***Region II Meeting, virtual***

***September 2, 2022, Meeting began 11am***

12 attendees: Hali Conrad (UR), David Rocca (UR), Julie Rose (Alfred State), Chris Vernam (Alfred State), Tom Dalton (EdAmerica), Kris Ohman (RIT), Renee Swift (Nazareth), Cassidy Brown (Brockport), Jon Heininger (Geneseo), Irina Yorovsky (Eastman School of Music), Shalena Clary (Corning)

***Secretary Report – none***

***Treasury Report, Jon Heininger***

No withdrawals in past year; current balance $7312.41. Let’s consider gifts, workshops, giveaways. Consider giving “scholarships” for membership, conference. Might be too soon to get this together for 2022 conference. When we think about paying for 2 – 3 members’ conference would that include accommodations? Need to decide on process.

***Executive Council Report***

Lucinda provided Hali with notes from August 2022. Lot of information about the conference. Region II will be hosting 2025 conference. 2023 in Albany, 2024 in Buffalo. Will need chairs for 2025. Need Executive Council representative to replace Lucinda (left aid on 8/31/2022). Please contact Deidre Strutz if you are interested in being our rep. Her email is dstrutz@brockport.edu.

***Vendor Updates***

Tom Dalton, EdAmerica: loan forgiveness, until application and guidance are out there is nothing as a servicer that we can provide to schools or students. Servicers being bombarded with calls. More to follow. Once he gets info, will share out.

***Region Chair Updates, David and Hali***

In-person – every other month? Holiday party? Little to no interaction through Zoom/virtual meetings and conferences. Certain times of year, Zoom works (ex. August/September) however other times of the year, in-person is more suited. Start with Holiday party and go from there. Dave/Renee/Jon can discuss details.

***FAFSA Fests***

New leadership at Rochester Education Foundation (REF) and Rochester College Access Network (RCAN); want to resurrect large-scale in-person FAFSA/TAP event (ex. East High, REOC downtown, MCC downtown); tentative date for kickoff event at East High is October 17 from 3:30pm – 6:30pm. Keep an eye out for volunteer opportunities and we welcome one and all to help out!!

***Fresh Start***

Chris V. waiting to see if HESC is on board. Renee had one instance. UR may have had one as well.

***Loan Forgiveness***

Jon asked if PLUS included; yes they are. Chris V. asked Tom Dalton if parent borrowed PLUS and their student was Pell-eligible, do they qualify for $20K? Hali added how will they determine which loans are reduced? Multiple PLUS for multiple children? Parents who alternate borrowing, $10-20K in relief? Lots of inquiries right after the announcement, not many since. UR had more calls from alumni and current students asking about if they borrow now will that be forgiven? Informing borrowers what next steps – no info to share. Tom Dalton confirmed that on the servicer side, they are getting slammed with calls. Refunds of payments during pause questions. Some have to do application to confirm income consideration. Income data from 2021-22 would be used to determine if application needed or not. What year income are they using to determine eligibility? Hali heard that it was 2020 or 2021. Application allegedly coming out in October. Hopefully answers to come. Should not involve the schools; involves ED and servicers.

***Simplified FAFSA***

Coming in October 2023. Wiping out additional students in college into calculation. Hali said the NASFAA SAI tool is interesting and her UR experience showed more Pell eligible students. Removing state tax allowance from calculation. Have to wrap heads around negative SAI (zero EFCs). And over COA with negative SAI. Lots of new stuff to absorb. Hopefully NASFAA can provide good materials when the time comes.

***NYSFAAA Conference***

Registration is open; please register! Shaping up to be awesome conference. Raffle for conference. Hali has not received any specific request for raffle items.

***Next meeting:*** *TBD*

*Meeting adjourned 12:00pm*

*Submitted,*

*Renee Swift*