony Erwin called Christine about EASFAA offering a tax workshop training at Northeastern and New Hampshire and he wanted MASFAA to know that he was not trying to compete with MASFAA's tax workshop
- EASFAA cost of attendance training – is MASFAA going to offer a similar event in May or next fall?
- Gail will recommend to EASFAA that we partner on the Tax Workshop next year

COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY

Julie Shields-Rutyna

jshields-rutyna@mefa.org

Beth Feinberg Keenan

bethf01@gmail.com

Susan Sullivan

smsull@hotmail.com

- 2 Thursday events were cancelled due to snow
- Weather on FAFSA Sunday was great and 24 sites were able to participate
- Event went very well
- An estimated 1,300 students were served
- Wakefield was cancelled due to snow but has been rescheduled
- 120 families are signed up to come to Wakefield next week. Still looking for more volunteers
- Pine Manor is a site scheduled for March 6th
- Susan Sullivan went to ASA and did a webcast that is now on the website for students and families to watch
- Also available on the website for families are other resources to assist with FAFSA filing
- The committee was very frugal this year with their budget

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Zack Goodwin

zgoodwin@dcemail.harvard.edu

Patricia Reilly

Patriciareilly@tufts.edu

- State House Day is March 1 from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
- Trying to expand this year to be more inclusive for public and private schools
- Trying to get as many schools as possible to attend
- Template will be sent to schools today for aid offices to send to their students
- Christine said that the AICUM – the purpose of state house day is to say “thank you for the aid that supports our MA students
- Opportunity for students to come together to thank legislators
- Letters are also a strong way to communicate thanks
- Group discussion took place

GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

Lori Moore

lmoore@accessgroup.edu

Kristi Jovell

kjovell@suffolk.edu

- GPCC was recognized for hosting a fabulous event this past week on Financial Literacy
- Thanks to Lori Moore and Kristi Jovell (who is leaving MA next week) for all of their hard work on the event
- The event was well attended and the verbal feedback was positive
- A resource list will be posted to the MASFAA website under Symposium

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

Jennifer English

jenglish1@worchester.edu

- Tax workshop will be held next week at Bentley College
- Approximately 150 registrations
- Tax workbook and parking passes will be online very soon
- Thanks given to the committee for all of their hard work on putting this event together
- Group discussion took place

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Aaron Clark

aa.clark@neu.edu

Debbie Gronback

Debbie_gronback@harvard.edu

- Last meeting we talked about do we have a contract with Noetic? We do not have a formal contract, only a letter from November 2003.
- It may be time to revisit how many hours we need per month from Noetic
- We can revisit this later this spring
- The event registration form seems to be working great
- It was used for the 2 most recent events
- Membership co-chairs updated confirmation email to indicate it may take up to 48 hours to process membership and receive log in information (necessary to register for events). Same note should be added to event registration pages for each event.

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- None

A motion to adjourn was offered by Jennifer English, seconded by Jill Desjean and approved unanimously at 12:10 p.m.