

**MEMBERS:**

Chair: Kimberly Gargano, Tufts University's School of Medicine

Chair: Diana Beaudoin, Boston University

Chair: Janet Turner, Boston University

Members:

Diana Beaudoin, Boston University School of Law

Ina Frye, Boston University

Kimberly Gargano, Tufts University's School of Medicine

Valeria Harris, Harvard University Graduate School of Education

Kenneth Hayes, Suffolk University Law School

Rosemary Hilliard, Tufts University School of Dental Medicine

Eric Krupski, New England Law | Boston

Christine Padgett, Babson University

Jennifer Schott, American Student Assistance

Janet Turner, Boston University College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences: Sargent College

Karen Van Dyne, Hult University

Heather Ward, Discover Student Loans

Maegan Wright, Berklee College of Music

**PURPOSE:**

The mission of the Graduate and Professional Concerns Committee (GPCC) is two-fold:

1. Provide support to the graduate and professional financial aid community to assist them in serving students; and
2. Build and strengthen the network of graduate and professional financial aid administrators in Massachusetts.

**2012-2013 OBJECTIVES:**

1. Make the GPCC a vital part of the professional life of members that serve graduate and professional students.
  - Update the GPCC section of the MASFAA website to provide valuable resources and reference tools for graduate and professional aid administrators
  - Write articles for the MASFAA newsletter concerning graduate and professional aid issues
  - Compile a comprehensive list of financial literacy resources targeting graduate and professional students.

2. Provide professional development and training opportunities that meet the needs of our graduate and professional aid officers.

- Develop and deliver a one-day information session/symposium related to graduate and professional concerns
- Organize and present at least one session related to graduate and professional concerns at the MASFAA annual conference
- Explore spring training or networking opportunities

3. Promote networking opportunities for graduate and professional aid administrators

- Encourage networking during the MASFAA annual conference and the GPCC symposium

#### **2012-2013 MASFAA GOALS:**

- Advance the Art and Science of our Profession
  - with students, families, on and off-campus colleagues, faculty and administration, elected and governmental officials
- Increase engagement of members
- Continued commitment to high quality, cost effective training and professional development
- Update the Association's Strategic Plan

#### **MONTHLY REPORT: MAY 2013**

- ◆ Kimberly Gargano is cycling off as tri-chair. Christine Padgett will join Diana Beaudoin and Janet Turner as tri-chair for 2013-14.
- ◆ Committee met on May 8 to brainstorm graduate topics to submit for the MASFAA Annual Conference.
- ◆ Also reviewed committee website on [www.masfaa.org](http://www.masfaa.org) and will work to update over the summer.

#### **MONTHLY REPORT: APRIL 2013**

- ◆ Committee has meeting scheduled for early May to discuss website updates, as well as session topics to submit for 2013 MASFAA Annual Conference

#### **MONTHLY REPORT: MARCH 2013**

- ◆ The annual GPCC Symposium was held on February 15 at Harvard Graduate School of Education. The event was very well received – by attendees as well as presenters. Copies of the presentations have been added to the committee webpage.
- ◆ Registration totaled 77, and 65 attended.

- ◆ The evaluations were very positive. From a score of 1 – 5 (poor – excellent), the quality of the symposium was rated a 4.65 and the quality of the facilities was rated 4.69
- ◆ The committee will be meeting again to begin working on sessions they would like to submit for the MASFAA annual conference, as well as update the GPCC website.

**MONTHLY REPORT: FEBRUARY 2013**

- ◆ Committee met on 1/9 & 1/29 to finalize details for symposium. Will meet on 2/12 to stuff packets on site at HGSE.
- ◆ Registration opened on 1/17 and to date we have 60 registrants from the following schools and organizations, including RI, NH, & ME! We hope to gain additional registrants before registration closes on 2/8.

American Student Assistance
Babson College
Berklee College of Music
Boston Architectural College
Boston College
Boston University
Brandeis University
Brown University
cuStudentLoans
Discover Student Loans
Emerson College
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
Harvard University
Hult International Business School
Le Cordon Bleu - Boston
Lesley University
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Merrimack College
Nelnet Partner Solutions
New England Law
Northeastern University
Rhode Island School of Design
Salem State University
Sallie Mae
Suffolk University Law School
Tufts University
University of New England
University of New Hampshire
Wells Fargo Education Financial Services
Wentworth Institute

- ◆ Final agenda is as follows:

**MASFAA GPCC Annual Symposium  
Defining the Value of a Graduate Education**

8:30 am **Registration**

9:00 am **MASFAA Welcome**

*Iris Godes - MASFAA President; Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management, Quinsigamond Community College*

9:15 am **Keynote Address: The Changing Value of a Graduate Education**

*Tony Sozzo - Associate Dean for Student Affairs, and Director of Student Financial Planning & Student Activities at New York Medical College; Chair, NASFAA GPIC Committee*

During the last decade, institutions of higher education have come under intense media scrutiny. Many students and their families seem to be asking the question “Is a graduate education worth the cost?” Our discussion will examine what has been written about the pros and cons of obtaining a graduate degree and the changing culture surrounding higher education. Recent legislative changes (such as income-driven repayment plans and public service loan forgiveness) seem to support pursuing a higher degree. We will focus on career opportunities for graduate students and how you can prepare for additional media assaults on the value of a graduate education.

10:05 am **Networking Break**

10:20 am **Trends in Graduate Education and Education Financing**

*Tim Fitzgibbon - Vice President Debt Management Services, National Council of Higher Education Resources (NCHER)*

This session will address activities in Washington that will impact higher education, attempt to put debt and default metrics into perspective, and help make the case that higher education in general, and graduate education specifically, remain sound investments that pay dividends many times over for graduates.

11:10 am **Using Net Price Calculators in Graduate and Professional Schools**

*Lisa McCarty – Managing Director, AidCalc*

What exactly is a Net Price Calculator? Do I have to have one? Are graduate schools using them? Do students even use them? Lisa McCarty of AidCalc will answer these and any other questions you may have about the Net Price Calculator.

11:40 am **Lunch on Your Own**

*See Registration Table for list of options*

1:00 pm **Education Tax Benefits**

*Michael McDonough, CPA, MST – Manager of Borrower Services Finance, American Student Assistance*

This session will focus on education tax benefits available to graduate students, tax treatment of financial assistance (scholarships/fellowships, work-study, etc.), as well as filing requirements and other tax-related FAQs.

1:30 pm **Career Development Panel**

- *Cheri Paulson - Director, Graduate Center for Career Development at Olin Graduate School of Business - Babson College*

- Sara Dana - Associate Director, Office of Career Development and Public Service at Boston University School of Law
- Valerie Sutton – Director, Office of Career Services at Harvard Graduate School of Education
- Rosemary Hilliard - Assistant Director, Financial Aid at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine

It has been posited that a graduate degree has become the new bachelor's degree, the minimal education credential that employers seek. In this session, we will hear from career development professionals from various disciplines regarding the value of a graduate education in 2013 and beyond. Topics will include employment prospects, return on investment, as well as the outlook for the future. This information is invaluable to financial aid professionals as we work with students facing rising tuition costs and planning for loan repayment after graduation.

2:20 pm **Break**

2:40 pm **Veterans Affairs**

*Augusto St. Silva - Director of the Veterans Affairs Office, University of Massachusetts, Boston*

Augusto St. Silva will share with us the impact of the Financial Aid Shopping Sheet for veterans, best practices as we work with students who are veterans, and eligibility for benefits.

3:30 pm **Concluding Remarks**

#### MONTHLY REPORT: JANUARY 2013

- ◆ Committee met on 12/19 to review and update GPCC Symposium task list
- ◆ Committee to meet on 1/9 to further finalize details for symposium
- ◆ Registration is expected to open on 1/16

#### MONTHLY REPORT: DECEMBER 2012

- ◆ Committee met 11/13 via conference call and 11/28 to finalize GPCC Symposium agenda, presenters, and update task list.
- ◆ Symposium 'Save the Date' notice was sent via MASFAA Listserv on 11/14.
- ◆ Welcomed new committee member – Maegan Wright from Berklee College of Music
- ◆ Next meeting will be held on December 19 at BU

#### MONTHLY REPORT: NOVEMBER 2012

- ◆ Committee met on 10/24 via conference call to finalize MASFAA Conference presentation details and continue with GPCC Symposium planning.
- ◆ GPCC Symposium date and location have been finalized: February 15 at Harvard University GSE, Gutman Conference Center
- ◆ Symposium theme is "Defining the Value of a Graduate Education." Event will consist of a number of sessions related to theme. Speakers are being confirmed from and/or relating to the following - NCHELP, VA Benefits, Career Development Panel, Tax Benefits, NASFAA GPIC
- ◆ The next meeting is scheduled for 11/13

MONTHLY REPORT: OCTOBER 2012

- ◆ Committee met on 10/10 to determine current panel for MASFAA Conference, looking for 5 panelists currently have 4. Trying to get someone from a state school or from Veterans Affairs, have reached out to contacts at Bridgewater and also VA.
- ◆ Speakers currently include: Frank Mullen from Berklee, Pam Walker (EdAssist), Katie Kelsall (Harvard), Chris Hart (BU)
- ◆ Potential Themes for the GPCC Symposium in February/starting point may scale back
  - "Defining the Value of Graduate Education"
  - Student Loan Crisis
  - ROI/Net Price Calculators
  - VA/Employee Benefits
  - Tax Benefits for education
  - Tools to help yield
  - Financial Aid as an enrollment tool
  - Part-Time
  - Tuition Remission
- ◆ Location update - might be able to hold session at Suffolk Law again! ☺
- ◆ Committee also met on 10/24 to touch base before MASFAA Conference

MONTHLY REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2012

- ◆ Committee has a meeting scheduled for September 19, 2012. We will be discussing speakers/panel for conference session, and location and topics for symposium in February 2013.

MONTHLY REPORT: AUGUST 2012

- ◆ None