



NYSFAAA Executive Council

January 17, 2017

Remote Meeting

2:00-2:30pm

NYSFAAA's position on proposals to add new state financial aid funding programs

Call to Order & Roll Call

President – Darrin Rooker

Past President – Kerrie Cooper

1st VP – Adrienne King

Secretary – Kelly Kelly

Treasurer – Robert Zasso

Past Treasurer – Kerry Lubold

Region 2 – Margaret Christian

Region 3 – LaSonya Griggs

Region 4 – Michelle Fountaine

Region 5 – Diane Donohue

Region 6 – Melanie Williams-Bethea

Region 7 – Amy Thompson

Guests: None

Darrin Rooker called the meeting to order at 2:05pm with a quorum of Executive Council present.

- Darrin was involved in a conference call last week with CICU and Student Aid Alliance-discuss the proposal to add new state financial aid funding programs
 - All are pretty much in agreement (with our position as well) that state aid should go to all state students
 - Continue for push on TAP program
 - Did not give NYSFAAA's position as we did not have one approved at the time
 - Talked about it being attached to the budget bill
 - Watch for details on Bundy aid as it might be at risk-funding for private schools might receive less Bundy aid

MOTION: A motion was made by LaSonya Griggs, seconded by Adrienne King to accept the proposal provided by Darrin as the statement on NYSFAAA's position to the proposal to add new state financial aid funding programs.

Discussion followed where the following points were made:

- Firm yes for NYSFAAA to take a position as that is what we do
- Firm yes on NYSFAAA's position statement to the proposal
- NYSFAAA needs to be proactive and positive of new funding but also need to mention the mission is for equal access
- Agreement to statement as the proposal leaves out private institutions
- Agreed to focus on increase of TAP funding
- Change the sentence in the statement: more than 100 non-public schools
 - Don't leave out proprietary schools
 - Will people who read our position understand what is included in non-public schools?
 - Update to say private and proprietary schools
- Like that our focus wants to expand TAP
- This new proposal may cause administration burden-implementation time

AMENDEMENT TO MOTION: A motion was made by LaSonya Griggs to accept the friendly amendment to the original motion to change the proposal written to say *more than 100 private, proprietary*, and remove *non-public* from the statement

Discussion followed where the following points were made:

- Agree to new statement
- Proposal used projected enrollment for fall to get the financial number of 162 million
- Did not say who will administer the program-HESC?

A vote was called: the motion passed with 12 in favor, 0 oppositions, and no abstentions.

NYSFAAA's position on proposals to add new state financial aid funding programs

The New York State Financial Aid Administrators Association (NYSFAAA) has a long history of advocating for appropriate financial aid funding sources that ensure all students have the ability to gain access to higher education. In light of the Governor's recent announcement, we very much welcome the suggestion of New York State increasing its commitment of funding for the state's current and future college students.

The Excelsior Scholarship program proposal does not appear to coincide with NYSFAAA's mission of "promoting equal access to post-secondary education for all students". Thousands of financially needy students who attend more than 100 private and proprietary schools, colleges and universities throughout New York State will not benefit from the proposed scholarship program.

NYSFAAA strongly supports increasing the funding for New York State's current Tuition Assistance Program (TAP). With appropriate funding, the current TAP program can satisfy the proposed Excelsior Scholarship's goal of fully meeting the tuition cost of SUNY and CUNY institutions. This can be done without the implementation and administrative costs commonly associated with adding new financial aid programs. Increasing support for the TAP program coincides with the ideal of simplification and transparency for students and families; and is favored over creating a financial aid awarding process that is more complicated and increases the regulatory burdens on students, families and higher education institutions.