

Minutes of NYSFAAA Region VIII Meeting
December 14, 2021
High Peaks Resort- Lake Placid, NY

Meeting was called to order at 10:08 am by Kerry Lubold

In Attendance: In person: Stacey Hawkins-Clarkson University; Mary LaPierre-Clinton CC; Kerry Lubold- SUNY Plattsburgh; Susan Godreau-SUNY Potsdam-Retired; Kerrie Cooper- SUNY Canton-Retired; Tom Dalton- EdAmerica; Todd Moravec- SUNY Plattsburgh, Hannah Parker-SUNY Potsdam; Jennifer Cootware-SUNY Potsdam; Alex Martin-SUNY Potsdam; Alyse Relyea-Paul Smith's College; Abby DeCastro- Clarkson University Online: Courtney Rust- SUNY Potsdam; Alisa Caster-SUNY Potsdam; Carolyn Corcoran-SUNY Potsdam-Retired; Kelly Crosbie-SUNY Potsdam; Mike Turner-HESC; Robyn Rhinner-JCC

Minutes: Minutes posted online prior to meeting held 10/8/2021. Stacey Hawkins has volunteered to be Regional Secretary at this time.

Treasurer's Report: Nicole Adner is Treasurer of the region. Stacey Hawkins provided report in Nicole's absence. We have 3498.07 as of 11/30/21. Activity from Last meeting was 205.95 reimbursed to Stacey Hawkins for Conference Basket gift card and 300.00 deposit for today's meeting lunch.

Membership Update: No updated provided as it is currently an open position. Alyse Relea from Paul Smith's will join this committee.

HESC Update: Mike Turner provided the update:

- 22-23 cycle opened 10/1/21
- Student ID request will be going out
- There was a roster issue which prematurely was sent due to a technical issue where income was not verified. Paid awards were decertified and removed and rewarding is pending.
- Verification issues regarding incorrect filing and name matches
- 21-22 Excelsior application period is closed
- Reminder that reconciling of 2020-21 needs to be taking place
- COVID impact processing please make sure they are properly coded
- 19-20 year is closed out
- Modernization project resulting in an FA management system update is in the works.
- SUNY/CUNY COVID vaccine process webinar in relation to decertification will be held
- 22-23 budget still has Excelsior funding.

Awards Update- Nicole Adner has volunteered to be on the Awards Committee. No update at this time.

NOVICE Update- Provided by Courtney Rust.

- Renee is stepping down.
- Will be virtual this year.

Nominations and Elections Update- Hannah Parker

- No update

SWT Update- Abigail DeCastro provided update

- 2021 done
- 2022 training scheduled will be done soon
- Trainings always are recorded and archived
- If you have any training tops please let Abby know

TIC and Website Update- Sonya Stein- Please see Exec. Council notes

Diversity Committee- Todd Moravec provided update

- Tonya Stanley Patterson is stepping down
- Kim Willis will be taking over
- Including training in Oct. Conference

Development Update- Mary Ellen Chamberlain- No updated provided.

Executive Council Update: Sonya Stein provided update

President's Report

- NYCDOE-Staten Island requested NYSFAA help with high school outreach.
 - * Similar requests should go to HS outreach committee
 - * Discussed outreach between HESC and LaSonya- please volunteer, there's been a lot of attendance and not enough FAAs
 - * Also noted: HS counselors are requesting more and more FA training (new business)
- EASFAA exec council meeting: 2/20-2/22; @ Sheraton In Weebauken, NJ.
- Novice: need new chair, Renee is stepping down;
 - * Mercy College has one additional year in our Novice contract but they're not taking any outside groups currently (no money lost). Voted to have Novice virtually in 2022.

Advocacy Day-NYSFAAA Position Points

- * Adreinne note: NYS Assembly of Higher Ed Committee- requested Adrienne appear in Albany to speak about pandemic on the future of higher education; with such short notice, she was unable to attend.
- * Government relations committee: Assembly Higher Ed Committee- last minute hearing to talk broadly about pandemic on higher ed. They've been seeing some of Assembly and Senate staff have been pulling together communication on short notice, so this was not unique- they're

just trying to fast track things before holidays; Request for comments on this topic went to associations around the state; SUNY and CUNY and CICU- and all four sectors with opportunity to submit comments (due today- short window). Was it appropriate for NYSFAA To respond? Would have required doing survey with membership but did not (WHY, if we're elected representatives? Answer: because the request was so broad, it wasn't FinAid specific so committee would have wanted more input from members).

- * Feb talking points: CICU organizes student advocacy days on Feb 1 and 2- we can join them on those days Offer EC the opportunity to do virtual advocacy. Members of GRC will do so too, target key legislatures from key committees. Invite to meet with Dr. Linarex President and Elsa Executive VP of HESC have been doing quarterly meetings with these people.

- * Keep momentum going and increase the minimum TAP award to \$1,00 from \$500, and increase the TAP income eligibility ceiling from \$80K to \$110K NYS NTI. Establish funding formula for future years (post 2024) to increase annually to keep pace with inflation. (recommending elimination ETA and Excelsior to help with budget offset; only 11 out of ~150ish private colleges participate in ETA)

- * Increase funding for opportunity programs (EOP, HEOP, SEEK, CSTEP, LPP)

- * From Patty: Recommendation to increase foster youth funding

- * Use the same TAP award schedule, income and maximum award eligibility for all students regardless of their dependency status. Special note: students now independent because they lost parents to COVID.

- * Allow PJ for state aid- would like to see HESC's authority expand, especially with changes of income not related to death/divorce/separation. This has been contentious because it's hard to budget for this.

- * Protect Bundy Aid Funding: ask to fully restore it in the FY2022 budget and reject proposed cuts.

- * [Text Description automatically generated]

- * Do we want Chris to come to our region meeting in January to prep and prepare people?

Answer questions for people that might want to advocate? Email

him: cbarto@limcollege.edu<mailto:cbarto@limcollege.edu>

President-Elect Report

- * Governance and Ethics: working on rewriting bylaws to add some DEI-specific verbiage
- * Elections: EC Secretary needs to be filled

First Vice President's Report

- * Membership: 1,104 active members compared to 965 same time last year (THIS COULD BE BECAUSE OF VIRTUAL CONFERENCE!)

- Mentorship Committee

Second Vice President

- * TICC: still working on MemberClicks to get social media set up; Training with Sean Sherwood to be backup on website; 71 joined private FB group

- * SWT: going to work with regions on continuing advocacy training

Treasurer's Report:

- * Some late donations of scholarship money came in over the month
- * We're super close to meeting our membership due goal
- * Still have some money set aside for EC special meetings- specifically NYSFAAA leadership council which normally sends some people: Treasurer Elect and President Elect;
- * Checks for scholarship recipients being sent 12/14/2021
- * Reserves and scholarship investment account have rebounded and looking sound
- * Reached out to auditors to request annual audit response (audit is done, just waiting for follow up)

Secretary's Report: none

HESC Update

- * 2022/23 apps being processed; RFIs being sent; IVP being performed;
- * Student status listing not out until early 2022
- * Caution: won't get student on student status listing (or other reports) unless there's a student ID
- * First spring 22 roster released last week
- * Roster 5 fall 2021 technical issue: some students hadn't successfully completed IVP and were erroneously on the roster.
- * If you had COVID impacted students, update 2021 immediately
- * Will only take decerts for 19/20 (otherwise closed)- must send to payment team. No other certs will be accepted
- * FA Services Modernization process. RFP currently underway. 3 focus groups are being started: Bursar, Certifying Officers, FinAid group. Hope to have a vendor selected by end of 2022.
- * Futures Scholarship- announced by Governor; HESC is working on how to administer payments based on criteria (note: they don't have criteria)
- * IT Tech team working on:
 - * Making a smoother certification process for ETA and Excelsior;
 - * Trying to streamline TAP program and how they're providing info to schools
 - * Working with Dreamer population to streamline

Conference 2021

- * Happy with survey results
- * Self-care session was great- shared that we hope to do a lot of wellness themed events at our conference
- * Jeanne shared re: Sallie Mae reps their regional conference attendance was down: CT conference: 84 registrants/24 business partners; 100 registrants/15 business partners (pre-micron variant), Reasons given for not attending: budget related, NOT personal; Adrienne will share EASFAA's numbers when they're available; EASFAA is 5/15-5/18
- * Recommends we ask for addendum as to what will happen if we can't meet due to regulatory or state restrictions; Wants this in all future NYSFAAA contracts in addition to the NJASFAA verbiage Adrienne shared back in October.

Conference 2022

- * Confirmed EC is committed to in-person conferences. "Got to start somewhere"
- * Feb meeting: need budget and tentative program presented at meeting (Stacey- I'm so sorry but I'll be hobbling around Universal Studios that day and can't make the meeting)
- * NOTE: June EC meeting will be in person at the conference site

- * Suggestion: Request regions sponsor scholarships
- * Suggestion: generate a letter justifying NYSFAAA attendance for FAAs to submit to leadership
- * Suggestion: encourage directors to build 22 conference costs into their 22/23 office budgets- Adrienne will include in her "Happy New Year" message
- * Suggestion: ask for addendum that specifies what will happen if we can't meet due to state/local restrictions

Review of Operational Calendar

- * Available on website

Old Business

- * Four Points document from 2021 Conference Committee: what to do with the \$21K that Hilton won't return from 2019 (then 2020 conference).
- * Peg will contact Syracuse Law Department and ask for their advice. Will be sent to Corporate Office and not local since local hotel is completely ignoring Jeanne's and Deb's outreach. Hoping they can at least use the money for future meeting space, Novice, etc.

New Business

- * Region 3 is thinking about doing 2023 conference

Old Business:

- Conference planning this afternoon

New Business:

- HEERF money discussion on awarding and spending
- COVID waivers ended over the summer for HESC
- Conference planning

Next Meeting: 1/20/2022-Virtual for conference planning.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Stacey Hawkins.