



NYSFAAA Executive Council
April 20, 2016
Remote Meeting

Call to Order & Roll Call

President Kerrie Cooper
President-Elect Darrin Rooker
1st VP- Jan Scheutzow
2nd VP- Howard Leslie
Secretary-Kathy Flaherty
Treasurer- Kerry Lubold
Treasurer-Elect Robert Zasso
Region 1 Kathy Michalski
Region 2 Margaret Christian
Region 3 LaSonya Griggs
Region 4 Michelle Fontaine
Region 5 Diane Donohue
Region 6 Melanie Williams-Bethea
Region 7 Amy Thompson
Region 8 Todd Moravec

Guests: Theresa Weimer –Novice Training
Scott Atkinson- Conference 2016
Lisa Simpson – HESC liaison

Kerrie Cooper called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm with a quorum of Executive Council present.

Approval of February 1, 2016 Minutes

Margaret Christian noted changes to be made on the Conference 2016 report: Dr Guadalupe Quintanilla, Pam Sherman and Chris Vernam. Also, Region 7 would submit their regional report to be included with the minutes.

Motion: A motion was made by Todd Moravec, seconded by Rob Zasso to accept the minutes as amended. There was no discussion. The motion was passed with all in favor, no oppositions and no abstentions.

HESC Update – Lisa Simpson

- The following items were highlighted
 - The State budget was approved on time
 - Legislation was enacted to allow the TAP application to use the same tax data as is used by the FAFSA. Prior-year language is not used
 - There are no changes to the income limits
 - Tuition Credit is continued for SUNY and CUNY
 - The standard financial aid award letter is for undergraduate financial aid applicants only

- APTS applications will also use prior year income
- The Student Status listing with actual figures may be available as early as February 2017
- Get On Your Feet loan repayment program received 500 applications, many of which were not eligible
- HESC has started APTS interactive training. Small groups work well. Schools interested in this training may contact Lisa Simpson to be included in future rounds of training.

Question: Has there been guidance on use of the State Standard Award Letter. Response is to use the SUNY letter with a last page.

Comment: There are still questions about the College Application Week and the timing of financial aid awards.

President's Report- Kerrie Cooper

- **NASFAA/EASFAA/NYSFAA Event**
 - Postsecondary Education Financing Forum
 - Invites sent to NASFAA Member Institutions
 - Agenda is almost set – NYSFAAA involvement with 3rd part on examples of what colleges are doing now to manage loan default. Public and proprietary perspectives from Berkeley College and SUNY System Administration.

- **EASFAA Report**
 - Meeting March 3-4
 - Worked on Mission, Vision, and Values statements for updating Strategic Long Range Plan.
 - Will be listening session for planning update to plan at EASFAA Conference and a survey will go out to all members and past-members on EASFAA's database. Plan to complete by June retreat.
 - EASFAA needs to identify a niche for itself. They are the training support for many states but not the bigger ones like NY. They may be able to be that support system and liaison between states and national association. Broker collaborations between states or states and region.
 - ***What should EASFAA be doing for NY? What needs to we have?***
 - Explore possibility of new volunteer structures. Task forces, strike forces vs committees, etc
 - New York 2018 conference – Wynette still researching. Saratoga is an option but would have to use conference center and 2 hotels, Hilton is booked for 2018 and 2019. Other viable option is the Sagamore. Further discussion and survey took place in April. Waiting for results of survey from EC for final location.
 - After researching Delaware and New Hampshire for sites it was determined that there really isn't a place that will work. 2019 may then go to Maine. They will begin research there.
 - Issue of conference scheduling came up due to NASFAA conferences moving to June in the future. EASFAA has been later in May but serious consideration will need to be made for possible changes.
 - Elections of officers:
 - President Elect – Kristi Jovell – Champlain College

- Vice President – Odette Franceskino – Quinnipiac Law
 - Secretary – Cheryl DePaolis – Pittsburg Theological Seminary
 - Shortened timeframe for voting really works. 90% of total votes came in first 2 days.
- NASFAA Board Report – Tony Erwin
 - Met in February – NASFAA about to launch interactive, online Policies & Procedures.
 - Justin has been appointed to ACE board – big honor – means NASFAA being taken seriously.
 - Gainful Employment – Undersecretary Ted Mitchell was there to discuss the nasty letters. Lots of discussion on Justin's hearing. Tony felt that Mitchell was taking it seriously to see how it was done wrong. They mentioned hiring 50 new enforcement personnel in a new unit. Their charge wasn't discussed, possibly fraud to look at fraud?
 - Experimental sites and QA transition were also topics of conversation.
 - Word at NASFAA Board is that Reauthorization may also not occur in 2017 either.
- Vice President – Sam Veeder discussed meeting with investments person. They indicated that we have been drawing from investments to balance the budget but as long as we aren't drawing more than we are earning in interest we are fine.
- Federal Relations – Aristeia indicated hill visits are scheduled in two weeks. Many felt they didn't know about it. Most attending are from the tri-state area anyway. She will share the speaking points with leadership because it needs to be approved. Aristeia did mention that they were discussed with NASFAA to make sure they were in line with them.
- EASFAA Conference – 50th Anniversary! May 22-25. 52 people registered to date – need lots more. Some discussion on need for a "wow" factor speaker? Lots of good sessions but nothing wow so far. Dinner is more formal, black tie optional. Boardwalk fun walk for fundraiser. Bus trips also. 50th Anniversary – Past Presidents all contacted for possible attendance. A good number are planning to come. Only 2 could not be contacted.
- Karen Sokol – still taking gifts or gift cards for the tricky tray. **States typically do \$100 gift cards – will we be doing this?**
- Larry Chambers – Electronic Initiatives and Social Media and Website Committee
- It was decided to combine the two committees and rename Technology & Communications Committee.
- Added google translate to website (through ATAC)
- Resurrected the EASFAA Exchange blog, now need activity!
- Many thanks given to NY on the joint webinar opportunity (QA Transition). EASFAA wants to be more collaborative and assist in this for all states so would like to explore more of this type of collaboration.
- Jim Murphy – Leadership and Mentoring
- We had a donated conference registration scholarship for a first-time attendee that wasn't used last year – Jim will look at the people who were first timers last year or are this year for a possible recipient.
- He did quite a bit of training this year.
- Planned mentoring events at conference – asking new members to go to listening session for strategic long range planning, mini financial aid bowl, and reception.

- Karen Sokol – Membership – only 574 members for 1516. Down from 775. Seems to be tied a great deal to training, especially conference. Training itself was down due to personal health issues for committee chair. More planned for next year.
- Justin Draeger from NASFAA spent the afternoon discussing state, regional and national partnerships. Tony Erwin is on a new task force to explore this more. NASFAA, EASFAA and State missions are very much alike so we can look at what we can do together to save time and effort. **What does each entity do best??**
- He described difference between NASFAA Board and NASFAA staff charges. Board is for the mission, vision and overall strategy. NASFAA staff is in charge of implementing strategies and tactical deployment.
- Described 6 Association Challenges (from book Road to Relevance)
 - Time issues
 - Value expectation and ROI
 - Member market saturation (ex. NASFAA already has memberships covering 90% of students nationwide so not much more to increase to)
 - Generational
 - Competition
 - Technology
- After voting it was decided our #1 challenge is value expectation and #2 challenge is competition. These are the kinds of things the new task force (thought force) will be undertaking.
- Example of a collaboration – RNASFAA has institutional membership also, so could NASFAA actually include their dues on the annual NASFAA membership invoice? This would save much time for the regional association.
- He said NASFAA can evaluate NYSFAAA's database for overlap (in memberships) also but would involve more manipulation of data due to individual memberships vs. institutional.
- NASFAA has extended credentialing to regions for training new FAOs as a way of relieving pressure for training. Could move to states also probably but really hasn't yet.
- Most people don't remember everything that you do, so should focus on just a few things better than disperse them. Analyzed NASFAA products to weed out ones not rising to the occasion so could focus. Using the table below as an example.

● Product and Service

○ List of Products	○ Relates to mission	○ Lifecycle	○ Effective use of volunteers	○ Financial	○ Available elsewhere	○ Member use
○ XX	○	○	○	○	○	○
○ XX	○	○	○	○	○	○
○ XX	○	○	○	○	○	○

- Rate each product on a scale of 1-5 but use a forced ranking (ex. cannot use 5 more than once if have 5 products listed). This can weed out products that we no longer need to focus on. Can be upsetting to some members due to territorial reasons but

better use of resources and better for association overall. Allows focus on the core. This is how they came to focus on the new Policy & Procedures process. Justin is excellent at developing efficiencies.

- o Also remember the two pizza rule – if the number of committee members exceeds what 2 pizzas will feed it is too big.

The following comments/discussion occurred during this report.

- Kerrie Cooper is on the Strategic Long Range Plan Committee
- Launching an interactive Policies and Procedures Manual
- Regarding the gift card and auction: how does membership benefit from money being spent
- NYSFAAA had approved a gift for NASFAA, do we want to donate a gift for their charity?

Motion: A motion was made by Howard Leslie, seconded by Todd Moravec to donate \$100 toward the EASFAA sponsored charity, Team LeGrand and the Reeve Foundation in honor of EASFAA's 50th Anniversary.

Discussion followed: This is a donation for the charity, but not for a gift card.

A vote was taken and the motion was passed with all in favor, no oppositions and no abstentions.

Novice Training- Theresa Weimer

- Site is Mt St Mary College
- Dates are Sunday, June 5 to Thursday, June 9 (after luncheon)
- Tightened schedule to reduce cost
- Registration currently at 52, which is good
- Staffing is in place with 5 large group leaders and 9 small group leaders
- Working on the contracts

A request was received from Theresa Weimer for an exemption from the alcohol policy for Novice:

I'd like to request an exemption from the NYSFAAA alcohol policy and allow alcohol to be consumed at the annual Novice Workshop to be held at Mt. St. Mary College.

We anticipate alcohol will be consumed during the evening recreational activities. We have requested the catering facility charge by volume and not by consumption (i.e. by box of wine and not by glass). Alcohol may also be consumed during team meetings/dinners.

Motion: A motion was made by Todd Moravec, seconded by Darrin Rooker to approve the Novice Training request for an exemption from the alcohol policy. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion passed with all in favor, no oppositions and no abstentions.

President-Elect's Report –Darrin Rooker

- **Election Committee**
 - o Candidate nominations have been solicited
 - o Regional and state notices have been sent
 - o Ballot will go out shortly; there was only one candidate per office nominated
- **Governance Committee**
 - o Working on the Long Range Plan assessment
 - o Collected committee reports from each group
 - o Reviewed the annual report

- Seeking input from officers on the progress their committees are making towards goals and objectives
- Further discussion at June meeting

First Vice-President's Report- Jan Scheutzow

- Membership Committee
 - Numbers are good for 2015-2016; membership goal has now been reached
 - Reached 97.4% of dues goal; still some outstanding bills
 - May be able to collect more revenue with Novice dues
- Awards Committee
 - Operates well
- Mentoring Committee
 - Not currently doing much; not much dialog

Comment: Should have some discussion with them on the goals and objectives for this Committee

Second Vice-President – Howard Leslie

- Statewide Training
 - 13 webinars were held this year
 - Next webinar is on prior prior year, which is more of a workshop than a webinar.
 - Will reach a wider audience than financial aid professionals alone
 - Includes presenters from the Department of Education, Lisa Simpson from HESC, representatives from Oracle/People Soft, Ellucian/Banner, and Colleague as well as The College Board/PowerFunds, 2 institutional representatives (providing institutional impact) and a 6-person round table (financial aid and enrollment management).
 - 3 ½ hour presentation with a break
 - Final webinar this year will be June 9: Dealing with Undocumented Students
 - Most are pleased with the webinar time slot
 - EASFAA appreciated the outreach for the Quality Assurance webinar. More such webinars may be scheduled.

Secretary's Report – Kathy Flaherty

- Technology, Innovation and Communication
 - Focusing on goal of updating the website and keeping it relevant. Includes the design, content and organization of the content on the site
 - Contacted ATAC to confirm pricing for budget planning. The 2012-2013 pricing is still available. Also, received a summary of website statistics
 - Have researched other financial aid association websites, finding that ATAC has designed the majority of these and most also need updates
 - ATAC has indicated willingness to work on mock-up of consolidated homepage.
 - Working on survey to membership to get website input
- School Outreach – Sonya Griggs
 - Site survey responses received are better than in the past
 - Received \$75,000 from HESC and CACG grants
 - Site awards will be drawn shortly and HESC will publicize winners
 - Are able to award 150 scholarships this year

- Getting many calls, especially from Guidance Offices regarding prior prior year and wanting financial aid night presentations in the time frame of September – December. This may be difficult to accommodate.
- Focus committees are being formed to discuss how to handle the demand; number of volunteers is dwindling. Looking for new volunteers to train and new resources.
- GEARUP – the following information was received after the meeting but asked to be included.
 - There have been some changes this past year as GEARUP was being led by Raymond Cummings. Mr Cummings left NYGEARUP in Sept 2015 and was replaced by Nona Donovan. Ms Donovan had been involved in past GEARUP efforts and should be a great choice.
 - Sonya Griggs was able to attend the HESC Technical workshop on Oct 19th on behalf of NYSFAAA and shared our goals in relation to GEARUP. NYSFAAA is one of a few partners with NYGEARUP. NYSFAAA has agreed to assist with GEARUP on financial aid topics such as FAFSA completion workshops (College Goal NY) and other financial aid related presentations. NYSFAAA involvement with NYGEARUP was limited to just a couple of workshops in the Bronx this year. The cohort of students in GEARUP this year are only in 8th grade, so NYSFAAA's involvement will be sure to pick up as these students enter into high school.
 - Gene Rogers was able to attend the most recent NYGEARUP conference in Saratoga Springs (April 18-19th 2016) and was able to meet face-to-face with the majority of the GEARUP site coordinators (that comprise 4 downstate locations), Nassau Community College, SUNY Farmingdale, LIU Brooklyn and St Johns. Conversations focused on FAFSA completion along with overall college readiness. Was also able to share college financial aid information with attendees from other educational fields. The conference offered a great deal of value as to how NYSFAAA partnership with NYGEARUP will flourish in the years to come

Treasurer's Report - Kerry Lubold

- 2014-2015 Audit – The audit has concluded with no significant findings. Kerry will supply the audit results in handout form during the June in-person meeting. The representation letter has been signed to convene the 2015-2016 audit beginning in July.
- Development Committee – No report.
- Scholarship Committee – No report.
- Budget Committee – 2016-2017 budget requests will be made in May. Please consider your committee's and or region's needs for the upcoming year and respond, so we can formulate a reasonable and responsible draft budget to be presented at the June meeting.
- Investment Committee – A summary of the February meeting that occurred with Robert Bell from Morgan Stanley is included at the end of this report. Thank you to those involved: Kerrie Cooper, Amy Thompson, Todd Moravec, Rob Zasso, Darrin Rooker, Tom Dalton and Kerry Lubold.
 - Discussion and possibly approval of Robert's investment recommendations needs to take place.

- One additional recommendation from that meeting which was strongly supported by participants was the establishment of a Standing Investment Committee. The standing committee will support our responsibility of maintaining oversight and awareness of our investments. It will also help us with several goals outlined in the long range plan.
- I am requesting approval for an Investment Committee. Reading our governing documents, it was unclear to me if the approval needs to come solely from the President or from all of Executive Council. If the establishment of a standing investment committee is approved, the following description is being presented for approval into our Policy and Procedures Manual:

Investment Committee

Purpose: The Investment Committee will serve as fiduciaries of the NYSFAAA investment accounts. The committee provides oversight of NYSFAAA's investment funds; coordinates regular review of the portfolios; shares relevant information with executive council and the membership on the health of our accounts; and makes recommendations to executive council regarding asset allocation and risk strategy.

Reports To: Treasurer

Duties:

1. To perform an annual review of our reserve and scholarship funds in consultation with our investment group.
2. Convene a meeting (in person or remotely) annually to go over any updates and significant changes in our portfolios.
3. To report to Executive Council pertinent investment information.
4. To provide an annual report to the membership of the status of our investments.

Membership:

1. The chair is an active member appointed by the President or Treasurer.
2. Additional committee members include the President and Treasurer; Treasurer-Elect or Past-Treasurer; at least two current members of executive council; and up to two additional members who may be active, associate or retired.

Tenure: All committee members are appointed to two year terms and are renewable.

Qualifications: All committee members should have an interest in providing fiscally responsible oversight of NYSFAAA's investments with deliberate effort towards serving and promoting the purposes of the Association outlined in our Constitution.

Summary of conversation with Robert Bell from Morgan Stanley about NYSFAAA's Investments:

Reserve Fund

This fund's purpose is to be able to provide a year's worth of the Association's expenses, which are about \$250,000. In each of the last three years, there has been about a \$10,000 shortfall between the Association's expenses and annual membership dues. As of December 31, 2015, the Association maintained a Cash Reserve balance of about \$250,000 as well as a long term investment portfolio of approximately \$265,000. The Investment Committee met on February 1, 2016, with our Financial Advisor, Robert Bell of Morgan Stanley. Mr. Bell had several recommendations for the Association regarding its reserves. Given the stability of membership, the first suggestion was to set aside \$50,000 of the Cash Reserves in short term Certificates of Deposit as a 5 year safety net for the annual shortfall. The remaining cash would stay in the operating account. Mr. Bell also suggested

some changes to the long term investment portfolio. It has grown enough where it could fund an entire year's expenses. As such, he suggested the Association consider changing the portfolio to become more conservative, with its goal to grow closer to the rate of inflation. In addition, Mr. Bell presented a proposal to upgrade the investment program from one that solely uses actively managed mutual funds to one that can incorporate index funds as well. The proposal will result in a portfolio that reflects the evolvement of the Association in a more balance portfolio with greater diversification, at a significantly reduced cost. This process will also satisfy the due diligence and oversight suggested by our auditors.

Scholarship Fund

The Association has been providing scholarships in the amount of \$7,500 per year. On average, \$2,000 of this has come from members donations, while the remaining \$5,000 has come from a Scholarship Fund. This fund is comprised of a cash account of \$15,000 and a long term investment portfolio valued at approximately \$200,000. The cash amount represents 3 years' worth of scholarship. Given the value to which the Scholarship fund has grown, Mr. Bell proposed tailoring back the risk of the portfolio to one more focused on keeping pace with inflation. His proposal would have the same benefits as his suggestions with the Reserve Fund portfolio through risk reduction, greater diversification, and significant cost savings.

- Discussion points included:
 - Recommendations from Mr. Bell would require a vote from Executive Council
 - Further discussion can occur at June meeting
 - Investment and direction information is a lot of material for one individual to review
 - Mr. Bell recommended the establishment of a Standing Committee
 - Would that be a presidential appointment or a vote by Executive Council?
 - Finance and Audit Committee has this task as their charge
 - Should this be a separate committee or a charge?
 - Executive Council should vote to establish committee
 - Membership could be regional treasurers
 - Should Governance Committee make a recommendation?

It was agreed that more research was needed.

Motion: A motion was made by Darrin Rooker, seconded by Kathy Michalski to table the discussion until the June meeting.

Treasurer Elect's Report – Rob Zasso

- Gathering reports from the Regional Treasurers for the 2015-2016 audit
- Transition to electronic format is easy
- Third quarter reports will be requested soon

Old Business

Conference 2016- Scott Atkinson

- Keynote speakers will also present at small sessions
- Concurrent session topics include: Cleary Act, Women in Leadership, Government and Ethics, Satisfactory Academic Progress, Prior Prior Year, Student Success Stories
- Working on the Agenda

- Shuttles will run from Syracuse
- Hotel Reservation deadline expected to be mid-September
- Looking for a Conference photographer
- Contacted EASFAA, NASFAA and Department of Education for speakers

Conference 2017- Melanie Williams-Bethea

- Contract has been signed with Westchester Marriott
- Dates are October 10 -12, 2017
- Committees are forming

Discussion – we should begin discussion on future Conference dates and impact of new early FAFSA filing.

Other points:

- 2017 Conference will keep their dates as it is early October
- Conversation should not be in a “silo”
- Should we wait to see how Fall 2016 goes
- Should we survey membership

Operational Calendar

- Nothing urgent for today

Resume discussion about the inclusion of EASFAA in future webinars

Points noted:

- Last experience included a pre-registration through their website
- The Quality Assurance webinar was a small group used as a Pilot
- At the time EASFAA members were not charged; should future webinars require NYSFAAA membership
- What is the difference between including other financial aid association members and other departmental staff from your institution (Answer: the difference is that staff are from member institutions).
- When we are still collecting unpaid membership dues; how do we explain why some can attend and others cannot
- Will we have to approve the institutions for our membership database or can registration be run like Novice.
- If we charged a webinar fee, the Department of Education could not participate
- More discussion is needed
- We should discuss further before next year’s webinar series opens

Regional Updates

None

New Business

Can regions get a list of Financial Aid Directors for schools in their region? This would be used to encourage membership and participation in NYSFAAA.
Yes, this can be done through the regional membership representative.

Future Meetings

June: tentative: June 27-28, 2016 noon to noon at Turning Stone. Scott will plan this meeting.

August (remote): Date TBA

As there was no further business a motion was made by Kathy Michalski, seconded by Melanie Williams-Bethea to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm



ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HESC Update May 2016

2016-17 Budget Update

The recently enacted 2016-17 New York State Budget provides continued support for New York State students in their pursuit of a postsecondary education, and makes the following changes impacting students applying to, enrolled in, or recently graduated from college.

Income Tax Data for New York State Financial Aid Programs

The Enacted Budget authorizes New York State students to file their Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) application with the same tax data used to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). As such, New York State students will be able to use prior-prior year tax data to complete both their federal and New York State financial aid applications for the 2017-18 academic year.

Programs Made Permanent

The Budget makes permanent the NYS Licensed Social Worker Loan Forgiveness Program; the NYS Nursing Faculty Loan Forgiveness Incentive Program; the Regents Physician Loan Forgiveness Program and the Senator Patricia K. McGee Nursing Faculty Scholarships Program.

Loan Forgiveness for Certain State Awards

The Enacted Budget authorizes recipients of the Senator Patricia K. McGee Nursing Faculty Scholarship Program and the NYS Math and Science Teaching Incentive Program to have their repayment obligations:

- deferred for any interruptions in study or employment
- waived or suspended in cases of extreme hardship
- cancelled upon the death of the recipient

Standard Financial Aid Award Letter

The Enacted Budget requires the standard financial aid award letter from New York State colleges and universities for undergraduate financial aid applicants only. Beginning with the 2016-17 academic year, it is no longer required for graduate students. For more information on the standard financial aid award letter, visit the New York State Department of Financial Services at dfs.ny.gov.

SUNY/CUNY Tuition Credit Formula

The 2016-17 State Budget continues the TAP Tuition Credit for students attending a SUNY or CUNY college or university through the 2016-17 school year.

Early FAFSA

Students will be able to submit their FAFSA applications beginning October 1, 2016 for the 2017-18 award year.

The confirmation page of the FAFSA will provide a link for NYS students attending a NYS school to apply for TAP. The calculation for a TAP award will use prior tax information for processing (2015 tax information) for the 2017-18 year.

HESC will begin verifying tax information with NYS Tax and Finance in October, 2016.

In addition, Request for Information (RFI's), Change Forms and Residency Questionnaires will be sent to students as applications are processed.

- For income adjustments allowed for death; permanent and total disability; and/or divorce or separation, proration will be on the 2015 tax information.

Upon approval, students will receive notification of estimated TAP awards.

The Student Status Listing (SSL) with actual award figures will be available to schools in February 2017.

2016-17 Application Changes

The 2016-17 TAP application no longer contains prefilled information regarding the parent's or spouse's name and social security numbers as a result of additional security safeguards. This information must be entered directly on the application.

For 2016-2017, applications will now ask for the social security number or the tax ID number (TIN) for parents and spouses.

If a student identifies themselves as a graduate student or graduate veteran for all terms, the system will skip the parental information section of the application and only ask for information related to independent students.

Supporting Documentation

In an effort to provide ease of data collection students and families will now have the capability to upload supporting documentation to HESC. If additional documentation is needed, the student will receive a message and link from HESC to view their account. A page will display the information required along with a button for them to upload the information. Documentation available to upload includes:

- DD214 forms, documentation for those in foster care, orphans, and ward of courts and any third party documentation.
- State or federal tax forms
- Copies of Social security numbers
- Signed signature pages

This new process is for the 2016-17 year processing.

2014-15 TAP Close Out Remittance Advice & Payment Documents

Remittance Advice and Payment documents for the 2014-15 academic year are available for viewing, printing and downloading on HESCWeb.

Certification transactions submitted on HESCWeb or by electronic file transfer will not be processed after May 15, 2016. Certifications submitted after this date must be emailed to payments@hesc.ny.gov.

The 2014-15 academic year will be closed-out on June 15, 2016. **No student certifications resulting in award payments will be accepted after this date.** Only decertifications will be accepted after June 15, 2016 and these must be emailed to payments@hesc.ny.gov.

Direct questions concerning the certification process to payments@hesc.ny.gov.

New York State 'Get on Your Feet' Loan Forgiveness Program (GOYF)

The Get on Your Feet Loan Forgiveness Program Application is available and has been improved to be more intuitive. Students who do not qualify will receive a disqualification alert at the end of the application. It will state "that one or more of the questions you have answered indicates that you do not currently meet the qualifications for this Program". Students will be able to click onto the Proceed to Qualification List button that will take them to a page that describes the qualifications for this Program. Or, the student will be able to start a new application by clicking the Proceed to Program List. Students who do not want to start a new application will click on the close button.

HESC is up to date on GOYF Application processing, and over 420 applications have been approved.

To be eligible for an award the applicant must:

- Be a legal resident of NYS for at least 12 consecutive months before applying
- Be a US Citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Graduated from a NY high school or received a NYS equivalency diploma
- Received an undergraduate degree from a NYS college or university in or after December 2014

- Be Enrolled in a Federal Income based (IBR) repayment plan or Pay as you earn plan that uses 10% discretionary income
- Adjusted gross income from last available tax year must be less than \$50,000
- If employed, the applicant must work in NYS
- Be not more than 30 days past due or in default of a federal student loan
- Must be in compliance with any terms of any service condition imposed by a NYS award
- Must apply for the GOYF program within two years of receiving undergraduate degree, either a bachelor's or associate's degree

Students who have graduated with a graduate or professional degree are not eligible for the GOYF program. However, an undergraduate recipient can subsequently enroll in a graduate or post-graduate program and continue to be eligible to receive their payments when they are again in active repayment.

The awards will equal the amount of the recipient's current monthly payment under the income-based repayment plan. Payment will be made for up to 24 months and will be paid directly to the borrower's Loan Servicers. Yearly recertification will be required to ensure the recipient continues to meet the eligibility requirements of the program.

Aid for Part-time Study (APTS) Training Webinar

HESC is providing APTS training to interested schools. The APTS training includes: Eligibility Requirements for Schools, including Institutional Applications to Participate and Institutional Allocations; Student Application Process; Student Eligibility Requirements; Good Academic Standing; Processing Flow; Payments: EFT and Refunds. If you are interested in attending an APTS Training Webinar session, contact Lisa Simpson at 518-473-0842 or by email at lisa.simpson@hesc.ny.gov.