



West Virginia Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

WVASFAA Business Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2021 – Virtual – 2:00 pm

Call to Order – President Nicole Solomon called Meeting to order at 2:03pm.

Secretary Report - Minutes were provided from November 19, 2020. Candi Frazier moved to accept the minutes as presented. Lake Tackett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Stephany Harper reported, after registration for business partners and paying of membership dues for the virtual conference, funds are just over \$27,000. Two virtual conferences and the number of business partners at each has helped increase our bottom line. Renewal of our website was paid \$1,900 for the year.

Sector Reports

4-Year – Candi Frazier reported topics discussed: Focused Program Review - one of the public schools has been approached by the Department of Education to participate.

Use of guidance concerning zeroing out unemployment benefits for PJs

Reporting for CARES Act and the importance of 2nd reviews on the initial population if using software systems to determine population for auditing purposes.

Discussion of what does "Direct Outreach" mean in relation to PJs

Discussion on "Around the Beltway" presentation by Karen McCarthy and the things on the horizon for FA professionals.

Items for HEPC to vote on at the April 30th meeting (extension of WVHEG deadline to July 1 and availability of appeals for state level programs for those students who cannot get into full time degree pursuant courses).

Polling of group on presenting "Best Practices" sessions at future conferences.

Privates – Nicole supplied the report. They were interested in knowing when schools came back to the office and when were students permitted back. One school had held an in-person workshop and one was planned.

Business Partners – Chester Priest reported all the business partners were thankful for their participation in the virtual conference. Commended WV for an excellent virtual conference, appreciated being able to open each session with a short commercial explaining what each of us have available.

Proprietary Schools – No report

2-Year – Alicia Frey reported there were 8 in attendance. Discussed CPOS, FAFSA simplification, chatted about finding qualified candidates for open positions, HR lags, challenges with administration and their thinking anyone can do financial aid. Most are just now coming back to campus.

President's Elect Report – Spring 2021 virtual conference had 17 sessions, and 12 business partners. Fall 2021 conference hopefully will be in-person for October 19-21, Wednesday through Friday at the Bridgeport Conference Center

Committee Reports

Long Range Planning – Laura Helmick reported all through the COVID-19 Pandemic we have been in contact with the Bridgeport Conference Center. They have been excellent to work with and because we initially booked



a 3-conference contract we are going to honor that for Fall 2021, Spring 2022, and Fall 2022. Dates for Spring have been set March 29-April 1. Bridgeport Conference center is very cost effective, centrally located, and did not charge us any kind of penalty for cancellation.

Elections – Candi Frazier was honored of the opportunity to announce the election results: Alicia Frey, President Elect; James Buchanan, Secretary; Treasurer, Stephany Harper; Associate Member, Laura Helmick.

Financial Aid Training for Counselors – Karen Martin reported that 10 virtual Counselor Workshops were held for the first time with 225 participants. Evaluations stated that counselors would prefer in-person workshops. But discussions have been ongoing about holding maybe just 6 workshops with schools coordinating with 2 or 3 schools presenting. Not knowing if travel will be lifted, they may remain virtual and more cost effective.

Professional Development and Training – Candi Frazier reported she and JoAnn Ross want to provide best practices, more NASFAA core training and would be glad to reach out and find qualified presenters if anyone has training ideas they'd like offered.

Constitution and Bylaws – Nicole reported for Gwen Bausley there are not changes in the Constitution and Bylaws and Policies and Procedures, however, she has been working on reformatting the material to have the most recent changes at the top of the document and all past changes below in chronological order.

Associate Member Representative – Chester Priest wanted a special thanks to he 12 business partners who participated and 6 who presented. They were well pleased with the opportunity and commend WVASFAA on two great virtual conferences.

Awards – Chester Priest reported awards are planned for Fall 2021 for 2 years - Lake Tackett 2019-2020 and Nicole Solomon 2020-2021 - at the Fall 2021 conference and Tiffany's in the spring,, and please, if anyone knows of retirements during that time, let him know.

Social Media – Sarah Musgrave asked everyone like our Facebook page and look for updates as we had no pictures to share from a virtual conference. If you aren't seeing our notification, update your notifications preference for the page. The steps were in a post from Wednesday evening and you can find them by searching for the WVASFAA page.

Website – Bethany Schiffbauer reported the Directory is live and now behind the log in so now everyone can access the information. Business Partners page is looking great any of you who have not sent me materials please do so.

Old Business – None

New Business – Nicole stated it was officially time to pass the gavel to Tiffany. She thanked everyone who served on her Executive Board. We had to be very flexile under the circumstances and Tiffany and Stephany had really stepped up to pull off two successful virtual conferences. She never dreamed when she picked her theme in early 2020 it would be so meaningful. We put so much time, effort, and thought into what we do – and we get so swept up in the day-to-day or regulations or fires to put out that we forget all the things we do throughout the day – small and large – that helps improve students' lives. Everything we do counts either to the greater whole or to an individual student, and without the care and thought we put into things the whole tower would fall. Thank you for the privilege to serve you. Candi spoke up to thank Tiffany on two excellent virtual conferences, and commended Nicole on her presidency.

Meeting adjourned 2:54 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Martin
Secretary

Corrected and approved December 7, 2021