

**NYSFAAA Exec Council Meeting Minutes**  
**December 7-8, 2000**  
Tarrytown, New York

**Present:**

Anne Barton, Cathleen Bellomo, Mildred Brown, William Cheetham, Evelyn DeStio, Laura Dominy (for Kerrie Cooper), Warren Hoffman, Johanna Kelly, Michael McGraw, Michael Pede, Ed Reiman, Lisa Simpson, Mary Jo Stetz, Keith Stevenson, Michael Williams

**Guests:** Tony Thompson, Laura Worley, Dan Sistarenik, Gail Drapala, Vera Senis

**Regional Concerns:**

Region 1: offer one day novice training – our region has three novice directors with no aid experience

Region 2: TAP for BOCES nursing students – there is a desire for BOCES LPN students to be TAP eligible; intermediate training be offered at multiple sites on multiple dates; official procedure for regional requests needs to be developed

Region 3: procedures be developed in each region for monitoring regional treasurer activities

Region 4: more statewide training be offered, possibly video conferences

Region 5: more training, keep novice training intact, offer longer novice training at the conference

Region 6: need a vehicle to volunteer for statewide committees, offer day long novice training throughout the year

Region 7: more training downstate, get downstate volunteers for novice

Region 8: how do we get Early Awareness brochures? What happened to Ready, Set, Go? Need more intermediate training at several sites across the state.

A lengthy discussion took place re changing novice training. Several regions would like to see novice offered throughout the year, however, there is a concern that this would draw away from the June experience which builds a sense of community because of the length of the training. It was felt that if regions feel this training is necessary throughout the year, they should try to arrange local training. Funds may be requested from Exec Council if the region cannot cover the cost itself.

It was suggested to video the novice training sessions and divide it into modules that could be provided to the regions if needed. This has been tried in the past and was a rather dry way to train, it was recommended that SFA Coach be utilized instead. The Novice training at the Nevele conference will be longer than at past conferences. It was agreed that if local novice training takes place, the regions may copy sections of the Novice training manual, but entire manuals will not be provided for those attending abbreviated training sessions.

The consensus of the group re the above issues was:

Exec Council will offer 2 Novice training sessions each year – the week-long session in June and a shorter session at the annual conference. Additional one-day workshops can be offered locally by the regions. Contact Mike Pede for assistance in arranging these if necessary. NYSFA-L should be utilized to advertise any training venues offered by regions. You may get people from neighboring regions to attend. Refrain from using the term novice for these local offerings to avoid confusion and detract from the week long Novice training in June. Regional input is needed on topics for which training is desired. Once again the need for a master calendar came up – it would be beneficial to coordinate these regional training events. Other agencies such as NYSOBBA, HESC, etc should be involved in these sessions if appropriate.

There was also concern that the NYSFAAA conference scholarship process needs to be defined. Mike McGraw will draft a proposal of the process to be presented at the February meeting.

## TAP PROPOSALS

The Government Relations Committee will arrange legislative visits for council members on Tuesday, February 5. Coffee mugs with the NYSFAAA web address will be provided for each legislator.

The following items were agreed on to be presented to legislators:

- Provide the funding that was agreed upon
- Present the request for TAP eligibility for programs less than 2 years in length
- Return of the \$1200 graduate TAP award
- Significant increase in funding of the APTS program
- Increase maximum independent TAP to the same level as dependent TAP
- Raise the floor level of TAP to poverty level
- NT threshold for maximum TAP needs to be changes
- Raise NTI for independent student to \$15,000
- STAP reinstatement to allow 2 semesters of remediation
  - Criteria now eliminates student eligibility
- Increase funding to opportunity programs
- Eliminate the lag for summer TAP payments
- Allow Professional Judgment by FAAs
- Re-align independence criteria to mirror the federal criteria
- Modernization of the TAP system

It was recommended that the Government Relations Committee post these recommendations on NYSFA-L to elicit comments from the membership.

## **Secretary's Report**

**MOTION: Approve minutes of September 2000 meeting.**

Reiman/Stevenson

Unanimous

## **Treasurer's Report**

A copy of the Treasurer's report is attached for the record. New tax exempt forms are available. There are also new expense forms available.

**MOTION: Approve the Treasurer's Report.**

Reiman/Cheetham

Unanimous

**MOTION: Recommend that the expense form be available on the web for membership to download.**

Kelly/Stetz

Unanimous

**MOTION: Mileage reimbursement be increased to .30 per mile effective for transportation incurred after 1/1/01.**

Cheetham/Kelly

6 in Favor

3 Opposed

2 Abstain

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Warren Hoffman reported that he is sending revised membership diskettes to all the regions. A membership report is attached for the record. He asks that regional membership chairs double check institution information before the new directory goes to print. Warren will be ordering a supply of membership pins. The new directory is targeted to go to print in January 2001.

## **TRAINING**

Mike Pede offered a mission statement of the training committee. It is as follows:

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

As an Association, training is the cornerstone of our success. We must provide our membership the knowledge and opportunity to grow and develop their knowledge of the profession and our work environment.

A copy of the objectives and goals of the committee are attached for the record.

Mike needs regional training site coordinators from each region. He also needs people to serve on the statewide committee. Regional chairs should go back to their regions and get interested names to Mike ASAP.

### **2001 Conference**

Heather McDonnell submitted the proposed budget for the conference. A copy is attached for the record. The annual conference fee will be reduced to \$180. This is due to the fact that the room prices for the Nevele include all meals. Vendor prices will also be reduced to \$400 this year. Everything is going along well. Region 5 looks forward to hosting the membership at the Nevele in October.

**MOTION: Approve the proposed budget.**

Barton/Kelly

Unanimous

### **2000 Conference**

The final report on the 2000 conference will be presented at the February meeting.

### **2002 Conference**

Warren Hoffman and Bernice Anson are the co-chairs. Everything is proceeding as planned. More details will be available at the April meeting of Exec Council.

There was a call put forth for proposals for the site of the 2003 conference. Regions 4 and 7 have expressed an interest. They are encouraged to get written proposals to Council by the April 2001 meeting.

### **HESC REPORT**

A copy of the HESC Council Update as provided by Mike Williams is attached for the record. In addition, Mike notified us that IVP codes will be updated to be more reflective of the status of the application. He also indicated that HESC will conduct IVP two more times. In regard to the issue of CUNY generated ETAs, the call center should be contacted to request duplicate ETAs for students.

A lengthy discussion took place re the modernization of TAP. For future meetings of the TAP modernization group, Exec Council members must be involved. The issue of E-commerce is HESC's #1 initiative – included in that initiative must be the modernization of TAP.

**MOTION:** The President prepare a statement to send to Peter Keitel regarding issues NYSFAAA has with TAP. This letter will be given to the regional council reps to take to their members. It is hoped that all regions will contact HESC in a similar manner.

DeStio/Hoffman

Unanimous

Council agreed that the membership must seek opportunities to let HESC know of the

problems we are having. It is important that we use every vehicle available to us to let them know of problems so they don't think it is just an isolated incident.

There was also a discussion re how Mike Williams could better serve NYSFAAA Exec Council. He would appreciate any input in writing.

He had no specific information on the status of the Ready, Set, Go project at this time. He has ready for publication the debt management issue. It was decided that Anne Barton would write a letter to Delilah Reyes inquiring as to the status of Ready, Set, Go and the NYSFAAA advisory committee. This letter will be copied to Peter, Pierre and Mike.

## **Region Reports**

Written reports are attached from all regions.

## **President's Report**

NASFAA Leadership training is coming up in March. Evelyn, Lisa and Keith will be attending. Mike McGraw and Johanna Kelly will serve as alternates.

Cathy passed around a copy of her email letter to federal legislators re appropriations for federal aid. Feel free to copy her letter or design you own, but please write to support the funding of increased Pell.

EASFAA is purchasing the NASFAA training modules on FERPA, Packaging and PPAs. Mike Pede will contact Larry Chambers to see if we can train the trainers again this year.

Submission for NASFAA state awards are due February 15. It had been agreed that CAAN would be submitted this year. The Scholarship Committee has also expressed an interest in submitting the program which is now endowed. Cathy will contact the Scholarship Committee to request that they wait until next year since we are only allowed one entry per category.

Sallie Mae is offering a workshop and wants the NYSFAAA seal of approval. Council felt it was inappropriate to officially endorse a workshop being offered by a lender since it would appear to show favoritism.

Bids are coming in for sites to host the Novice training in 2001. So far 8 sites have submitted bids and the closing date is December 15. Lisa is busy visiting proposed sites. The site will be determined at the February meeting. Members interested in becoming involved in NOVICE are asked to get their resumes to Lisa.

**REMINDER:** The investors will be at our February meeting in Albany to go over our investment strategy. Come prepared.

The Long Range Planning Committee will be on the agenda for April. A report from Hunter Associates is expected at that time.

Anyone wishing to serve on the Lender focus group should contact Mike McGraw. Volunteers from Council include: Cathy Bellomo, Keith Stevenson and Mim Brown.

Tony and Sherwood will present a committee report at the April meeting.

Statewide chairs will be invited to the June meeting to plan for the following year. Keith Stevenson is not planning to serve another term, anyone interested in co-chairing the

High School Counselor Committee should let Cathy know.

### **PAST PRESIDENT REPORT**

Nominations for President-elect will be sought in January. Regional Exec Council representatives will also be up for election, as well as regional officers.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Evelyn DeStio reported on the Non-traditional workshops held over the past few months. She wants to issue certificates to those who attended. Lisa Simpson, Heather McDonnell and Warren Hoffman have programs to design certificates.

**NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 5-6, 2001 IN ALBANY.** Plan on arriving on Sunday afternoon, February 4. We will get some business out of the way at dinner on Sunday. There will be a full day meeting on Monday. Tuesday will be visits to legislators.

**MOTION:** Adjourn the meeting.

Hoffman/Reiman

Unanimous