



*New York State Financial Aid
Administrators Association, Inc.*

NYSFAAA Annual Business Meeting
October 24, 2018

Howard Leslie called the annual NYSFAAA Business Meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

Howard began by recognizing the Executive Council and thanking Kelly Kelly for her service as Secretary of the organization and welcoming Anne Sullivan Polino as the newly elected Secretary and member of the Executive Council. Howard also thanked the Conference Committee for a successful event.

Approval of the 2017 Minutes – The minutes were distributed by Kelly Kelly to the membership on October 1, 2018. A motion was made by Robert Zasso and seconded by Kelly Kelly to suspend the reading of and approve the minutes. A vote was taken with all in favor, no opposition and no abstentions.

Rob Zasso, the outgoing Treasurer, read the Treasurer's report - A motion was made by Scott Atkinson and seconded by Adrienne King to accept the Treasurer's Report. A vote was taken with all in favor, no oppositions and no abstentions.

NYSFAAA's investment accounts continue to be in good health with the investments in the Scholarship fund being well managed by Morgan Stanley. The 2016 Audit is still in progress and is expected to be completed within the month. Once the 2016 audit is done, the 2017 audit will begin.

Susan E. Godreau was introduced as the new Treasurer of the Association who will begin transitioning into this position immediately.

State of NYSFAAA

In order to not steal Darrin Rooker's thunder, Howard Leslie began by indicating that Darrin's report on NYSFAAA will be published once finalized. Howard also indicated that his statement at this meeting would not be as long as the one he provided during his acceptance speech, during the 2018 Gala on October 23, 2018, when he stated his goals for NYSFAAA for the next 2 years. Howard did state for the record that his most important goal is to leave NYSFAAA in the same condition it was in when he was invited into it 41 years ago.

2017-2018 Executive Council

Darrin Rooker – President – New York Chiropractic College
Howard Leslie – President Elect/Second Vice President – Berkeley College
Adrienne King – First Vice President – Bank Street College of Education
Brian Smith – Second Vice President Elect – SUNY – Cobleskill
Robert Zasso – Treasurer – Dutchess County Community College
Susan Godreau – Treasurer Elect – SUNY – Potsdam
Kelly Kelly – Secretary – Le Moyne College
Kathy Michalski – Region I – Niagara County Community College
Shalena Clary – Region II – University of Rochester

Patti Donahue – Region III – Binghamton University
Michelle Fontaine – Region IV – SUNY Empire State
Joseph Weglarz – Region V – Marist College
Ajana Wilkinson – Region VI – Kingsborough Community College
Debra Evans – Region VII – Adelphi University
Stacey Hawkins – Region VIII – Clarkson University
Lisa Simpson – HESC Liaison

2018-2019 Executive Council

Howard Leslie – President – Berkeley College
Darrin Rooker – President Elect – New York Chiropractic College
Adrienne King – First Vice President – Bank Street College of Education
Brian Smith – Second Vice President – SUNY – Cobleskill
Susan Godreau – Treasurer – SUNY – Potsdam
Anne Sullivan Polino – Secretary – Bryant & Stratton College
Kathy Michalski – Region I – Niagara County Community College
Shalena Clary – Region II – University of Rochester
Patti Donahue – Region III – Binghamton University
Michelle Fontaine – Region IV – SUNY Empire State
Joseph Weglarz – Region V – Marist College
Ajana Wilkinson – Region VI – Kingsborough Community College
Debra Evans – Region VII – Adelphi University
Stacey Hawkins – Region VIII – Clarkson University
Lisa Simpson – HESC Liaison

Howard thanked Darrin for his leadership and called for nominations for the open President - Elect and Treasurer – Elect Positions. Howard indicated that at last year's conference he wasn't expecting to be President and had no plans for running for the position. He received the call and is very happy to be here today. He hopes the work done as both President – Elect and Second Vice President prepared him for the presidency.

Howard reinforced the goal of increasing membership. He also indicated that NYSFAAA's voice on both Hills must be heard – especially with Reauthorization coming up. Higher education is being threatened from all sides be it through over regulation and/or lack of funding or funding for the wrong populations.

Howard recognized the newly combined and expanded Government Relations Committee chaired by Christopher Barto from LIM College and his committee members and noted that the committee was built with a member from each sector.

Government Relations Committee

Christopher Barto – Chair – LIM College
Sue Mead – Dutchess County Community College (Also continuing as Chair of the State Advocacy Sub- Committee)
Tom Kokis – Berkeley College (Sub- Committee Chair of the Federal Advocacy Committee, also involved with State Advocacy Sub-Committee)
Maria Deinnocentiis - Marymount Manhattan College
Donna Gurnett – Association of Proprietary Colleges
Eileen Flood – St. John's University
Susan Nesbitt Perez – The Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities
Elaine Pimentel – CUNY Central (Federal Advocacy only)
Patrick Ziegler, Wells Fargo (Ad Hoc Member)

As President – Elect, Howard worked with the Governance Committee to:

1. Update our Statement of Ethics and Guiding Principles which coincidentally he created with his committee as a result of SLATE.
2. Update our Policies and Procedures
3. Update our Long-Range Plan and recognized that it was already complete and turned it into a Best Practices
4. With the help of an environmental scan, created a true living Strategic Plan for the next three (3) years. Once this Strategic Plan is complete, it will become the best practices. The Strategic Plan was approved at the October 22, 2018 Executive Council Meeting.

Howard plans is to go around the state attending regional meetings (invites requested) to explain all this in detail. The publication of the above documents will be announced soon. He invited the membership to submit suggested updates. Howard believes that an incredible effort was made from every part of the state and from every committee and recognized that he is fortunate to either have most of the committees continue as is or better yet, reinforced to work with him in the new year.

Mentorship

Howard indicated that the organization must work on mentorship – not just in financial aid knowledge – but in the buddy system called NYSFAAA. Communication is going to be key for Howard in the upcoming years and he wants to see the same relationship between NYSFAAA and HESC that he knew as a “child”.

Howard believes that mentorship is alive and well, with Nancy Teodecki and Kerry Lubold and looks forward to its continued growth.

Training and Leadership Development

Howard recognized Lisa Simpson of HESC and her Novice Committee for a successful Novice Training this year. The training was sold out with a waiting list. One option for growing mentorship opportunities is to offer novice participants personalized webinars for continued training to help develop these individuals as future leaders.

Howard also indicated that it is hard for him to give up Statewide Training after twelve years. Last year NYSFAAA trained over 12,000 people. Howard believe that Mark McGinnis and Lynn ~~Sabulski~~ Sabulski are geared toward success having taken over statewide training.

Outreach

Outreach remains a crucial part of the NYSFAAA mission under the leadership of Gene Rogers, Lisa Simpson, Patrick Ziegler and Amy Thompson. We must find ways to get around the lack of funding to reach our high school students and guidance counselors.

The website is better than ever due to Heather Adner, Lea Nuer and the TICC. Our future is technology and communications.

Scholarship

Howard recognized Debra Evans, who is stepping down from the Scholarship Committee. He also recognized Janice Hilbrink and Crystal Krudis for their years of service.

Future Meetings

- NYSFAAA 51st Conference - October 28 through 31, 2019 at the Albany Marriott on Wolf Rd.
- Statewide Meeting Goes to Your Regions –November 8, 2018 will focus on mobile technology and Financial Aid.
- Executive Council remote meetings - December 2018, April and August, 2019.
- Executive Council meeting – February 11, 2019 at the Albany Marriott

- Legislative Visits - February 12, 219
- Executive Council planning meeting – June at the Albany Marriott

Everyone is welcome at Executive Council meetings. Howard or Anne Sullivan Polino will email the list serve prior to each meeting.

Conclusion

Howard stated that, “I have been on the Council for twelve years to date- starting in the 1990s. I guess my grand total is destined to be 15. Then again there is my favorite quote from John Lennon (“life is what happens when you’re planning other things”). None the less, over those 12 years I have made great relationships and wonderful friends. I have met heart felt people some of whom were down right geniuses. I am very excited about what is to come next working with this Executive Council.

I am also very excited about the team that will be working government relations. Instead of a state and federal committee it is now back to one big committee with sub chairs and one main chair. They are very excited and ready to rock and roll and respond. There is representation from every sector and responses to anything will represent input from membership.

Membership is so so so so important. It is truly our only revenue. Darrin name Lucy Villaquiran as Chair of Membership – and I could not be happier. “ One keystone is for every committee to have representation from every sector.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m. A motion was made by Scott Atkinson and seconded by Patti Donahue. A vote was taken with all in favor, no oppositions or abstentions.

Respectfully submitted.

Anne Sullivan Polino
NYSFAAA Secretary