

Massachusetts Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
Executive Council Meeting, May 13, 2016
Northeastern University

In attendance: **Meredith Stover***, **Diana Beaudoin*** Brooke Barbieri, Keith Dimilanta, Mike Albano, Greg Chick Christina, **Katie Kelsall***, **Alex Gonzalez***, Emir Morais, Ben Parsons, Jill Marr, Wenimo Poweigha, **Sabina Yesmin***, **Stephanie Wells***, **Susan Sullivan***, **Jim Slattery*** Kristin Hmielski, Shannon Eagan, Ebony Carter, **Shawn Morrissey***, Monica Blondin, **Kathy Anderson*** (phone)

Absent: Alcira Zadroga, Josh DeMaio, Brendan Furey, **Jamie Dergay***, Bill Buescher, Kevin DeRuosi, Jolene Coakley, Bonnie Quinn, Christina Coviello, **Michele Kosboth***, Kristi Pierce, Anthony Crowe

Bold italics* = voting member

Meeting started: 10:10 AM. Welcome to everyone from President Jim Slattery.

Secretary's Report: **Meredith Stover***

Review of minutes from the March meeting. No additional updates. Motion was put forward by Susan and seconded by Shawn to approve minutes – all voting members in attendance approved.

Treasurer's Report: **Katie Kelsall***

- Good financial shape overall. Expenses are up due to website initial purchase. Only other potential expense for this year is the end of year event. Leadership Academy and GPCC are also planning year-end events. Would like to have all current year payments processed by 6/30 if possible.
- Any follow-up invoices for Noetic on the website transition? Mike will follow up with Nelson – probably at least one more payment.
- We have deposited on 2 locations (Southbridge 2016 and Cape Cod 2017) for the next 2 conference locations.
- Hoping to transition to new laptop for incoming Treasurer. Would like to return Quick Books and use Quicken instead? No objections from council.

Comments:

- Jim: Call for budget proposals from committee chairs for 16-17. Will send out template for committees and positions. Jim can offer assistance/advice for new committee chairs or committees.

President-Elect's Report: **Shawn Morrissey***

- Finalizing co-chairs for next year. Still working with committees he has not heard from – the following co-chairs are in place:
FAFSA Day: Ryan Forsythe
Conference Committee: Alexis Guay
GPCC: Rosemary Hilliard
- Jill has reached out to Early Awareness members, Ebony has reached out to Access, Inclusion, and Diversity members – still waiting to hear back. For now, list Stephanie as co-chair for Government Relations – that could change.

President's Report: *Jim Slattery**

- AICUM letter follow-up on shopping sheet proposal for MA; Jim sent MASFAA response from our March meeting to AICUM. Thanks to everyone for their feedback. There was such little turnaround time, AICUM had no chance to stop it from moving forward with the Senate - Senate had already approved the legislation unanimously.
- Jim was at the State House for NU related business shortly thereafter and had the opportunity to speak with the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, Senator Karen Spilka. Senate thought it made sense and moved forward quickly – had families' best interests in mind but were not fully aware of both sides of the issue. She was OK with the idea of UG vs. Grad versions and it sounds like current legislation will be amended to include that suggestion. Probably won't be able to stop this from moving forward but we may be able to come to more of an agreed position.
- AICUM would like us involved. MA Association of School Counselors is in support of legislation. Jim attended their recent meeting and would like to offer them space at our fall conference.
- We're in a tough position – idea is generally very popular so we need to educate other groups about our needs. We're not opposed but need to refine legislation. Hard to get clarity on many of the details.

Comments:

- Monica: Can the legislation be deferred another year? Not fully voted on yet – only the Senate has approved it so it still needs to go before the House. Not sure on timing.
- Susan: At community colleges, direct costs vs. budgeted costs are very different. For many, not understanding that could be an obstacle to attending college. Also, graduation rates and default rates need further clarity – hard to share the data without a lot of detail.
- Mike: used in CT, required for first-year students – Wesleyan does not use it for returning students.
- Stephanie: Highlights EFC in a big way – families need to be educated. Opportunity for MASFAA to have a blog about how to use shopping sheet – MEFA could also be involved.

Past President's Report: *Kathy Anderson**

- This was Kathy's last executive council meeting as Past-President. In her words – “my work here is done”! Jim thanked her for her service and leadership, especially with the website transition.

Committee Updates

Technology: Greg Chick and Mike Albano

- Shawn, Kathy, Mike, Jim, and Greg have a weekly transition call scheduled with Digital Cheetah. Slow going, partly us and partly schedules. Domain transfer (both MASFAA and FAFSA Day) takes about 4-6 weeks.
- New website can scale depending on what type of machine you are using so there will be more mobile capabilities.
- MASFAA logo is old, not scalable – had to convert. Walked through basic decisions about design, decisions with membership. Suppressing some options for now – once we have basic version up and running, we can revisit.
- Database transfer – question about archived data – is there a way for Noetic to capture that for us?

Comments:

- Shawn: For the Noetic capture of archived data, we should recognize that this would be an additional cost and offer that up front? Mike will approach Noetic about possibility.
- Emir: are we taking on too much at once? Should it be more staged? With Digital Cheetah, capabilities are so great, seems good to invest time now but still move forward in stages. We can go back and implement updates – need to focus on archiving piece now with Noetic since they are transitioning out of business.
- Keith: is Nelson still supporting current needs? Yes, he is still supportive – knows the end is in sight and that we have a working plan in progress.

- Jim: would like to offer a “fresh” look to the site – photos, articles, etc. would be great. Forward to Greg Chick if you have anything.
- Jim: with the new website, could be option for Technology Committee and Communications Committee merger? Current newsletter format will be outdated with the new website – will be able to incorporate. This would allow membership to have access to up to date information at all times. Could also tie in to social media sites. Any strong opposition? Sabina and Alex, current committee members, are not opposed – it’s been hard to arrange meeting times and still deliver updated communications. Once we have website up and running, we’ll revisit this idea.
- Brooke: possibility of training at retreat? We will definitely offer training at some point – may not be at the retreat depending on timing.
- Emir: can we update some of the current language on the website? For example, career vs. jobs. Will have flexibility for content and design changes.

Professional Development and Training: *Susan Sullivan** for Christina Coviello

- Support staff workshop went well. Will forward lunch reimbursement cost to Katie.
- Final Leadership Academy session schedule for 6/16 – requested feedback on recognizing graduates?

Comments:

- Stephanie: Maybe something they can use for work instead of a plaque – portfolio? Susan will connect back with Christina.

Conference: Shannon Eagan

- Theme is “Path to Victory” – based on Olympic year - someone in financial aid for 10 plus years will receive a gold star, etc.
- Selected charity – Center of Hope Foundation (www.thecenterofhope.org). Mission is to provide people with disabilities and their families the resources, services, and opportunities to be contributing members of their communities and to achieve the most fulfilling and meaningful lives possible.
- Will have some activities planned for the night before – not sure we’ll have as many in attendance for that night as the Cape location. Still encouraging it as an option to membership.

Early Awareness: Wenimo Poweigha and Jill Marr

- Spring Carnival of Learning event on 4/12 went very well. Lots of presenters and Gear Up volunteers. Evaluations were great – wished they had more space. Physical Therapy was most popular.

Comments:

- Emir: How do you choose the location? They approach us – mostly Gear Up schools. Lawrence has already approached us for an upcoming location.

FAFSA Day: Keith Dimilanta

- Already had first meeting for upcoming year. 3 co-chairs for sure, looking for a 4th.
- Dates for next year’s main events are 11/6 and 1/29. Will have other dates as well for smaller events. Were later dates well attended last year? Mixed bag – biggest numbers came at January event.
- Need to print new brochure and documents with sponsorship gone. Will continue to be as conservative as possible with budget.
- Tight timeline with everything shifting to an earlier timeframe. Need to update website.

Comments:

- Stephanie: MEFA has transitioned their guidance counselor trainings to November – would be helpful to know what schools are doing in terms of deadlines, etc. Would a survey to membership be useful to everyone? Timing is key, many schools already know what they plan to do but some are still planning. Will revisit survey idea at retreat.

Financial Literacy: Monica Blondin and Kristin Hmieleski

- First meeting at Elms College – lots of interest, 17 attendees.
- Figuring out next steps – why the interest? Good to hear perspective from many different schools.
- 2nd meeting coming up – broke into sub committees: PR/communications, conference, web resources.

Comments:

- Emir: As the committee continues to evolve, need to get at micro level of who your audience is – not all programs are the same.

Miscellaneous

Old business:

None

New business:

- Finance Committee will meet in June to review budget requests for 16-17.
- Alex, Diana, Susan, Michele and Stephanie to discuss details of year-end event to be held at The Pub in Waltham, MA on Thursday, June 16th. Thanks from Jim for their help in organizing this event.

Susan motioned to adjourn, Katie seconded. All in favor to adjourn the meeting at 12:30 PM.