



nassgap

President Vicki Merkel (Oregon/Washington)

October 2010 – October 2011 Report of Activities

➤ **October – December**

- Held conference calls with Federal Relations co-chairs regarding NASSGAP issues including the lack of state participation in GAP, reaching out to student advocacy groups and advocacy for LEAP.
- Sent “Friend of NASSGAP” letters to recent retirees: John Klacik and Lois Hollis.
- Wrote a short welcome for the NASSGAP home page.
- Received Lois Hollis’s resignation as Past President and asked Lee Andes to step-in as Past President (after by-law review informed Executive Committee that a third member-at-large was to be appointed instead of a direct appointment.) Asked Julie Leeper to complete the officer nominations process after Lois Hollis’s departure as Past President.
- Worked on organization conference issues: Approved the 2010 fall conference expenditures; Appointed the 2011 fall conference Program and Site Chairs; Held Executive Committee conference call regarding fall conference site selection including discussion of the nontraditional site at Gallaudet University; Signed contracts for Spring Executive Committee meeting and fall conference sites.

➤ **January –March**

- Requested Executive Committee consideration of my retaining the Office of President after accepting a position with the Washington Higher Education Board.
- After discussion with Federal Relations Committee and Executive Committee approved the contract for the GAP report with Bart Astor, consultant. The purpose of the report was to better understand why states were not applying for GAP.
- Approved LEAP letter sent to key Senators and Representatives (Letter was drafted by Frank Ballmann and Lee Andes.) Sent a request for members to reach out to their states to support LEAP.
- Sent message to members regarding FAFSA electronic application processing technical error per a request from Jeff Baker (Dept. of Ed.).
- Approved new letterhead design that now includes all officers.
- Approved Committee for Education Funding (CEF) membership.
- Reviewed proposed by-law changes drafted by Lee Andes.
- Prepared and facilitated Spring Executive Committee meeting (with thanks to Julie Leeper for assistance when I became ill.)
- Visited key offices on the Hill and industry groups in Washington D.C. the day before the Executive Committee meeting with Frank Ballmann.

➤ **April – June**

- Named new Web Committee Chair Mike Solomon.
- Convened Executive and Chair conference call re: GAP Report and By-Laws.
- Worked with Federal Relations co-chairs on final GAP Report format and executive summary.
- Authorized signing of [alliancehill] Urgent FY12 Pell Letter.
- Asked Executive Committee for approval to increase Web Committee budget by \$900 for work requested by Mike Solomon.
- Approved Membership Chair's letter to agencies who have not paid dues.
- Posted a poll asking agencies to give information about their relationship to the College Access Challenge Grant programs in their states.
- Contacted NCAN about exchanging memberships which was discussed but not resolved.
- Notified Policy and Research committee members that I was not appointing a new chair at this time after the chair was vacated.
- Received Nominations from committee for President Elect and Member-at-Large
- Reviewed Federal Relations Executive Summary for GAP Report.
- Asked Stephanie Butler to chair a task force to recommend a conference scholarship process for members and a policy for reimbursing Executive Committee and Chairs for expenses incurred when traveling early to Executive Committee meetings. Policy and application documents were reviewed by Executive Committee.

➤ **July – October**

- Approved NASSGAP signing the Pell Coalition letter upon recommendation from Executive Committee. Did not sign the "Letter Opposing the Constitutional Balanced Budget Amendment."
- Interviewed about the Annual Survey with Eric Kelderman, Staff reporter - The Chronicle of Higher Education.
- Reviewed 2011-12 budget with Executive Committee.
- Notified members that there was a Co-Chair position open on the ED Technical Forms Committee, reviewed applications and appointed Chris Zuzack.
- Sent a "Friends of NASSGAP" letter to Sherry Fox upon her retirement.
- 2012 budget was prepared, reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee.
- Executive Committee approved the Scholarship Conference Scholarship and Payment of Travel Expense Policies.
- Communicated with NCAN regarding College Access Challenge Grant , Maintenance of Effort issues. We discussed writing a joint letter but that did not occur.
- Approved NASSGAP sending Senator Murray (chair of the super committee) a letter supporting full funding of Pell.
- Signed letter (drafted by Lee Andes) regarding the College Access Challenge Grant , Maintenance of Effort issues and sent to Arne Duncan with copies to Ed staff and key NASSGAP legislative contacts.
- Prepared for Fall Conference Executive and Business Meetings.
- Discussed transition issues with incoming NASSGAP President Julie Leeper.