

NASSGAP Executive Committee
Meeting – 12/18/2014 - Phone

Participating:

*Diane Lindeman, KS - President
Stephanie Butler, AK – President Elect
*Chris Zuzack, PA – Past President
*David Hughes, UT – Treasurer
*Mark French, CT – Treasurer Elect
*Todd Brown, IA – Secretary
*Rachelle Sharpe, WA – Member-at-Large
*Elizabeth McDuffie, NC – Member-at-Large/Conference Committee
*Marilyn Cargill, VT – Membership
Jennifer Rogers, MS - Membership
*Susan Degen, OR – Ed Technical Forms
Jason Chavez, NJ – Ed Technical Forms
*Julie Leeper, IA – NASSGAP Website
*Mike Solomon, IL – NASSGAP Website
*Ritchie Morrow, NE – Federal Relations
*Frank Ballmann, NY – Federal Relations

**indicates member in attendance*

1. Call to order – 2:04PM pm CST
2. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve by Elizabeth McDuffie; seconded by Chris Zuzack; approved unanimously.
3. Officer's Reports
 - a. President – Diane Lindeman: Requested EC member opinions regarding the following conference locations: San Antonio, TX, or Charleston, SC. *EC members didn't voice a preference. Diane will continue to review rates; hopes to have location rates narrowed down by next meeting.*
 - b. Past-President – Chris Zuzack: Sent Jeff Baker NASSGAP roll-call (from the NASSGAP Conference in San Diego) remarks regarding FAFSA completion initiative. Chris also asked Jeff Baker if the Department would allow states to have access to NSLDS enrollment reporting. At NASFAA, Megan McLean asked Chris to serve on an informal ad hoc committee to review prior-prior year (PPY) IRS data. Other members include: Rick Shipman, Frank Valines, Richard Heath, Douglas Sievers, and Eileen O'Leary. A grant from the Gates Foundation is funding this project. Chris verbally shared feedback from NASSGAP during the meeting. Chris asked if NASSGAP members would be comfortable with her sharing written responses from the PPY NASSGAP survey. Frank Ballmann – this is becoming a common request. *After considerable discussion, it was*

determined that roll-up responses (that don't identify individual member responses) would be provided. Chris Zuzack - I also have a curiosity question regarding FAFSA completion – if a FAFSA is incomplete, are you providing a reason or just giving an incomplete status response? Marilyn Cargill – We are providing two pieces of information. One - whether they filed the FAFSA; and two - whether they are selected for verification. Susan Degen – A student could have filed a FAFSA but if it came through with a reject code, the application is not considered to be “completed.” We tell schools whether students’ applications are completed or not completed, but don’t share the reject codes.

- c. President-Elect – Stephanie Butler: not on call.
- d. Treasurer – David Hughes: there has been very little activity. I’ve received a couple membership payments from states (Washington DC and New Jersey). Marilyn Cargill – Dave, can you send me an email with anyone that has paid dues? David Hughes – yes (provided on phone call, noted above). The NASSGAP taxes got filed 1 month late. I’m waiting for response from the IRS on a possible late penalty. Frank Ballmann – you can request for a waiver, or abatement, for the first time being late to file. **David Hughes – as soon as I get the email from the department, I’ll report back.**
- e. Secretary – Todd Brown: No report.
- f. Members-at-Large – Rachelle Sharpe: I had a conversation regarding inviting colleagues from Canada to do a pre-conference workshop. Our Canadian colleagues are interested; they can travel to Washington DC. If we pursue this for the 2015 conference, it would impact the Executive Committee Meeting. Would this group be amenable to moving the Executive Committee Meeting to the morning on Tuesday so the meeting with our Canadian colleagues can be held in the afternoon? *EC members didn’t voice concern with this.* Rachelle Sharpe - Our Canadian colleagues may be interested in attending the entire NASSGAP Conference. **The Conference will have emphasis on federal aid; I will check to ensure they would still be interested knowing that. I’ll need to check with the hotel in regard to the number of available rooms.** Another option could be to do this in 2016 if we think it is too much trouble for 2015. Diane Lindeman - We’re also not sure how many more people this could entail – the number of attendees and whether the hotel can accommodate them will be primary questions. Rachelle Sharpe – I will review the policies and procedures changes made by Jennifer Rogers and consult with Elizabeth McDuffie. **Elizabeth McDuffie –I will create a poll to see if there are topics members would like to have covered.**

4. Committee Reports

- a. Membership – Marilyn Cargill: No report, but I have a FAFSA completion question for new business.

- b. Ed Technical – Susan Degen: we sent out a message a month ago for members to give follow-up comments on the FAFSA – no comments were received. All state deadlines were also updated in second draft.
- c. Web – Julie Leeper: No report.
- d. Conference – Rachelle Sharpe: No report.
- e. Federal Relations – Frank Ballmann: just to recap, the poll was posted regarding FAFSA simplification. Approximately 13-15 states have responded. There hadn't been any new responders to the FAFSA completion poll in awhile, so I sent reminder. In regard to the budget bill: restored ATB for career pathways programs retroactively; this apparently doesn't impact many of our members. There is some confusion regarding whether the maximum Pell Grant will be \$5,850 or \$5,830. I contacted Jeff Baker this morning and ED is unable to confirm the correct number; they are waiting for OMB. The GAO report that came out said some nice things about LEAP but didn't recommend bringing it back. At the CEF meeting last Friday James Kvaal acknowledged that the 2 question FAFSA may not work – institutions/states would likely add questions via their own applications. The long awaited college ratings system draft is coming out tomorrow. Bryce McKibben may be the new lead staffer for Senator Patty Murray for higher education. I also mentioned at the CEF meeting last Friday one of the student groups objected to using Pell surplus to pay for not-for-profit servicers (NFP). Spoke with them Monday; representative was disappointed that state grant agency NFP are not getting every loan in their state to service; it sounds like they are supportive of not-for-profit servicer program at this point, they just want it to be paid for in a different way (not using Pell surplus). In regard to the NASFAA/TICAS letter supporting a move to prior-prior year (PPY) – there are only a couple states that would need a statute change to implement PPY. Regarding whether NASSGAP should support it - the majority said yes (member responses to the NASSGAP poll ‘Should NASSGAP support using PPY income as the FAFSA base’ tallied 24 yes votes and 4 no votes). *Following extensive discussion, it was decided that NASSGAP would sign off on the NASFAA/TICAS letter.* Frank Ballmann – I will notify Jesse O’Connell at NASFAA that we will sign off. The group decision will be documented in the minutes. Ritchie Morrow – The Director of Financial Aid at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Craig Munier) is leaving his position to take a new position created to serve as right-hand person for Jeff Baker at Federal Student Aid (FSA). FSA is concerned about losing institutional knowledge on financial aid, and have asked Craig to come on in an administrative role to help Jeff out. He served as the national chair for NASFAA. Frank Ballmann – One last thing - does anyone want to discuss NDD (Non-Defense Discretionary) letter? Diane Lindeman – I don't have a strong desire, does anyone else? *It was decided that NASSGAP would not take up the NDD letter.*

5. Old Business – none
6. New Business – Marilyn Cargill: My question is in regard to FAFSA completion – are we allowed to use the FAFSA completion initiative with private high schools? Ritchie Morrow – That is my understanding. At first it was just public schools, at the conference Jeff Baker indicated we could start working with private schools as well. *Others agreed.*
 - a. Other business –
7. Mark French moved to adjourn; Chris Zuzack seconded the motion; approved unanimously.
8. Adjournment – 2:53pm CST

Next Meeting: Date 1/15/2015, 2pm CST.

To-do list – **highlighted in grey**