



NYSFAAA Emergency Executive Council
February 8, 2021
Remote Meeting
9:00 – 3:00

Call to Order & Roll Call

President – Adrienne King
Past - President – Howard Leslie
1st Vice President – Renee Swift
2nd Vice President – Brian Smith
Treasurer – Shalena Clary
Past - Treasurer – Susan Godreau
Region 1 – Lea Nuwer
Region 2 – BJ Revill
Region 3 – Patti Donahue
Region 4 – Rochelle Filler
Region 6 – Michelle Bolton
Region 7 – Clair Jacobi
Region 8 – Stacey Hawkins

Guest:
Lisa Simpson
Sonya Stein
Debra Evans
Christopher Barto
Jeanne McCarthy
Kerrie Cooper

A quorum exists and the meeting started at 9:07 A.M.

Approval of Minutes –Motion via Email

Motion: A motion was made by Patti Donahue, seconded by Howard Leslie to approve the minutes from the December 2020 meeting, with the small edits sent to Anne Sullivan Polino

There was no other discussion and the vote passed with all in favor.

Discussion via Email

MOTION: A motion was made by Howard Leslie, seconded by Renee Swift to accept the 2021 NYSFAAA talking points for Advocacy Day.

There was no discussion. The motion passed with 14 in favor, no oppositions, and no abstentions.

TAP Workgroup Meeting Jan 14, 2021

Adrienne attended her first NYS TAP Interagency Group meeting. Howard, Anne and others from NYSFAAA are also members and attended the meeting.

The discussion centered on the following points:

- Need to hold COVID students harmless.
- Waiting for the Governor to approval funding and how to approach certification of TAP under circumstances.
- Criteria to define impacted students after Spring 2020
- Impact on Excelsior recipients
- Additional concerns on NYS aid program impact

Howard added that 20% of holdback of TAP is hurting students and schools, especially for small schools. This should be a topic of discussion at Legislation Day.

See update in HESC Update portion of meeting

■ Contracts: Whova & Zoom

Adrienne King signed Whova and Zoom contracts and is working with TICC to move forward with Novice and Conference events

■ Operational Calendar

Adrienne wants to let council person know that the Operational Calendar is on website. Regions and Committee chairs should pay attention to calendar and update with Regional and Committee events. Information should be sent to Howard Leslie and Lea Nuwer for updates. The hope is to use calendar more actively to drive participation. Howard provided instructions to the EC on accessing the calendar on NYSFAAA website.

■ Novice 2021

A Novice Committee meeting was held, and it was decided that Novice will be a virtual event from June 7 – 11, 2021. A Save the Date notice will go out. The training will be organized in half day sessions and layout will be included in committee notification going to membership.

Budget for meeting will be finalized as meeting plans move forward. Costs may be incurred with use of games or kahoot. The committee would like to try rolling this training out nationally. Decision to hold the event in one week would be beneficial to attendees, presenters and organizers.

The Whova Template was provided to presenters to start moving content and operations with new system forward. Shawn and Howard will coordinate with Lucy.

Past President –

Howard Leslie

■ Governance & Ethics

Howard Leslie had no new news to report aside from some changes to group. It would be best if new members had experience on Executive Council.

Ethics trainings will be held at conference as a responsibility of this committee.

■ Election

We are missing a Region 8 Representative. Stacey will continue to try and get a representative as soon as possible.

First meeting will be held soon with immediate requests for nominations to develop ballot. Ballot should go out by the beginning of May. Then there will be three weeks to vote with poles closing on May 21 close at 5pm. The results will be announcement on May 24.

Lea to assist Howard with election.

Howard was running for EASFAA election, but the President-Elect asked Howard to be in charge of the strategic plan and the Parliamentarian. Congratulations Howard

First Vice President's Report –

Renee Swift

■ Membership

No meetings have been held with membership committee due to calendar and other responsibilities.

Renee Swift did report that we have 77 fewer members when comparing February 2020 to February 2021, with 995 members compared to 1062 members last year.

Renee also mentioned that there is a significant group of lapsed members and that is group is a priority for committee

Renee indicated that this is a difficult time and members need support. Should be a priority of Regions and Executive Council.

She also indicated that when looking back on past minutes, 2021 will probably be an anomaly year and once things start to relax and reopen, we should be able to get back to a new normal. Credentialing and training should be leveraged to help drive membership

Finally, she indicated that there seems to be an increased interest in affiliate members and making sure that these individuals meet definition in order to be classified as such.

■ Mentorship Committee

Challenges with engaging and managing priorities. The hope is that the committee can get back on track and build up energy to move forward. Renee is very optimistic

■ TICC

Technology, Innovation, & Communication Committee

Committee Members:

Heather Adner, Ideta Daniel, Jannatul Ferdous-Hypolite, Howard Leslie, Sandy Looker, Nuwer, Sarah (Macri) O'Neal, Sean Sherwood, Sonya Stein, Tanya Patterson-Stanley

Summary of Activities:

- Supported SWT with surveying and website postings
- Training for virtual Conference and Novice
- Developing a social media communication plan and calendar

Upcoming Projects:

- Bring up virtual platform for Novice and Conference
- Increase social media presence
- Assist rebooted Diversity & Inclusion Committee, as requested
- Continuous updates to BOT knowledge
- Continued support of SWT
- Continued updates to website
- Seeking new, active committee members

Assistance Requested from Executive Council:

- Updated names for committees and regional leadership

Future Meetings and Events:

TBD February

Submitted By: Lea Nuwer & Sarah (Macri) O'Neal

The Executive Council congratulated the group on getting Zoom up and running.

We need to make sure information is provided for Novice updates on committees and regional leadership for website.

Howard showed a new addition to website on student advocacy. This includes 2021 Talking points for Advocacy Day, a list of Assembly people and Senators. Support from NYS Student Alliance with connection to their website with many available tools. The hope is that this type of information will drive families and administrators to website.

■ SWT

The Committee is stepping up their responsible for notification of webinars. The expanded committee activity is very helpful and involved.

Credential meetings are very good. The Committee thanked Howard for organizing the Spring schedule.

Federal update has over 250 registered

Adrienne asked about development of Twitter account to keep communications and social media presence. Also will provide information updates for members and others in the Financial Aid Community and build interest in NYSAAA and financial aid careers. Adrienne will be the manager of twitter account. Lea is working on system.

■ Credentials

Kerrie Cooper presented an update on NASFAA Credentials, indicating that is a success. Training. There is a challenge scheduling these sessions around NASFAA webinars.

Student Eligibility and Professional Judgment sessions are coming up.

The training is working very well with new platform.

Howard Leslie indicated that he is a little disappointed with registration. May need to push it harder for this good opportunity to get certification.

Howard will bring up at June at meeting an idea to reimburse a portion of cost for a portion of participants to make it more attractive and build number of certified members.

One drawback is that we cannot easily tell how many attendees took the credentialing exam. We may need to poll attendees to get this information. NASFAA has information available so we can check list.

While age and experience breakdown are not available, the team believes participants are likely more newer administrators.

NYSFAAA Balances as of 2/8/2021

Bank Accounts

004 Key Bank	\$168,787.71
006 Key Bank Scholarships	\$33,010.98
<u>007 Key Bank CD</u>	<u>\$52,845.22</u>
Total	\$254,643.91

Morgan Stanley

	Current Value (1/31/21)	January 1, 2021	Difference
Reserve Fund	\$391,416.84	\$392,545.66	(\$795.80)
Scholarship	\$294,669.36	\$295,509.66	(\$589.89)

PROFIT AND LOSS

July 1, 2020 - February 8, 2021

	TOTAL
Income	
102 Dues	65,115.00
110 Interest Income	78.94
304 NYSFAAA Scholarship Inc	13,538.00
450 Uncategorized Income	15.00
Total Income	\$78,746.94
GROSS PROFIT	\$78,746.94
Expenses	
501 Executive Council Administration	
501B Professional Services	7,683.00
501C General Executive Council	1,191.64
501F Bank Service Charge	550.37
501G Credit Card Fees	1,516.23
Total 501 Executive Council Administration	10,941.24
507 Communications Committee	1,128.83
507A Website	3,488.00
Total 507 Communications Committee	4,616.83
510 Professional Development	
510A Statewide Training	3,400.00
Total 510 Professional Development	3,400.00
512 Novice Training Exp	813.75
700 NYSFAAA Scholarship	6,792.00
Total Expenses	\$26,563.82
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$52,183.12
NET INCOME	\$52,183.12

NYSFAAA, Inc.

BUDGET VS. ACTUALS: 2020-2021 FINAL BUDGET - FY21 P&L

July 2020 - June 2021

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Income				
102 Dues	65,115.00	75,000.00	-9,885.00	86.82 %
103 Passthrough Income	0.00		0.00	
107 Novice Workshop Inc		54,000.00	-54,000.00	
110 Interest Income	78.94	300.00	-221.06	26.31 %
304 NYSFAAA Scholarship Inc	13,538.00	4,000.00	9,538.00	338.45 %
450 Uncategorized Income	15.00	450.00	-435.00	3.33 %
Total Income	\$78,746.94	\$133,750.00	\$ -55,003.06	58.88 %
GROSS PROFIT	\$78,746.94	\$133,750.00	\$ -55,003.06	58.88 %
Expenses				
501 Executive Council Administration				
501A Revenue Sharing		10,700.00	-10,700.00	
501B Professional Services	7,683.00	8,800.00	-1,117.00	87.31 %
501C General Executive Council	1,191.64	650.00	541.64	183.33 %
501D Executive Council Meetings		15,000.00	-15,000.00	
501F Bank Service Charge	550.37	850.00	-299.63	64.75 %
501G Credit Card Fees	1,516.23	5,000.00	-3,483.77	30.32 %
Total 501 Executive Council Administration	10,941.24	41,000.00	-30,058.76	26.69 %
504 Awards Committee				
504 Awards Committee		1,750.00	-1,750.00	
507 Communications Committee				
507 Communications Committee	1,128.83		1,128.83	
507A Website	3,488.00	12,000.00	-8,512.00	29.07 %
Total 507 Communications Committee	4,616.83	12,000.00	-7,383.17	38.47 %
509 Mentoring Committee				
509 Mentoring Committee		1,000.00	-1,000.00	
510 Professional Development				
510A Statewide Training	3,400.00	4,400.00	-1,000.00	77.27 %
Total 510 Professional Development	3,400.00	4,400.00	-1,000.00	77.27 %
512 Novice Training Exp	813.75	66,000.00	-65,186.25	1.23 %
700 NYSFAAA Scholarship	6,792.00	7,600.00	-808.00	89.37 %
Total Expenses	\$26,563.82	\$133,750.00	\$ -107,186.18	19.86 %
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$52,183.12	\$0.00	\$52,183.12	0.00%
NET INCOME	\$52,183.12	\$0.00	\$52,183.12	0.00%

Shalena recognized that there are some concerns with the current investment environment but that there are no major changes in our investment results at this time.

She also indicated the following:

- NYSFAAA scholarships have increased.
- Revenue Sharing checks will go out to the regions once an accurate split can be calculated
- It is a every unusual year on both expense and membership sides. January is showing an uptick in membership.

Jeanne McCarthy and Debi Evans provided an update on Conference 2021. The committee has been meeting weekly since new year.

To help form the agenda and scheduled for the 2021 event, they discussed portion of last year's survey results and proposed dates, ideas and budget request

They felt that the survey results were clear and that it was a long day and suggested holding the conference one day a week for three weeks. Possibly 9 – 4 or 9:30 to 3:30. Program committee will help form this schedule.

Breakout sessions will be used.

Vending room would not likely be used.

Raffle and 50/50 was well received and should be continued.

October calendar was reviewed, and the proposed dates are as follows:

- October 13 - Opening Session, NYSFAAA General Session, breakouts,
- October 21 HESC update, breakouts,
- October 29 Annual Business Meeting, Federal Update, breakouts if necessary.

They would like to offer an opportunity for regional meetings at end of conference.

Howard Leslie expressed concern with spreading the event out over multiple weeks after the experience of Novice. Debi and Jeanne are using survey results as driver of dates. More than one person felt that 3 full days in a row is too difficult to schedule. Howard indicated that the experience provided by WHOVA will allow for a different experience this year because there are breakout opportunities available that did not exist in the past.

The discussion ensues with a number of points made on various scheduling options and differences between Novice and the Conference that ended with a plan to conduct another survey especially given the uncertainty of this year and the pandemic.

Adrienne King would like a survey to go out to membership with description of options and ask for preference. This survey should go out ASAP to help facilitate conference program on a timely basis. Jeanne and Debi to develop the survey and get it out. Patti Donahue's recommendation is to outline options so that survey is clear on the options. Howard recommended not to include a one day option. Preference with results of late year's survey. Jeanne provided survey results that outlines these options, indicating that 3 days in a row format got the least positive results. One day for three weeks got best results. There was some feedback that people may have not read survey closely. Others felt the survey results were somewhat inconclusive when grouping the various responses.

The decision was made to use two options: ½ days per week and spread out over a week. Breakout room and sessions opportunity is important. Adrienne will review draft before it goes out. Howard would like vote on the format after we get the results. It is important to finalize this schedule ASAP to help finalize speakers including Justin Draeger.

The next topic was to discuss the conference fee: last year made available to all paid members. Various proposals were discussed including options for Novice attendees, members, non-members, in-state, out-of-state, and budgetary options for schools, organization and members paying this fee out of pocket.

Decisions on NOVICE should be used to help determine this year's fee given Novice fees will help offset technology costs.

BJ recommended considering giving novice participates free conference registration and \$50 novice cost which is easier to sell to school's management. Idea was well received.

Need to decide fee and get hold the date with fee moving forward to help with budgets.

Susan discussed need for determination on how to account for Novice and conference fees and allocation of split fee or for all revenue to go to novice and none to conference for Novice participants. Must determine how these individuals would be registered for conference. New member ship year starts July 1. New members who sign up for Novice always get a free membership making blending not a practical issue but need to be aware of double invoicing issue we had last year.

Adrienne King expressed concern with discussing Novice costs without Chair being present. Novice costs \$70 for membership plus cost of Novice. The biggest cost is the handbook which is now eliminated. Software cost for games, etc. is still there.

Other items to consider:

- National audience - can't accommodate various time zones,
- Rooms for networking, region or sector,
- Regional meetings during conference,
- Session on diversity, social justice,
- Prior year loss on conference deposit,
- Executive Council ideas on sessions,
- Continue to request donation from business partners to go towards scholarship fund. – big boost to fund last year,
- Raffle and 50/50.
- Budget for guest speaker for diversity speaker. This will impact conference budget.

Further discussion was tabled until we have survey results.

Conference 2022 Report	Stacey Hawkins/Sonya Stein
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Stacey Hawkins and Sonya Stein presented an update on Conference 2022. They went back to High Peaks and found that the hotel is willing to work with us but want an idea of what we are looking for before finalizing a decision.

The thoughts are to negotiate on latest date to renegotiate contract given we are still in an unknown world/place with reopening events. The concern is that hotel has already given us accommodations without an issue. Going back for a final date will be difficult given they are under no obligation to do so.

Amount of deposit that will be forfeited if we need to cancel. Long Island conference has a higher deposit to pay than we already paid for Lake Placid.

Committee estimating 150 rooms for Tuesday and Wednesday. This is lower than Syracuse conference.

Hybrid conference is difficult technology wise and will likely reduce attendance.

Options were discussed including:

- Asking the hotel about reducing now and later increasing.
- Using a guarantee of 100 – 125 attendees with flexibility to increase later
- What are costs if we don't meet the minimum.
- Will they be flexible on percentage.
- Adding an option of offsetting unsold room revenue with food and beverage expenses.
- Different rates for different accommodations.
- Reduction in the number of breakout rooms from the four currently under contract.

The Committee does expect attendance to be reduced based on location of hotel and current school conference budgets.

Virtual Advocacy Days – NYSFAAA Plans
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Christopher Barto

Christopher thanked the Executive Council for assisting with Talking Points and asked for additional participants, if able.

The ZOOM link to the Advocacy Day sessions will be sent to the participants on February 9. Christopher will kick off each meeting and anticipates seeing the actual members in each session. Senator Stavisky, Assembly Woman Glick, Senator Krueger. They will also be meeting with Elsa Magee review updates from HESC.

See talking points below



• New York State Financial Aid Administrators Association • www.nysfaaa.org •

NYSFAAA State Student Aid Proposals Summary – Advocacy Day – February 9-10, 2021

The New York State Financial Aid Administrators Association (NYSFAAA), an association of student financial aid professionals from across the state representing all sectors of our diverse higher education system, proposes a number of recommendations designed to safeguard access to an affordable college education for all academically qualified students. We are aware of the State's current budget crisis caused by the pandemic. The recommendations below (with detailed rationale attached) are those we believe are most important and will be most impactful for the state's students, provided the state receives a fair Federal funding package.

Recommendation #1:

Support Meaningful TAP Awards for New York State Students

Recommendation #2:

Support Enhanced Funding for Opportunity Programs Serving Our Most Vulnerable Students

Recommendation #3:

Eliminate Disparity in Access to TAP Awards: Standardize Dependent & Independent Award Schedules

Recommendation #4:

Align New York State Aid Programs with Federal Use of Professional Judgment (PJ)

Recommendation #5:

Address Higher Education's Devastating COVID-19 Related Budget Issues

- Release 20% Withholding of State Aid Payments
- Restore Bundy Aid Funding
- Confirm COVID-19 State Aid Waivers

NYSFAAA's attached proposals stem from a recognition of the need to better serve our state's students, to help students with demonstrated financial need make college possible, and to also focus on streamlining the financial aid application process. We look forward to engaging in discussion of these recommendations.

Respectfully,

Adrienne King, NYSFAAA President (president@nysfaaa.org)



• New York State Financial Aid Administrators Association •

www.nysfaaa.org

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February 9-10, 2021**

The New York State Financial Aid Administrators Association (NYSFAAA), an association of student financial aid professionals from across the state representing all sectors of our diverse higher education system, proposes a number of recommendations designed to safeguard access to an affordable college education for all academically qualified students. Our proposals stem from a need to better serve our state's students, to help students with demonstrated financial need make college possible, and also focus on streamlining the financial aid application process.

NYSFAAA's financial aid administrators and their campus communities are aware of the State's current budget crisis caused by the pandemic. However, we remind you of the ever increasing need of our state's students and their families who are struggling. They must be considered a top priority. The recommendations below are those we believe are most important and will be most impactful, provided the state receives a fair Federal funding package.

Recommendation #1:

Support Meaningful TAP Awards for New York State Students

– Increase Maximum TAP Award and Expand Income Eligibility –

We recommend phasing in over three years (to 2024) an increase in the maximum Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) Award from the current maximum of \$5,165 to \$6,000, an increase in the minimum TAP award to \$1,000 (from \$500), and phasing in an increase in the TAP income eligibility from \$80,000 to \$110,000 NYS Net Taxable Income (NTI). Establish a funding formula for future years (post-2024) whereby TAP would be increased annually to keep pace with inflation.

Rationale:

We were encouraged that TAP funding was not cut in the Executive Budget. If additional revenue is available in the Budget, we urge the Legislature to increase TAP funding for students who need it now more than ever.

The New York State TAP award schedule has not kept pace with the U.S. inflation rate, nor with students' and families' struggles due to the pandemic that has caused significant financial hardship for families trying to meet higher education costs. Over the last 20 years the maximum TAP award has increased only 3.3% and the maximum TAP income eligibility has remained flat. **Senate bill S.1889, that was advanced in the 2019-2020 legislative session, recognized the need to increase the maximum TAP income eligibility level, raising it from \$80,000 NYS Net Taxable Income (NTI) to an NTI of \$95,000.** We urge passage of similar legislation that would phase-in further adjustments to increase maximum TAP awards to \$6,000 and TAP income eligibility to \$110,000 NTI.

Recommendation #2:

Support Opportunity Programs Serving Our Most Vulnerable Students

– Enhance Funding for Opportunity Programs –

To support access and effective programming, we urge an across-the-board 20 percent increase for all Opportunity Programs – Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), College Discovery Program, Search for Education, Elevation, and Knowledge (SEEK) Program, the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP), its high school counterpart STEP, and the Liberty Partnerships Program (LPP). For the Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), we request a 20 percent increase per FTE to \$8,400 (from \$7,000 per FTE) for programs serving students outside New York City and an increase to \$9,000 per FTE (from \$7,500) for programs serving students in New York City. A recent survey of institutions with HEOP programs clearly showed that the HEOP program needs increased support to ensure program stability.

Rationale:

We were encouraged that Opportunity Programs' funding was not cut in the Executive Budget. If additional revenue is available in the Budget, we urge the Legislature to increase Opportunity Programs' funding for students who need it now more than ever.

The NYS Opportunity Programs have a long and well-established track record of successfully supporting a diverse population of economically and academically disadvantaged students to persevere and complete their programs of study. Opportunity Programs lead to improved graduation rates and are well worth an increasing investment of our tax dollars. The academic, co-curricular, and financial support provided by these programs make a real difference in the lives of students in opportunity programs who are traditionally at higher risk of not graduating.

Recommendation #3:

Eliminate Disparity in Access to TAP Awards

– Standardize Dependent & Independent Student TAP Award Schedules –

Use the same TAP Award Schedule, income, and maximum award eligibility for all students regardless of their Dependency Status. Currently independent students who are married or single and have no tax dependents receive significantly lower TAP awards compared to dependent students and independent students with tax dependents (with a maximum award of \$3,025 compared to \$5,165 for the later group). There is also a significant difference in the maximum income allowed, with eligibility for TAP for independent married students without dependents limited to those below \$40,000 NYS Net Taxable Income (NTI) while

eligibility for single independent students without dependents is restricted to those with NTIs no higher than \$10,000. NYSFAAA supported S7251 (Stavisky) and A10026 (Glick), bills introduced during the 2019-2020 legislative session that would have resolved some of the confusion and disparity in maximum award eligibility across multiple TAP schedules. **However, we urge you to pass legislation that goes a step further – to fully eliminate award discrepancies based on dependency status.**

Rationale:

In a December 2019 survey of NYSFAAA members, 73% of aid administrators supported treating dependent and independent students similarly, and there is strong sentiment that the current disparity in TAP awards significantly disadvantages independent students who have no dependents. In fact, many aid administrators commented that independent students often have less disposable income available to them than dependent students because they have to provide for all of their own expenses. Certainly, tax dependents and spousal income should be factored into an adjusted NTI calculation to ensure that relevant income and expenses for family members are factored into the determination for aid eligibility; however, the NYSFAAA membership strongly supports elimination of the current separate and unequal TAP Award schedules for independent students.

Recommendation #4:

Align State to Federal Use of Professional Judgment

–Align FAAs’ Professional Judgment (PJ) for State Aid Programs to Federal PJ –

Financial Aid Administrators (FAAs) are allowed to exercise “Professional Judgment” for Federal Title IV programs for defined, well-documented extenuating circumstances, allowing adjustment of aid awards to better reflect significant changes in family circumstances or a student’s and/or family’s ability to pay based on losses to family income. We urge the state to allow FAAs to exercise Professional Judgment for state aid programs. This would give FAAs the authority to consider granting independent status (i.e. “Dependency Overrides”), or to revise household income and certain other data elements with appropriate documentation.

Rationale:

FAAs work with students who have been abused, abandoned, and/or severely neglected by their parent(s) or legal guardian(s), with students who are homeless (or at risk of being homeless), or who have incarcerated parents. Under Federal guidelines FAAs have the ability to exercise professional judgment to grant independent status for Federal aid programs to an otherwise dependent student under these extenuating circumstances. FAAs also have the authority to recalculate a student’s Federal aid eligibility to more accurately reflect the student’s or family’s ability to pay when income or assets have been lost in the year(s) following the tax year that aid applications were initially based on. Under current NYS law there are very limited provisions for a review of “special circumstances.” The disparity between Federal and NY State policy creates frustration, confusion, and discouragement for students facing real hardships. It also has an impact on persistence to degree completion for some students. NY State professional FAAs have the training and experience based on Federal Student Aid (FSA) guidelines to evaluate challenging circumstances and to make decisions that are compliant with regulations. We urge that similar professional judgment authority for state aid programs be extended

to FAAs to assist more New York students dealing with hardship circumstances, allowing them access to appropriate state aid funds and improving their chances for success.

Recommendation #5:

Address Higher Education's COVID-19 Related Budget Issues

– Release Withheld Student Aid Payments, Restore Bundy Aid, and Confirm Student Aid Eligibility for COVID-19-Impacted Students –

Release 20% Withholding of State Aid Payments – Since spring 2020, the state has withheld 20% of all student aid program payments due to enrolled students, including payments for TAP and the opportunity programs while requiring institutions to hold students harmless – essentially requiring the institutions to advance the state's student aid commitment to students. The withholding is an increasingly difficult financial burden for the state's higher education institutions that are already suffering from lost revenues on many fronts. This ongoing withholding of student aid payments is forcing many institutions into near fiscal crisis. **We urge the state to make whole on their financial commitment to student aid and release the 20% payments to institutions.**

Restore Bundy Aid Funding – The Governor's Executive Budget eliminates Bundy Aid for state fiscal year 2022, a critically important program to Independent Sector institutions that is used for direct student aid to students. He further proposes not restoring the amount (20%) withheld from payments already made in this fiscal year and cancelling remaining Bundy Aid payments owed during the current academic year. This amounts to a \$51.9 million cut to student aid and support during a pandemic – a devastating and untenable blow. The Governor's budget inaccurately suggests that Federal emergency relief funding is a substitute for Bundy Aid. In reality, Federal relief provided a portion of the funding campuses incurred to protect jobs, to fund robust COVID-19 testing programs and buy needed PPE that is enabling campuses to keep their communities safe during the pandemic. The Governor's proposed elimination of Bundy Aid will only exacerbate the grave fiscal stresses on independent colleges and universities and the students they serve. **We urge the legislature to fully restore Bundy Aid in the FY 2022 Budget and reject cuts to Bundy Aid funding that the Legislature already approved in the FY 2021 budget.**

Confirm COVID-19 State Aid Waivers – HESC has advised institutions that they can provide waivers to students impacted by COVID-19. Students deemed impacted by COVID-19 will not lose their next TAP payment due to SAP (Satisfactory Academic Progress) or POP (Pursuit of Program) or due to withdrawal from their classes. However, as of January 2021, the Governor's Office has not yet approved this measure. This has led to great confusion and has put students truly impacted by COVID-19 in limbo as to their academic status and their state aid. Since the directive stated institutions must continue to fully award students, the institutions are carrying a significant financial burden since they are carrying the state's commitment for these students.

Christopher also plans to reach out to Regional Chairs to identify members of region committees to schedule local advocacy meetings to discuss talking points prior to the April 1 Budget Meeting.

Howard and Christopher worked on mail merger to send the Talking Points, under Adrienne's signature to all members prior to the appointments.

Howard would like to encourage members from SUNY, CUNY and the independent/private schools to participate in the Advocacy Day visits. As of now, most of the participants are from the proprietary sector.

Christopher indicated that the group would be representing NYSFAAA and not their sectors.

HESC Update –

Lisa Simpson

HESC Update

February 2021

Processing 2020-21 Updates

1. **NYS Scholarship for Academic Excellence (SAE)**- This week HESC received the new 2020-21 SAE recipients list from the State Education Department. These students will be included in the next Student Status listing (SSL). Schools have been receiving SAE repeat recipients during the fall term.
2. **Aid to Part Time Study (APTS) for academic year 2020-21**

The 2020-21 Aid for Part-Time Study (APTS) program will be available soon. As you are aware, there have been delays in starting up the program this year and we appreciate your patience. The following outlines the schedule for the 2020-21 APTS program:

- APTS Participation Agreement and Student Payment Applications are available today (February 9). The Participation Agreements can be accessed under "Forms and Bulletins" in Secure Transaction Processing.
- Signed participation agreement must be emailed to APTS.Administration@hesc.ny.gov. All Participation Agreements must be received no later than **March 3, 2021** to be considered for APTS funds.
- As with TAP, the income requirements for the APTS for 2020-2021 will be based on the prior-year (PPY) income; awards will be based on income for the 2018 tax year.
- HESC will determine the APTS allocation for each participating school in March and schools will be notified when the allocation is available.
- Once the allocations have been determined, schools will be able to submit their Summer, Fall or Spring Recipient lists. We have temporarily removed the 45-day deadline for submitting the recipient lists and certifications.

Thank you for your continued partnership. Please contact APTS.Administration@hesc.ny.gov if you have any questions.

3. **Processing for students applying through the Dream Act portal-** Information regarding students who applied for NYS Financial Aid for 2020 through the DREAM Act portal are now displayed on the HESC system. Beginning on the February 2021 roster, all students eligible to be certified will be included for certification.

2019 student awardees will continue to be sent on the Consolidated Roster for processing.

4. **Student Status Listing layout changes-** Effective January 29, 2021, HESC will be adjusting the record layout for the SSL. Fields changing on the new layout include Source Doc and App Stat fields. A revised record layout can be found on the HESC website.

Modification includes:

- The values for Source Doc have changed so that instead of the actual application source, new values of 1 - Application Available and 2 - Application Submitted will be sent.
- Values for academic years no longer being sent have been removed.
- New value for App Stat field new value of 'Z' = TAP approved; Roster pending Scholarship approval.

Student ID Processing

- Continue processing H9751 files
- Colleges with multiple school codes must make sure the student ID is sent for the correct code or send the ID for both school codes so in the event they adjust the school code the student ID is already on file.
- Students with no ID will not be sent on any files to schools for processing
 - Includes Student Status Listing (SSL), Rosters, Ras, and Manifests

2020-21 Certification Processing

This week, HESC will begin paying January's certified awards for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 academic years at 100 percent of the value. HESC will also be producing the first winter and spring rosters for the 2020-21 academic year on January 20, 2020. The winter/spring roster pre-payments will also be made at 100 percent of their value. The spring roster will be subject to the annual TAP deferral.

HESC Accounting Documents for January will be available in the Reports section of HESCWeb Transaction Processing by clicking on the Details link next to Form Ids PAYDOCS or PAYDOCSI.

At this time, the 20 percent of payments that was previously withheld for affected academic years will remain temporarily withheld. As a reminder, the 20 percent temporarily withheld from prior payments are not cuts to student awards, but rather a change in the payment schedule made to schools. Consequently, student awards are NOT to be reduced and schools should defer such students' tuition for the entire amount of a student's award. Please ensure that your school's financial aid representatives are communicating this appropriately to impacted students.

Please direct any questions to payments@hesc.ny.gov.

Citizenship Updates

- Citizenship documentation is being updated daily at HESC and is current at this time.
- Documentation needed for first time NYS Financial Aid recipients only
 - HESC requests proof of citizenship documentation
 - Uploaded using students HESC account
 - Once documentation is received
 - Citizenship updated at HESC
 - Award will be reinstated
 - Student on SSL sent to school
- Students who are previous recipients of NYS Financial Aid and who have a citizenship “c” code do not need to provide documentation
 - Schools would have collected documentation in prior years
 - Students will be set to citizenship approved**
 - NYS award will be reinstated
 - Sent on SSL to school

** Currently run once a week until programming is in place

2019-20 Processing

- All certifications should be processed at this time
- Certify all Excelsior and ETA students on manifest now
- Check error reports for TAP, Excelsior, and ETA
 - Update and recertify errors
 - Errors must be corrected and processed before close out of the year or students will not get paid.
- Payments from April through July 31, 2020 began the end of August
 - 80% of full payment
 - 20% of payments temporary withheld
 - Not cuts to student awards
 - Change in payment schedule
 - Student awards should not be reduced
 - Schools should credit students' tuition for the entire amount of a student's certified award

NYS Dream Act

- Students complete NYS DREAM Act application
- Eligibility for residency/citizenship and education is determined
- Once complete, applicants continue to apply for specific NYS Financial Aid programs
- Application periods are the same for all applicants
 - Applicants go through same verification processes
 - Once verification is complete, TAP awards are calculated, and applicant notified
 - Applicant information is provided to school on weekly status listing
 - Applicants will be placed on your payment rosters for certification
 - HESC sent out 2019 certifications on a consolidated roster (CSR)

- Temporary fix until students are fully loaded into the HESC mainframe system
- Renewal process-
 - Student needs to complete new program application in subsequent years
 - For now, any change in information (school code changes as an example) needs to be completed by HESC. Students will be able to make changes within their accounts in the next weeks.
 -
- **2020 Processing**
 - Information regarding students who applied for NYS Financial Aid for 2020 through the DREAM Act portal are now displayed on the HESC system. Beginning on the February 2021 roster, all students eligible to be certified are included for certification.

COVID Flag

- Schools must certify online using the COVID flag
- Spring certification using the COVID flag indicator remain as unprocessed until HESC received approval to process
- Guidance on future use of the COVID flag is pending
 - Once a decision is made, HESC will notify schools
- Schools who indicated the COVID flag in error should send a request to have the flag removed to priorityservices@hesc.ny.gov

Renee Swift asked a clarifying question on completion of the Data Survey and updating information on certifying official, etc. in the system. Lisa recommended that this information be updated on the HESC Website and not through the Survey.

Lisa advised the schools to watch for additional bulletins and contact her if we have additional questions.

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Regional Updates	Regional Councilpersons
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See Appendix for Regional Updates submitted.

A question came up on accessing data from the website and problems with the ability to get data and format of data. Howard Leslie has reached out to MemberClicks for help but acknowledged that the it has been a challenge. He is attempting to pull together a user group of financial aid associations to help build support in this area.

Old Business

Adrienne sent an email to NYSACAC indicating that NYSFAAA will not sign Equity in Education. NYSACAC responded that they thank us for the consideration but wanted to clarify that by not signing on to this group that we would not be affiliating or collaborating with this group and wanted us to see who else was affiliated with this group. They would like to keep the lines of communications open.

They did not indicate a change of mind on their reason for not wanting to change their position on proprietary schools. Much of their decision making is tied to national guidelines.

New Business

Sonya Stein indicated that the TICC wanted to set up a private Facebook group for NYSFAAA members and wants to check with Council on their thoughts in this area.

Howard would like more information on how Facebook knows who is a NYSFAAA member and keeps it a safe space. Sonya indicated that the group moderator would have control in this area and she would serve in this role and ran through the process of admitting individuals to the group, including verifying membership in NYSFAAA.

Adrienne and Howard believe this is something that we should explore including rules of membership and ability to monitor and oversee.

Sonya indicated that this would not replace the Listserv or NYSFAAA Chatbot.

Howard indicated that MemberClicks has a similar product called Community Forum that he will review and see if this product would work for this purpose. Howard will report back to this group via email.

Adrienne requested that the Technology Committee review the private Facebook and Community Forum and decide if they want to bring either of these to the Council.

Future Meetings

Next Meetings-All Meetings are Virtual

- April 28th, 2021 1 to 4 P.M.
- June 14th and 15th - Budget Meeting /1.5 days.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Howard Leslie and seconded by Patti Donahue. The motion passed by all.

Exhibits:

Region 1 Report
NYSFAAA Exec Council Meeting
Date 2/8/2021

1. MEETINGS SINCE LAST EXEC COUNCIL MEETING

Date and Location: 12/17/20 held virtually on Zoom

Attendees: 12

Topics and Training details: Executive Counsel Report, discussion on FAFSA Nights, and a presentation on Loan Repayment by BJ Revill.

2 Other Training events in which the Region was involved:

Example – CGNY, Guidance Counselor workshop? none

3 Treasury update: \$3757.09, per Kathy Michalski

4 Committee Reports: none

5 Conference news (If your region is involved in Conference planning): none

6 Upcoming meetings and events: meeting will be held after each Executive Council meeting and as needed. Next meeting is 2/11/2021.

7 Regional comments/Recommendations (If your region has a pressing issue that needs to be brought to the attention of Council): none

Region 2 Report
NYSFAAA Exec Council Meeting
Date 2/8/2021

MEETINGS SINCE LAST EXEC COUNCIL MEETING

Date and Location: 12/11/20 held virtually

Attendees: 30

Topics and Training details: Howard Leslie presented on COVID issues, R2T4, Academic Calendars, etc.

Other Training events in which the Region was involved:

Example – CGNY, Guidance Counselor workshop?

Treasury update:

Committee Reports: none

Conference news (If your region is involved in Conference planning): none

Upcoming meetings and events: .

Regional comments/Recommendations (If your region has a pressing issue that needs to be brought to the attention of Council):

Region #3 Report
NYSFAAA Exec Council Meeting
Date 2/8/21

MEETINGS SINCE LAST EXEC COUNCIL MEETING

Date and Location: Remote meeting on 1/14/21

Attendees: 23

Topics and Training details: EC update, membership, Regional scholarships, and the issues/comments below.

Other Training events that Region was involved in: N/A

Example – CGNY, Guidance Counselor workshop?

Treasury update: \$6,231. Cynthia Roach, Treasurer Region 3

Committee Reports

Conference news (If your region is involved in Conference planning)

Upcoming meetings and events

Regional comments/Recommendations (If your region has a pressing issue that needs to be brought to the attention of Council)

- Request from membership chair for access to download membership data/reports via the website. It was believed this would be temporary when the new website came up, but it's still not working.
- Request that we revisit **Institutional Membership** (like EASFAA did) vs Individual to help increase membership. Might be easier to sell during a time of budget constraints.

Region IV Report
NYSFAAA Exec Council Meeting
Date 2/8/21

MEETINGS SINCE LAST EXEC COUNCIL MEETING

Date and Location: 1/13/21, zoom meeting

Attendees: 5

Topics and Training details: Topics for future meetings (and dates), and what to expect from new Chairperson

Other Training events that Region was involved in :

None

Treasury update: Andrea Wedler was unable to get into her office where recent statements are located due to positive COVID case on campus. She reports nothing has changed so account balance is roughly the same as last report of \$6933.81

Committee Reports: Membership Committee last met on 12/10/20 collaborating with other region chairs on way to increase membership

Conference news (If your region is involved in Conference planning) N/A

Upcoming meetings and events: Next Region IV meeting scheduled for Wednesday 2/10/21

Regional comments/Recommendations (If your region has a pressing issue that needs to be brought to the attention of Council): None

Region V Report
NYSFAAA Exec Council Meeting
Date 2/8/21

MEETINGS SINCE LAST EXEC COUNCIL MEETING

Date and Location: Not Submitted

Topics and Training details:

Other Training events that Region was involved in :

Treasury update:

Committee Reports:

Conference news (If your region is involved in Conference planning)

Upcoming meetings and events:

Regional comments/Recommendations (If your region has a pressing issue that needs to be brought to the attention of Council):

Region VI Report
NYSFAAA Exec Council Meeting
Date 2/8/21

MEETINGS SINCE LAST EXEC COUNCIL MEETING

Date and Location: Not Submitted

Attendees:

Topics and Training details:

Other Training events that Region was involved in :

Treasury update:

Committee Reports:

Conference news (If your region is involved in Conference planning)

Upcoming meetings and events:

Regional comments/Recommendations (If your region has a pressing issue that needs to be brought to the attention of Council):

Region 7 Report
NYSFAAA Exec Council Meeting
Date 2/8/2021

MEETINGS SINCE LAST EXEC COUNCIL MEETING

Since the last Exec. Council meeting Region 7 has not hosted any meeting.

Date and Location:

Attendees = ##

Topics and Training details:

Other Training events that Region was involved in :

Example – CGNY, Guidance Counselor workshop?

Treasury update: Current amount is \$ 3445.26

Committee Reports – nothing to report

Conference news (If your region is involved in Conference planning)

Upcoming meetings and events - nothing to report

Regional comments/Recommendations (If your region has a pressing issue that needs to be brought to the attention of Council) – nothing to report

Region #8 Report

NYSFAAA Exec Council Meeting

Date: February 8, 2021

1. MEETINGS SINCE LAST EXEC COUNCIL MEETING

Date and Location: Dec. 11, 2020 held virtually

Attendees = 19

Topics and Training details:

*Ben Loya from Earnest provided the region with an update on their current status and available scholarships.

*Update from Current NYSFAAA President

*Executive Council update

*Novice training update

*SWT Credentials

*Several Region 8 members will be retiring in the coming months, so we are look for new members to step up into different roles.

*Round table discussion on: NYS Funding status, concerns; Cares reporting; what other institutions do in regards to follow up of paperwork; tracking of COVID related withdrawals

2 **Other Training events that Region was involved in :** N/A

3 **Treasury update:** Update provided by Nicole Adner – 3,854.02

4 **Committee Reports:**

a. Membership update: 42 current members

b. Carolyn Corcoran updated on Nominations and Elections committee for the region.

c. Statewide Training update and credentialing opportunities provided by Abby DeCastro

d. TIC & Website update provided by Kerry Lubold on behalf of Sonya Stein.

5 **Conference news (If your region is involved in Conference planning)-**Conference 2022 updates and thoughts.

6 **Upcoming meetings and events:** TBD- Mid/Late Feb or Early March

7 **Regional comments/Recommendations (If your region has a pressing issue that needs to be brought to the attention of Council)-** N/A