

Executive Committee Meeting
May 25, 2008
Washington Court Hotel
Washington, D.C.

In attendance: Marilyn Cargill (VT), President; Mary Ann Welch (RI), Past-President; Lee Andes (VA), President-Elect; Vicki Merkel (OR), Secretary; Ritchie Morrow (NE), Treasurer; Lois Hollis (TX) and Chris Zuzack (PA), Spring Conference Chairs; Stephanie Butler (AK), Member-at-Large; Andrea Mansfield (MD), Member-at-Large; Maureen Laffey (DE), Ed Technical Forms Chair; Chas Treadwell (NY), Federal Relations Chair; Shiela Joyner (OK), Membership and Communications Chair; Mike Solomon (IL), Survey; Cheryl Maplethorpe (MN), Policy and Research Chair;

Absent: Dennis Obergfell (IN), Web Committee Chair; Marie Bennett, DC Consultant;

Marilyn Cargill called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM on May 25, 2008. The agenda was reviewed and a motion to accept the agenda was made by Mary Ann Welch and seconded by Andrea Mansfield. The motion was approved.

The minutes were reviewed and a motion to accept the minutes was made by Mary Ann Welch and seconded by Ritchie Morrow. The motion was approved.

Executive Officer Reports

1. President

Marilyn Cargill

Marilyn Cargill reviewed her activities to date. Marilyn reminded the group that a potential candidate for "Friend" status must have retired from the financial aid profession. Mary Ann Welch asked if anyone knows if Brian Fitzgerald has retired from the financial aid community. The group did not believe that Brian has retired so he will not be considered for Friend status at this time.

2. Past-President

Mary Ann Welch

Mary Ann has completed her nominations duties and will give a complete report at the business meeting.

3. President-Elect

Lee Andes

Lee has updated the calendar of events.

4. Secretary

Vicki Merkel

Vicki reported that Directory Committee has been added to the User Guide. Vicki contacted Florida staff that oversee the printing and they will need to send the directory to the printer by Oct. 7 2008. Marilyn suggested that Marie Bennett might need help understanding her assignments because she is new to the job.

5. Treasurer

Ritchie Morrow

Forty-three members have registered for the Spring 2008 conference. Marilyn Cargill pointed out that the conference is under budgeted. Lee Andes said he had anticipated costs would be higher. The expenses will be about \$25,000, which is about \$5,000 more than budgeted.

Ritchie Morrow did increase the costs for the Executive Committee meeting for the 2009 budget. The amount of travel costs has increased.

Ritchie Morrow passed out the 2008-09 budget. He is budgeting for 50 members. Conference costs are a concern due to the increases in food. He has increased the conference budgets for the future.

The Pell Institute Grant is continuing for one more year. Marilyn Cargill is concerned that the \$5,000 loss of revenue from Pell needs to be planned for now. These issues will be discussed later in the afternoon.

Cheryl Maplethorpe is completing contract negotiations for the annual survey. Lois Hollis suggested that a grant for the survey be looked into.

Marilyn Cargill asked if NASSGAP should hire a grant writer or try to convene a small committee of grant writers. After discussion it was suggested that NASSGAP members be asked if they have suggestions of groups to NASSGAP members who have relationships to team with appropriate Committee chairs.

Marilyn Cargill asked how much money is being used from the reserves and the answer was \$12,000. She clarified that the reserves will hold for only two years.

6. Members-at-Large

Stephanie Butler, Andrea Mansfield

No reports.

Executive Committee Reports

1. Spring Conference Committee

Lois Hollis and Chris Zuzack

Chris Zuzack, site coordinator, reported that the Washington Court Hotel is a wonderful location and very good to work with but the costs are high. Dinner will be at the Capitol Brewery again as it is very reasonably priced.

Lois Hollis, program chair said that Greg Gerrans cancelled his presentation so the prior scheduled lunch speakers filled his time spot. Lois discussed other agenda changes. There will be an observation of the national moment of silence at 3:00 pm.

2. Ed Technical Forms

Maureen Laffey

Maureen Laffey said that even though people are talking about simplification there will have to be data elements added to the FAFSA. The committee is in a holding pattern right now.

Maureen Laffey sent out an email to states to confirm or change their FAFSA deadline dates.

3. Federal Relations Committee

Chas Treadwell

Chas Treadwell reported that the working relationship with Marie Bennett and Dow Lownes is going very well. Chas and Marie have worked on several projects including the budget resolution. Chas Treadwell said that a continuing resolution is most likely to continue.

Chas Treadwell said the GAP legislation is moving forward. The bill was changed from the initial concept. He presented a list of top priorities for change to Seth Gerson staff from Senator Reed's office. This included correcting the exclusion of private colleges and minimum award wording. Mary Ann Welch explained that the suggested wording was to make the legislation more flexible. Discussion ensued.

Marilyn Cargill asked Chas and Mary Ann Welch to fully explain the GAP Bill to membership on Monday.

4. Policy and Research

Cheryl Maplethorpe

Cheryl has had some contact with the Research Conference planners about possibly arranging for their conference and the NASSGAP conference to be held in one location so that interested NASSGAP members could attend both.

Cheryl Maplethorpe has been trying to make data sets more useful and encourages the group to send her any information they find that she could help make more user friendly

Cheryl is also pursuing the issue of getting Direct Loan information for states. Currently a freedom of information act filing is required.

5. NASSGAP Website

Dennis Obergfell

Mike Solomon reported that TERI, the parent for Pathways and Indiana Pathways has gone bankrupt so the plan for the Pathway Library has been stalled. Cheryl Blanco is still confident that they will be able to share the Library.

The automated directory update idea is being discussed.

Marilyn Cargill asked if the web committee could provide metrics of who and how the website is being used. Mike will look at how many metrics are available. Chas Treadwell said that a web visitor survey might provide useful information about what is used and/or what people would like to have available.

6. Membership and Communications

Shiela Joyner

Shiela Joyner handed out lists of the Membership dues paid and listserv members.

Marilyn Cargill asked if Colleen O'Brien from the Pell Institute should be removed as co-chair of the Federal Relations Committee but Ritchie Morrow said that it is a condition of the Pell Institute grant that Colleen be the co-chair. Marilyn Cargill will follow up with Dennis Obergfell about making sure Colleen continues to be included on the web directory.

Marilyn Cargill moved that if Tom Mortensen cannot pay dues for 2008-09 that he be removed from the listserv with great regret. Mary Ann Welch seconded the motion. The motion passed. Shiela Joyner will follow-up.

7. Fall Conference Committee

Theresa Antworth, Melanie Amrhein

Theresa reported that the Oct. 5-8, 2008 conference in New Orleans planning is well underway. She passed out hotel information. Melanie Amrhein is working on a dinner or lunch out as a group.

The program is not set yet but the conference chairs will be listening for issues from the spring conference and will survey membership.

8. NASSGAP Survey

Mike Solomon

Mike reported that the survey is at the printers. Several states did not report fully so they have some estimated data.

The contract between NASSGAP and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission is under review by the Commission's attorney.

Old Business

1. Finalize Site for Fall 2009

Theresa Antworth handed out information on the fall meeting in Florida 2009. The committee discussed the Florida sites and recommended the St. Petersburg site because Fort Lauderdale is very expensive. The preferred dates are 10/3 – 10/7.

2. Make Decision on Conference Planner

The conference planner's (private business) suggested at the last Executive Committee was not able to get any better prices or services than the NASSGAP site chair. The decision was made to not use a conference planner for the fall conference.

3. Friends of NASSGAP – new nominations

None were recommended.

New Business

1. Listserv for College Access Challenge Grant

Marilyn Cargill read a letter from the Department of Education concerning requirements for a listserv. Shiela Joyner said that Oklahoma would not have a staff person available to moderate the listserv but does have requirements for appropriate postings. Shiela read those requirements to the committee.

Marilyn Cargill will respond to the Department of Education and will explain that the Oklahoma Regents will host the listserv and NASSGAP will be the sponsor. It will not be moderated.

Maureen Laffey suggested that a news spot be featured on the NASSGAP website with a link on how to sign-up. Stephanie Butler suggested that WICHE be invited to send out the Challenge Grant listserv information. Discussion occurred about asking members to pass listserv information to the appropriate folks in their state. The name of the listserve will be CACG@lists.onenet.net.

2. Future Executive Committee Meeting

Marilyn Cargill suggested that web conferencing be considered for future Executive Committee meetings. She said other groups meet more frequently for shorter times. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 PM by Lee Andes and seconded by Ritchie Morrow. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki Merkel
Secretary