***Region II Meeting, virtual***

***February 19, 2021, Meeting began 2pm***

23 attendees: Tayler Kreutter (Roberts Wesleyan College), Hali Conrad (UR), Joe Bailey (GCC), Justin Welliver (Roberts Wesleyan College), Melissa Casselman (Nazareth), Margaret Christian (U of R School of Medicine), BJ Revill (U of R School of Medicine), Sandy Killeen (Nazareth), Jan Scheutzow (Nazareth), Jon Heininger (Geneseo), Renee Swift (Nazareth) , Katlin Meehan (Alfred State), Melissa Santiago (MCC), Chris Earnshaw (Sallie Mae), Laura Formella (Nazareth), Sylvia Mendez (MCC), Michael Turner (HESC), Lisa Simpson (HESC), Tom Dalton (EdFinancial), Stephanie Stock (Sallie Mae), Jane Gilliland (Alfred University); Alicia Johnson (RIT), Adrienne King (NYSFAAA President)

***Secretary Report – none***

***Treasury Report, Jon Heininger***

Nothing much has changed since last meeting. Our balance is $6052.41. Compared to other regions, we are in the middle related to finances. Have been in discussion with Shalena to see if we can move some of this money into an interest-earning account, something relatively safe. Shalena will bring to Exec Council.

***HESC Update, Michael Turner & Lisa Simpson***

* ***Scholarships for Academic Excellence (SAE):*** have been renewing legacy scholarships right along; new nominees have been recently processed and will start showing on the SSL
* ***APTS:*** schools notified recently that APTS is alive and well; participation agreement is available on the Forms and Bulletins section of the HESC website; the PA must be returned back to HESC by March 3, 2021 at APTS.Administration@hesc.ny.gov; also there is a revised APTS application; awards will be retroactive to summer 2020; HESC is lifting the 45 day deadline; APTS allocations will be disclosed in March
* ***Dream Act:*** recipients for 2019-20 have been on consolidated rosters (CSR) for certification; for 2020-21 you can certify via HESC Web; turnaround is fairly quick; for those recipients from 2019-20 on the CSR, watch for the CSR-RA for payments
* ***Changes to SSL:*** changes to some fields and revised layout
* ***SSL:*** starting this month, the SSL will be sent bi-weekly
* ***NYS Budget:*** continue financing programs at current levels; state stands behind the COVID-impacted students in terms of paying their awards; once the budget is passed this can happen; if you erroneously added the COVID flag to a student, email priorityservices@hesc.ny.gov and they can manually fix it.
* ***Excelsior:*** asked for 2016-17 tuition freeze to extend another two years
* ***Student IDs:*** very important to keep monitoring this; students cannot be rostered without a student ID number on their TAP record
* ***Payments/certifications:*** starting in January 2021, 100% of payments’ value have been sent to schools; withheld 20% will be released to schools by March 31, 2021
* ***Citizenship:*** current for 2020-21; if you have a student that you sent information in for and it has not been updated, email priorityservices@hesc.ny.gov; file is updated within 24-48 hours; this flag is for new recipients only; prior students who have received TAP, HESC is approving them based on the assumption that the schools would have collected documentation to clear that C-flag
* ***2019-20 closeout:*** outreach happening to gently remind schools of the upcoming closeout; any errors/issues please email priorityservices@hesc.ny.gov
* ***Dream Act:*** continue to apply for 2020-21; clean up in process relating to 2019-20 in preparation for closeout; some students do not appear on HESC web yet because they applied for TAP using the TAP application and also applied through the Dream Act application; HESC has to convert those applications into the Dream Act application and this process takes a bit longer
* ***Discussion/Q&A:***
	+ ***IVP:*** Mike advised us to check for errors on the FAFSA; half of the reasons why a file has not gone through IVP is because of an error with the parent name or SSN; we can correct this on student record maintenance; don’t just send taxes to HESC to attempt to resolve why IVP is not taking place; Lisa shared that there is discussion about not “releasing” files this year after multiple attempts at IVP take place
	+ ***No date yet for the 2021-***22 Excelsior Application
	+ ***College Data Survey:*** IMPORTANT! At the very least right now, please make sure your contacts are correct; HESC is communicating via bulletin right now and want to make sure they proper people are receiivn the appropriate bulletin.
	+ ***All corrections made via Student Record Maintenance are reviewed by Mike and his team***
	+ ***Do not flip Parent 1 to Parent 2 or vice versa; this impacts the parental signatures and does not benefit the IVP process***
	+ ***Excelsior:*** no report to run to identify what stage the application is in; Lisa offered to run a custom report for schools, contact her if you would like that

***President’s Report, Adrienne King***

Brings virtual greetings; Zoom is the newest addition to NYSFAAA along with WHOVA which interfaces with Zoom very well to allow large breakout rooms for Novice and Conference

Goals:

* Increase relationship with local high schools as it relates to FAFSA filings
* Tanya Stanley, chair of Diversity and Inclusion committee; committee has been formed and is meeting; this committee needs to be more than an idea (like it has been in the past)
* Technology and Innovation Committee (TIC): increase our social media presence to get the correct information out there to diffuse incorrect information; our Facebook page has been revised; TIC has a Twitter account

Advocacy Days: we met with two senators and one assemblyperson; in addition met with Elsa McGee from HESC; HESC wants more interaction with secondary schools and we discussed partnering regionally to disseminate their newsletter; some discussions about meeting with local elected officials to begin and/or continue discussion about our main concerns/talking points related to higher education

***Executive Council, BJ Revill***

Met on February 8, 2021.

* Novice: save the date is coming soon; will be virtual, half-days; more information to come; open invitation to beyond NYS; still figuring out costs
* Nominations for upcoming positions are on the way; voting will take place for three weeks in May
* Down about 77 members compared to this time last year
* Expanded Statewide Training Committee to spread out the workload
* NASFAA credential training going very well (remember it will be half price when you take the test)
* Treasurer: we have less expenses right now which is good to offset the lost revenue in being down in membership, overall in good shape financially
* Conference 2021 will be virtual and we are battling the unknown right now; conference chairs are using the survey from Conference 2020 as their planning platform; PLEASE RESPOND TO THEIR SURVEY; no vendor room; continue with the virtual fundraising as that was very successful last year; usual large general sessions along with breakout sessions; want to mirror the experience as close to in-person as possible; region meetings considered to be built in to the conference schedule; fee is being discussed ranging from free to nominal.
* Conference 2022 in Lake Placid; hotel has been flexible so far and the conference chairs will continue to inquire about additional flexibilities depending on where the world will be in 2022; hope to be in-person

**Vendor Updates**

***Stephanie Stock and Chris Earnshaw, Sallie Mae***

Discussed two scholarships available with deadlines of March 8, 2021

The Bridging the Dream Scholarship for High School Seniors:www.salliemae.com/landing/bridging-the-dream(25) $10,000 scholarships

The Completing the Dream Scholarship:www.salliemae.com/landing/completing-the-dream

(260) $2,500 scholarships to help students in their final semester; priority to underserved students

**Discussion about PJ/unemployment**

Schools are using hybrid of reconstructing income affected by COVID

UR is seeing impact on business owners

Geneseo is projecting an academic year estimate for income

**Discussion about notifying students for missing information**

We all struggle with this and notify students very similarly

Suggestions of moving the registration dates, financial holds, messaging on bills about file being incomplete, partnering with FYE classes to draw attention to missing documents

***Next meeting: March 12 in the morning***

*Meeting adjourned 3:30pm*

*Submitted,*

*Renee Swift*