



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE STUDENT GRANT AND AID PROGRAMS
Executive Committee Meeting – Monthly Conference Call via Zoom
Wednesday, March 17, 2021 – 12 p.m. PST/1 p.m. MST/2:00 p.m. CST/3 p.m. EST

Minutes

Members

- *Todd Brown, IA – President
- *Katie Harrison, SC – President Elect
- *Jennifer Rogers, MS – Past President
- Becky Thompson, WA – Secretary
- *Leroy Wade, MO – Treasurer
- *Harrison Rommell, NM – Treasurer-Elect
- *Renée Davis, NV – Member-At-Large (year 2)
- Meghan Flores, MN - Member-At-Large (year 1)
- *Frank Ballmann, NY – Director/Federal Relations
- *Elizabeth McCloud, PA – Federal Relations
- Jennifer Lanphear, ME – Membership Chair
- Ritchie Morrow – NASSGAP Website

*indicates member in attendance

I. Call to Order 3:05 p.m., Eastern Time

- II. Review and Approve Minutes from February 17, 2021** – no minutes were available for approval. The Executive Committee (EC) will review the February and March meeting minutes during the April EC meeting.

III. Officer Reports

a. Treasurer – Leroy

- i. Leroy presented the Treasurers report, providing balances through February, 2021.
- ii. Harrison Rommell asked what the acronym GBPI stood for – Leroy stated that it stood for Gold Bridge Partners, Inc.

b. President – Todd

- i. Thanked everyone for their quick action in getting a gift sent to Meghan. Frank asked if anyone had Meghan’s address – Todd responded that he received it and will send it to the EC.
- ii. Discussed continued uncertainties pertaining to how we might be able to deliver the 2021 NASSGAP conference. Last discussion took place during the December

EC meeting. The landscape has changed considerably since then. The key question now is when do we need to finalize which delivery option we're going to go with?

1. Delivery options discussed included in-person, virtual, or a combination of both. No one was aware of a conference thus far that allowed both in-person and virtual attendees, and conference fee considerations might be problematic (do you charge in-person attendees less than virtual attendees, etc). Some conferences have charged a nominal fee for virtual-only attendance. NASFAA plans to hold their conference in person, but record certain sessions and allow members to purchase those session recordings after the conference. The duties related to managing sessions both in-person and virtually are likely to be more than we can take on. Hiring someone to do this for us might be an option. The EC discussed developing and sending a survey to members to obtain their perspectives on budget and travel restrictions. If issues revolve around budgets, we could alleviate those issues by offering more conference scholarships. Renee will draft questions and distribute to the EC for comment.
 2. Cost: After May 3 we will owe 80% of projected conference revenue to the hotel if we cancel. Hotel is likely to work with us if we cannot hold the conference in person due to state or local restrictions. Katie is awaiting this decision to begin negotiations for the 2022 conference location – one of our options with the 2021 conference location is to delay the in-person conference to the fall of 2022 (if it is prohibitive to hold it in person in 2021).
 3. Conference planning: When do we need to have speakers nailed down – virtual vs in-person might need to be a consideration for those individuals being able to present. The DC conference is heavy on presenters from DC – so virtual vs in-person may not matter in their ability to present in relation to travel restrictions.
 4. State member: The COVID-19 landscape is undergoing tremendous change right now, as vaccines are rolled out across the nation. It is impossible to predict what state travel restrictions and budgets might look like this summer or next fall. How much lead time will states need to make this decision, and what information will they have at that point in time to make that decision? States will receive billions in relief dollars through the American Relief Act, which may help resolve some budgetary issues. We need more time to see how the travel/budget circumstances continue to change.
 5. Given the information currently available, the EC agreed that we should announce our decision on the delivery of the conference prior to or on July 1. Continue this discussion in detail during our May EC meeting.
- c. Past-President – Jennifer Rogers
- i. Jennifer will be calling the nominating committee together. Jennifer plans to invite Todd, Katie, Ritchie and Marilyn Cargill to be part of the nominating committee.

- ii. The positions to be nominated are President-Elect, Member-at-Large, and a first year Conference Co-Chair.
- iii. Jennifer plans to update the committee rotation guide to clarify and reflect our committee rotation in the future.
- iv. Plan to propose updates to P&P – we'll review those changes and approve them during the May EC meeting. The new committee rotation guide will be part of the new chart.

- d. President Elect –Katie
 - i. No report.
- e. Secretary – Becky (absent)
- f. Members at Large – Renée and Meghan
 - i. No report.

IV. Committee Reports

- a. Web – Ritchie (absent)
- b. Membership – Jennifer L. (absent – report provided in writing)
 - i. Chris Atkins of FA Solutions LLC contacted Jennifer Rogers at the end of February. I reached out to Chris via email for some additional details regarding his request. I'm keeping top of mind NASSGAP's By Law definition of associate members: "... are parts of organizations whose interests are in concert with the goals and objectives of existing State Student Aid programs and the objectives of NASSGAP."
 - ii. Plans to send the invite to the Power Hour #5 around March 25.
- c. Federal Relations – Elizabeth & Frank
 - i. Frank discussed updates to the NASSGAP priorities letter.
 - ii. Frank provided additional federal updates.

V. Old Business - none

VI. New Business - none

VII. Adjourn at 4:07 p.m., Eastern Time. Harrison Rommell motioned to adjourn. Jennifer Rogers seconded.