**Region 1 Meeting 5/6/21 Virtual**

Kathy Michalski - NCCC

Sandy Looker – Daemen College

Christine LaPresta – Niagara U.

Melony Ohalek – Sallie Mae

Gene Pohancsek – D’Youville College

Mike Turner – HESC

Laura Worley – Student Choice

Jim Trimboli - NCCC

Judy Long – Bryant & Stratton College

Barb Suriani – D’Youville College

Margaret Loops – Buffalo State

Jennifer Garey – Niagara U.

Dan Hunter - Retired

Nicole Griffo – Hilbert College

Sue Barber – Niagara U.

Lea Nuwer – Buffalo State

**HESC update from Mike Turner HESC Update**

**2021-22 New York State Budget Updates**

1. **Increases the Maximum TAP Award**

* **Maximum TAP award increased by $500**
* **Minimum Award remains at $500**
* **Reduced number of schedules from eleven to six**
* **Dependent award maximum increased to $5,665.**
* **Independent and Married No Children Schedule increased to $3,525.**

1. **Full support for over $1 billion for HESC financial aid programs**

* **All HESC programs funded for the 2021-22 academic year.**

1. **TAP Tuition Credit**

* SUNY tuition credit extended through 2023
* **Tuition credit formula updated to use the maximum TAP of $5,665**
  + **Formula previously used $5,000 as the maximum**

1. **Continues 2016-17 Tuition Rates for the Excelsior Scholarship**

* Extends the use of the 2016-17 undergraduate tuition rate for Excelsior recipients through the 2023-24 academic year.
* Thereafter, undergraduate tuition rate can be reset annually to the rate established for the subsequent academic year.
* The 2021-22 Excelsior and ETA application will open on May 17th and close on August 31, 2021.

1. **Ensures students impacted by the coronavirus pandemic maintain their financial aid eligibility**

* The Enacted State Budget holds harmless students who were unable to complete academic requirements needed to maintain financial aid eligibility because their enrollment was disrupted due to the pandemic, were unable to maintain satisfactory academic progress due to illness, course closure, or other special circumstances.

**Certification using the COVID flag**

* Students can be certified using COVID flag for any term in which the Governor’s Executive Order declaring a State disaster emergency for the entire state, remains in effect.
  + Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021
* NYS financial aid award recipients who are:
  + Eligible for financial aid at the 100% liability date
  + Impacted by COVID-19
    - School makes determination
  + Information currently on HESC website.
  + More written details by program type will be sent shortly
* Schools who indicated the COVID flag in error should send a request to have the flag removed to [priorityservices@hesc.ny.gov](mailto:priorityservices@hesc.ny.gov)

**Aid to Part Time Study (APTS) for academic year 2020-21**

* Awards can be made for all 2020-21 terms (Summer, Fall, Spring). We have temporarily removed the 45-day deadline for submitting the recipient lists and certifications.
* APTS processing has been added to the processing schedule on Tuesdays and Thursday.
* APTS payments will begin to run on the same dates as 2020 RAs.
* **May 15th, 2021** will be the deadline Recipient Lists/Replacement lists must be submitted online for all terms.
* **August 15th, 2021** is the deadline for submitting APTS certifications for all terms.
* Please contact [APTS.Administration@hesc.ny.gov](mailto:APTS.Administration@hesc.ny.gov) if you have any questions.

**Student ID Processing**

* Continue processing H9751 files
* Colleges with multiple school codes must make sure the student ID is sent for the correct code or send the ID for both school codes so in the event they adjust the school code the student ID is already on file.
* Students with no ID will not be sent on any files to schools for processing
  + Includes Student Status Listing (SSL), Rosters, Ras, and Manifests

**TAP Award Increase**

Recipients from each category will be awarded from a single schedule, regardless of the year they were first eligible for a State award.

* Programming needed at HESC
* Awards will be recalculated
* New award notices to students
* Student Status Listing (SSL) will reflect new awards

**Citizenship Updates**

* Citizenship documentation is being updated daily at HESC and is current at this time.
* Documentation needed for first time NYS Financial Aid recipients only
  + HESC requests proof of citizenship documentation
  + Uploaded using students HESC account
  + Once documentation is received
  + Citizenship updated at HESC
  + Award will be reinstated
  + Student on SSL sent to school
* Students who are previous recipients of NYS Financial Aid and who have a citizenship “c” code do not need to provide documentation
  + Schools would have collected documentation in prior years
  + Students will be set to citizenship approved\*\*
  + NYS award will be reinstated
  + Sent on SSL to school

\*\* Currently run once a week until programming is in place

* 1. **Processing**
* All certifications should be processed at this time
* Certify all Excelsior and ETA students on manifest now
* Check error reports for TAP, Excelsior, and ETA
* All pending and students in error status must be successfully processed by May 15th.
  + Update and recertify errors
  + Errors must be corrected and processed before close out of the year or students will not get paid.

**Executive Council Report from Lea Nuwer**

NYSFAAA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING 4-28-2021

*Novice* - Renee Nunziato

We are 5 weeks out and have 93 registrations already

There will be 8-9 small group leaders who will receive training from experienced small group leaders

There will be a bonding opportunity on the first afternoon

There will be a Novice Portal

*Government Relations* - Christopher Barto

This year is the first significant increase in TAP in over 20 years

The recent survey shows that members are in agreement with NASFAA's statement that one time debt relief isn't a long-term solution

GRC would like NYSFAAA to endorse the positions of NASFAA based on the survey

*Diversity & Inclusion* report from Tanya Patterson-Stanley

Nine members have been meeting monthly since December

Survey sent out

Presenting at EASFAA this year

*Ocelot BOT -* Adrienne King

We have been offered another two-year contract for free

The BOT is seeing a great deal of traffic

*TAP Working Group* - Adrienne King

Not as many issues this year

HEERF packages discussed

Status Report discussion

*EASFAA Retreat* - Adrienne King

Holding a hybrid retreat June 13-15

*NASFAA* - Adrienne King

There is a link on their site to add In Memoriam names of those who have passed since 7/2020

Deadline is 5/14

*Governance*

no report

*Ethics* - Howard Leslie

There will be a Conference session in the Novice track for Ethics

*Elections* - Howard Leslie

Ballot link will be sent out 5/3/21

Had to recruit people to run

*Membership Committee* - Renee Swift

We have 1064 members

They are working on outreached to lapsed members who attended Novice in 2018 and 2019

Lapsed Affiliate members will be reinstated since they do not pay to join

*TICC* - Lea Nuwer

Sarah Macri O'Neal has stepped down as Co-Chair; Howard Leslie will step into the role

Sean Sherwood has been putting a great deal of effort into the Whova platform for Novice and Conference

Zoom Rooms are being recalled from committees and regions for use with Novice

Sessions will be recorded and available on the Novice Portal for attendees

Spending $99 for one-month DropSend subscription to send recordings for storage

Using a discount code to give Novice attendees a free conference

*Statewide Training* - Brian Smith

Upcoming training:

4/30 NASFAA Credential: Campus-Based Programs

5/7 NASFAA Credential: Packaging & Aid

5/13 webinar: SAP & R2T4 New Regulations

Bringing NYSFAAA to Your Region - how does our region feel about in=person meetings

*Treasurer's Report* - Shalena Clary

$248,181.41 total balance

Still receiving scholarship funds

Taking in more on the Profit & Loss statement since we do not have the expenses of in-person meetings

The Region 2 Treasurer asked about investing their money - not approved as they should not have so much available

Budget requests due June 1st

*NYSHESC Update* - Lisa Simpson

(Defer to HESC representative)

*Conference 2021* - Jeanne McCarthy & Debbie Evans

Agenda is complete and will be presented at June meeting

Still attempting to get back the deposits from the hotel for the Conference and June meeting

*Conference 2022* - Stacey Hawkins & Sonya Stein

High Peeks has been very accommodating in changing the room numbers and food & beverage minimums

No solid answer on what will happen if we have to cancel, but would like us to consider rolling over the deposit for a 2023 conference there

*Old Business*

Region 3 would like institutional memberships - we will not be offering this

*New Business*

none

*Next Meeting*

June 14th 9a-5p

June 15th 9a-12p

**New Business**

Region 1 scholarships for Novice Training… 3 people will be selected from applications. The expense has been **approved**. It will be under $500 from our treasury. The deadline and turn-around time will be very quick, so all applications are encouraged to be submitted quickly.

Moving Region meetings back to in-person… We would meet all safety protocols for in-person meetings. We would also have the possibility of joining virtually. The majority of the polling was comfortable with moving meetings to in-person.

Summer meeting or social gathering… Possibly an outdoor park or shelter and the Region would sponsor the shelter cost. We would bring food/drinks ourselves. Late July or early August would be the preference.

We will skip additional meetings until then.

Covid recovery funds discussion: How do schools feel about students getting massive checks from Covid funds, but not being required to pay their bill? How are schools handling that, and are any of those funds being diverted toward other beneficial practices for the schools? The SUNY mandate would not allow schools to force students to pay their bills. Should the funds have even been funneled through colleges if students who are receiving the most financial aid to begin with are not being required to pay their bills? The same can be said for the TAP increase or Excelsior…it only serves one population of student. The other students who don’t receive a large amount of aid get no benefit.

Discussion on moving away from EFC to SAI… Will it impact the technology aspects? Will the feds be ready and capable of the processing changes?

Meeting adjourned.