

SASFAA
Conference Call Board Meeting
Minutes
March 24, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

President Heather Boutell called the meeting to order at 11:33am

ROLL CALL

Roll Call was taken by Secretary Brad Barnett.

Voting members present: Heather Boutell, Brad Barnett, Terri Parchment, Keith Reeves, Lisanne Masterson, Marilyn James, Jennifer Priest, Charles Markle, Amy Berrier, Jeff Dennis, Jeff Gerkin, and Brenda Burke

Voting members absent: Sharon Oliver, Bill Healy, and Pennie Strong

Non voting members present: Tracy Ireland, Dee Talley, Bill Spiers, Laura Diven-Brown, Brenda Brown, Joe Dobrota, and Chuck Sanders

A quorum was established with 12 of the 15 voting members present.

Prior to the conference call the following voting board members indicated they would attend the meeting, Lisanne Masterson, Amy Berrier, Brenda Burke, Jeff Dennis, Jeff Gerkin, Jennifer Priest, Keith Reeves, Marilyn James, Terri Parchment, Heather Boutell, and Brad Barnett. Each individual acknowledged, via e-mail, receipt of the notification sent by President Boutell scheduling this meeting.

Prior to the conference call meeting the following voting board members stated they would not be able to attend, Pennie Strong, Sharon Oliver, and Bill Healy. Each individual acknowledged, via e-mail, receipt of the notification sent by President Boutell scheduling this meeting.

Prior to the conference call the following committee chairs indicated they would attend the conference call meeting, Tracy Ireland, Dee Talley, Bill Spiers, Laura Diven-Brown, Deborah Clark, Brenda Brown, and Lester McKenzie. Each individual acknowledged, via e-mail, receipt of the notification sent by President Boutell scheduling this meeting.

ACTION

On 3/20/09 President Boutell presented an e-mail from Amy Berrier stating, *It has been brought to my attention by the SASFAA Legislative Committee Chair, Bill Spiers, that the attached letter (see Attachment A) has been approved by the entire committee. As a regional association that represents 9 southern states, I feel that we must present a voice on behalf of the state associations that we represent and our members. The majority of our states have already sent letters to their respective congressional delegations or are in the process of doing so. NCASFAA's letter was sent on March 16, 2009.*"

On 3/23/09 President Boutell scheduled a conference call meeting for 3/24/09 to discuss this recommendation. Shortly after the meeting was scheduled, a formal motion and second took place by e-mail outlining the topic to discuss during the meeting (see Attachment B)

Action Item: Amy Berrier moved that the letter approved by the SASFAA Legislative Relations Committee be adopted by the SASFAA Executive Committee. Sharon Oliver seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued regarding the text of the proposed letter from the SASFAA Legislative Committee.

A roll call vote was taken regarding the motion. All members participating in the call voted "aye," so the motion passed unanimously.

President Boutell and the Bill Spiers will work on finalizing the letter and submitting it on behalf of SASFAA.

Action Item: Brenda Burke moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:09pm. Marilyn James seconded the motion. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned.

Attachment A

Dear :

The Southern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators represents over (current membership) practicing financial aid administrators in nine states from various types of postsecondary institutions. As leaders in the financial aid field, our membership seeks to provide students with an awareness of financial aid and encouragement to apply for the funds they are eligible for. Our members are committed to serving students and providing the best information available on financial aid, scholarships, and financial literacy.

With this in mind, we want to commend the Congress on recent actions that have provided improved funding for Federal Pell Grant Program and increases in the Federal Work-Study Program. Students will find college more affordable and attainable because of these efforts. We encourage you to continue to support additional funding for these programs which invest in the lives of students and create a well educated population, who become some of our most productive citizens.

While we are excited about the new support for the grant and work programs, we are concerned about the message students are receiving about student loans. For over fifteen years we have seen the effectiveness of both the Direct Loan Program and the Federal Family Education Loan Program as they have worked in tandem. The competition has created a need for both programs to be creative with a focus on excellence. Recent indications that the Federal Family Education Loan Program will be dismantled have left schools in a state of limbo not knowing if they should immediately move to the Federal Direct Loan Program, or stay with the program they know well, and that works best for their campus.

The Southern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators supports the continuation of both loan programs and encourages Congress to publically support the dual program we now have. Legislatively we encourage congress to ensure stability is restored in the Federal Family Education Loan Program, and that both programs have mirrored laws and regulations. By providing for the continued parallel track, we will stop the negative message students are receiving about student lending. Every time a student hears that a loan program may cease to exist, they assume, albeit incorrectly, that financial aid is going away. All of us must work diligently to ensure every student who needs the support of the financial aid programs is encouraged to apply. By clarifying the continued support for and existence of the Federal Family Education Loan Program students will have a confidence that education can be a reality.

Thank you for your continued support of student through financial aid funding. The financial aid community recognizes the difficult task you have with the economy and appreciate the Congress keeping deserving needy students first in their budget priorities.

Sincerely,

Heather

Attachment B

From: Oliver, Sharon J [mailto:soliver@NCCU.EDU]
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2009 2:06 PM
To: Boutell, Heather; Amy_Berrier@uncg.edu; Brenda Burke
Cc: alberrie; Brad Barnett; Brenda Brown; csanders; Christi Tolson; Deborah Clark; Keith Reeves; dtalley; Janet Sain; Jennifer Priest; Jeff Dennis; Joe Dobrota; Jeff Gerkin; Joanie Walker; Laura Diven-Brown; Lisanne Masterson; Lester McKenzie; Charles Markle; Marilyn James; Pennie Strong; Sandra Neel; Bill Spiers; Terri Parchment; Tracy Ireland; Bill Healy
Subject: RE: SASFAA Letter to Congress

Heather,

I second the motion.

From: Boutell, Heather <hboutell@bellarmine.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2009 12:46 PM
To: Amy_Berrier@uncg.edu <Amy_Berrier@uncg.edu>; Oliver, Sharon J <soliver@NCCU.EDU>; Brenda Burke <blburke@vcu.edu>
Cc: alberrie <alberrie@uncg.edu>; Brad Barnett <barnetbd@jmu.edu>; Brenda Brown <bbrown@law.miami.edu>; csanders <csanders@scstudentloan.org>; Christi Tolson <cytolson@campbellsville.edu>; Deborah Clark <dclark@atlantatech.edu>; Keith Reeves <dkr@clemson.edu>; dtalley <dtalley@uab.edu>; Janet Sain <Janet.Sain@SunTrust.com>; Jennifer Priest <jcosens@kheaa.com>; Jeff Dennis <jdennis@swu.edu>; Joe Dobrota <jdobrota@regent.edu>; Jeff Gerkin <jgerkin@utk.edu>; Joanie Walker <jwalker@amsa.com>; Laura Diven-Brown <ldivenbr@olemiss.edu>; Lisanne Masterson <lisanne@brevard.edu>; Lester McKenzie <lmckenzie@ntech.edu>; Charles Markle <MARKLCC@auburn.edu>; Marilyn James <mjames@meridian.msstate.edu>; Pennie Strong <pms@centralgatech.edu>; Sandra Neel <sneel@utm.edu>; Bill Spiers <SPIERSB@tcc.fl.edu>; Terri Parchment <TParchment@EdAmerica.net>; Tracy Ireland <TRACYI@GSFC.org>; Bill Healy <whealy@flsouthern.edu>
Subject: RE: SASFAA Letter to Congress

Sharon – as the person who seconded, are you okay with this motion? It is basically what Amy originally asked us to do – just a little more formal. Thanks.

From: Amy_Berrier@uncg.edu [mailto: Amy_Berrier@uncg.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2009 12:45 PM
To: Boutell, Heather; Sharon Oliver; Brenda Burke
Cc: alberrie; Brad Barnett; Brenda Brown; csanders; Christi Tolson; Deborah Clark; Keith Reeves; dtalley; Janet Sain; Jennifer Priest; Jeff Dennis; Joe Dobrota; Jeff Gerkin; Joanie Walker; Laura Diven-Brown; Lisanne Masterson; Lester McKenzie; Charles Markle; Marilyn James; Pennie Strong; Sandra Neel; Bill Spiers; Terri Parchment; Tracy Ireland; Bill Healy
Subject: Re: SASFAA Letter to Congress

To make things more formal for the purposes of the minutes and parliamentary procedures, I am restating my original motion...

I move the letter approved by the SASFAA Legislative Relations Committee be adopted by the SASFAA Executive Committee.