

West Virginia Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
Business Meeting
Canaan Valley Resort
Canaan, WV
April 2, 2009

Meeting called to order at 4:45pm

SECRETARIES REPORT

Motion by Sharon Howard and seconded by Kaye Widney to accept minutes, motioned carried

TREASURER'S REPORT

General ledger report in packet is up until noon the day of the conference.

We now have two CD's because we purchased a \$12000 CD after last conference.

Candi Frazier motioned Nadine Hamrick seconded to accept report, motion carried

AWARDS

James Buchanan is in charge of awards. Award will be presented at dinner this evening.

P&P AND CONSTITUTION

Decision was made to go back to 2 conferences was changed in manual but it is not on the web yet.

NOMINATIONS

Everyone is encouraged to consider running for office if approached. Announcement will be made later in the meeting concerning who won elections for 2009-2010.

NEWSLETTER

Lake is not present. We discussed that we may have outgrown the concept of a newsletter. There is so much information coming to us from other sources. We may need to change complexion of the news. Everyone will still report information to Lake and periodically Lake can send short burst out on the listserv to update on information as it comes along. This will keep the whole membership informed but will not have an official newsletter look.

MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 125 members in the association.

AWARENESS AND COUNSELOR'S WORKSHOP

Jan 15 through Feb 15 was declared Financial Aid Awareness month by the Governor. There was no funding to set up anything this year. Expenses have been approx. \$8000-\$10,000 for advertising and it is just not available right now. For the future, we may need

to come up with other ideas. College Goal Sunday has been mentioned and Candi questioned if we have reached out to let HEPC know that we were interested in supporting that. Nina explains that it is still in the planning stage and nothing is set yet. When more information becomes available she will pass it on.

The evaluations from the counselor training were very good. If you are interested in hosting workshop contact Nina. We will be using DOE training again this year. Exec is providing \$100 to each site to use for refreshments. The modules from DOE will include FAFSA forecaster. Information on fafsa.ed.gov, completing the FAFSA, scholarships, etc are also included. A lot of the counselors were not interested in CE credits. They felt there was a lot of wasted time and they wanted the material presented faster and let out earlier. Buck requested that we have dates set by mid-Aug. so that counselors can plan their calendar. Kathy Bialk suggested that these types of things are what we need in the email blasts. There are sections for middle school counselors in the training so we will be inviting them also.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES

Kay apologizes for not being more visible on the listserv, but we are getting a lot of information through other listservs. To summarize recent issues....House has passed the Plus loan auction suspension, Post 911 GI Bill has had a lot of attention, the two hand outs she gave deal with HEOA. Rick Sparks mentioned what is going on in congress today at lunch. Phone calls need to go in to congress as to our opinions. Changes in state aid programs, Final rules on loans came out Oct. 23, 2008. Elimination of FFELP is right now in the Reconciliation Act and if it stays there, it will go through without anyone knowing. They are trying to get it out of the Reconciliation Act and into the Budget to be voted on. Senate Bill 792 will be voted on at 10:00am tomorrow morning.

Buck called Byrd and Rockefeller's office and made a stand for the association for the Amendment to get the proposal to eliminate FFELP out of the Reconciliation Act and into the Budget.

WEBPAGE AND DIRECTORY

Karen is working on getting the database updated. There used to be a link for the old directory and that link is now gone, but all the information is still online in other areas.

No one is responsible for making sure the website is upgraded every year. ATAC has a new version of the website that they want us to have that will increase functionality. It provides a committee chair module. The cost is \$525 and the website will be down for a few days while the upgrade is done. Karen recommends the change. The monthly fees should not increase. We also hope to do electronic balloting in the future. It does cost to do but it is much easier with higher feedback. Karen Lay makes motion that the website be upgraded at a one-time cost of \$525, seconded by McRae Heck. Discussion: Candi questions the cost factor for an association our size. We spend quite a lot at this point for our size. She feels we should step back and wait to see how things go. Sharon mentioned that Karen has brought up two different things. One is to upgrade the website, the other is to vote online. There is additional \$300 if we use the electronic balloting

feature. Our base rate is \$185/month. Even after the upgrade of \$525, the monthly fee is still \$185/month. There are a lot of helpful components to the upgrade. It will not allow you to pay membership online. A lot of the upgrades have to do with maintaining the database and administrative capabilities for the treasurer.

The motion on the table is to upgrade the website at a one-time cost of \$525. A vote was requested, Motion passed.

LONG RANGE PLANNING

Spring 2010 conference will be March 31-April 2. The average room rate will be \$63 at Pipestem. Conference rooms are very reasonable.

Fall 2010 conference will be Oct. 7, 8, and 9. We are considering Canaan again because we can lock in the rate again if we decide by April 15, 2009 and when we come back we will be in a remodeled facility.

Trish Harmon is going to call Lake to check on dates of conference because quarter hour school have a difficult time attending conference when they coincide with the start of their classes.

NASFAA TRAINER

No report

ASSOCIATE MEMBER ISSUES

Carla pointed out that we have lenders that come to the conference that don't vend and then there are lenders and guarantors that come and vend. Some associations have decided to charge a higher rate for those that attend and don't vend. She recommends that the association look into changing something to give some incentive for vending at conferences.

Room size was very small this time and they may need a larger room in the future for when people actually come into the vendor area for breaks.

Exec has looked at making sure that conference fees cover costs so that we don't rely on the vendor fees. Before the association offers something to a vendor or lender it needs to be checked to make sure that it is legal. We will table the discussion until June at the Exec meeting. We should check to make sure that the anything given as incentive doesn't become a violation of anything. Cindy Hudok will check and will report back to the association. Candi says that in order to come to the conference an associate member needs to be a member and therefore we could not offer membership as incentive.

Carla also wants to remind the association that Lenders do have a lot of resources and would be glad to help with conferences.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

We have 27 new members. We will draw a free registration for a new member and a returning member as an incentive to keep them as members and keep them coming to the conferences.

SPRING 2009 CONFERENCE

Everything has gone well and staff at Canaan has been very helpful.

Fall 2009 CONFERENCE

The conference will be held at Comfort Suites in Mineral Wells. Room rate will be \$79. Amanda Green and Sommer Boggess will work site for that conference. We need volunteers for program. Fay Waggoner will help but does not want to be the point person.

Sector meetings:

Public: We were concerned with changes in the state programs. A lot of concern about changes will impact what we are doing for 09-10. Questions about work study and whether received allocations. Schools are experiencing increased volume in special circumstances requests.

Private: no report

Vocational: discussed year round Pell, GI bill and how it will impact clock hour schools. They also had discussion on WIA and difference from region to region. About 15 members present

OLD BUSINESS

We donated our other old computer to the Covenant House in Charleston. James took care of all of that and we received a very nice thank you from them.

NEW BUSINESS

Sharon suggested to the association that we purchase a new laptop and printer so that we can operate more professionally at the registration desk. We need to be able to register someone on the spot and print nametags if needed. She is thinking we should cap it at \$1000. Sharon made this into a motion and Karen Lay (???) seconded. After a brief discussion this motion was brought to a vote and the motion was defeated. It was decided that Sharon would get quotes and present them to the Executive Committee for a final decision. Cindy Hudok made a motion and Trish Harmon seconded for Sharon to get quotes for a printer and computer and e-mail the executive committee for a final decision. Motion passed.

Exec meeting will be meeting again on June 11 in Clarksburg at Panera Bread.

Buck thinks we should have a motion that the Association make a stand that we like choice in loan programs and we do not want the elimination of FFELP programs. Sharon made motion and Faye seconded that the Association take the stand that we do not support the elimination of the FFELP program because we want to continue to have a choice. Kathy Bialk does not believe we will get consensus. Buck reiterates that we are not looking at either or, we are just looking to co-exist. Kaye says that there are definitely two sides to this and it doesn't just consist of both loan programs or not. There are other things being impacted with this proposal. Buck is only willing to say that as an Association we support having both programs. Kathy is looking for simplification and more money for students. Carla stresses that if FFELP goes away, private loans may go away as well. Increase in Pell is just enough that it might only cover increase in cost at institutions and not really help the student. Nina points out that Guarantors provide a lot of default prevention programs that may also go away if FFELP is eliminated. Vote was taken on the motion that the Association take the stand that we do not support the elimination of the FFSLP program and motion passed.

Election results for 2009-2010: Treasurer: Sharon Howard-WV School of Osteopathic Medicine; Secretary: Patricia King-WV State University; President Elect: Tresa Weimer-WV University.

ADJOURNMENT

Candi made motion to adjourn at 6:00pm