

# South Carolina Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators



2019-20 Executive Board Meeting  
Monday, May 4, 2020  
Teleconference

## **Present:**

Melanie Gillespie  
Bridget Blackwell  
Kim Chalmers  
Zachary Christian  
Joey Derrick  
Holly Gilliam  
Adam Ghiloni

Regina Hailey Smith  
Samantha Hicks  
Kisha Howze  
Ray Jones  
Augusta Kitchen  
Michelle Lodato  
Earl Mayo

Miracle Mosley  
Elizabeth Milam  
Missy Perry  
Kelly Savoie  
Traci Singleton  
Michelle Upchurch  
Jennifer Williams

## **Meeting**

President Gillespie called the 2019-20 Executive Board Meeting agenda to order at 8:33AM. A quorum was established.

***Action Item: Approval of Agenda with authority given to the President to make changes as needed in order to facilitate the flow of business. Zachary Christian moved to approve the agenda and Traci Singleton seconded the motion, which carried.***

***Action Item: Approval of the January 2020 Meeting Minutes. Traci Singleton moved to approve the Minutes and Missy Perry seconded the motion, which carried.***

There was no old business to report.

## **Report of Officers**

### **President: Melanie Gillespie**

President Gillespie welcome all in attendance and thanked everyone for taking the time to meet. A brief update on the CARES act was provided.

President Gillespie provided a SASFAA Update: SASFAA has met several times, virtually. At this time, the SASFAA New Aid Officer's Workshop has been postponed until October. Many conferences in the SASFAA region have been postponed or cancelled altogether.

### **Past-President/Nominations and Elections: Kisha Howze**

Kisha announced there is nothing new to report at this time. President Gillespie thanked Kisha and the Nominations and Elections committee for their hard work this year.

**Vice President/Professional Development: Bridget Blackwell, Chair; Stephanie McCarter, Vice-Chair**

Stephanie not present.

Bridget provided an update regarding the spring NAOW; Over 30 members were registered, but because of COVID-19, it was cancelled. All paid registrants have been refunded. Bridget thanked everyone for their hard work and hopes they agree to assist with Professional Development in the future. NASFAA provided state Associations the ability to teach credentials virtually because of COVID-19; however, with the time restraints between now and June 30, the Board did not feel it best to provide a virtual training at this time.

**President-Elect/Special Projects: Traci Singleton**

Traci explained that Transition is still scheduled for June 22-23; no payments have been made, so the Board felt it best to wait to make a decision on if we will meet in-person or virtually. Regardless of the meeting format, the final 2019-20 Executive Board Meeting will be held on Monday, June 22, 2020.

Traci also explained that she and Zach are discussing alternate options for the fall Conference, such as a virtual conference. If a virtual conference must be held, an "institutional pricing" level would be discussed.

**Secretary/Electronic Services: Zachary Christian**

Zachary announced there is nothing new to report as Secretary at this time. He provided an update on the website's SSL Certificate issue, which is currently under control and being taken care of.

**Treasurer/Budget: Missy Perry**

Missy reported that everything looks good as far as the Budget goes. Everything through April has been reconciled and all pertinent documentation has been submitted to Earl for the quarterly reports. Missy and her Committee are proposing a missing receipt form and some P&P updates.

***Action Item: To approve the use of a Missing Receipt Form and to update the P&P with the suggestion from the Budget Committee. Missy moved to approve the form and P&P changes, which carried.***

**Treasurer-Elect: Samantha Hicks**

Samantha reported that all registrants for NAOW have been refunded; nothing further to report at this time.

**Member-at-Large/Membership: Melissa Barnette**

Melissa provided an updated on the remaining membership webinars. Because of everything going on with COVID-19, CARES Act, and schools working through all of that, the final two webinars have been cancelled. Melissa thanked Justin Pichey and Zach for presenting the first two webinars that were held in the fall. Both sessions were well attended.

Melissa also reported that the Membership Committee has continued to work to spotlight new members in the Palmetto Pages.

**Committee Reports**

**Advisory to CHE: Justin Pichey, Chair; Augusta Kitchen, Vice-Chair**

Justin absent.

The Board discussed if virtual FAFSA filing help would be beneficial. The consensus was it would not be very practical. Melanie expressed that she would like SCASFAA to attempt to complete some type of assistance, such as a presentation that could be shared with high school guidance offices.

**Communications: Michelle Upchurch, Chair; Miracle Mosley, Vice-Chair**

Michelle and Miracle announced there is not much to update; the Summer Palmetto Pages is in the works and a call for material will be sent out within the next few weeks.

**By-Laws: Michelle Lodato**

Michelle explained there is nothing new to report at this time.

**Counselor and Consumer Relations: Kelly Savoie, Chair; Danielle Rymer, Vice-Chair**

Danielle not present.

Kelly reported that communications have been sent to the Membership via the listserv; MoneySmart week was cancelled, because of COVID-19. Kelly reported that she plans to submit a session for the Counselor conference that will take place in January. She also stated that other state associations are setting up like a coffee hour/30-minutes to connect and share and discuss current events.

**Financial Planning: Earl Mayo, Chair; Tasha Morgan, Vice-Chair**

Tasha not present.

Earl reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter reviews are done, and everything looks good. He thanked Missy and Samantha for their hard work. From December through the end of March, SCASFAA has lost over \$28,000 in investments; however, as of the end of April SCASFAA is only \$18,000 down. Earl reminded the Board that SCASFAA utilizes Edward Jones to handle our investments. Earl also announced that as of December 2019, SCASFAA has the same number of paid memberships as we did at the end of December 2018. Overall, SCASFAA is in good financial health. While SCASFAA did lose some revenue from having to cancel NAOW, it did not cost SCASFAA anything additional.

**Global Issues: Regina Hailey Smith**

Regina provided a brief update on spring college goal events that took place.

**Legislative Relations: Joey Derrick, Chair; Adam Ghiloni, Vice-Chair**

Joey stated one word: CARES. He reported that there is not much else going on, as all of the focus is currently on the CARES Act and the ongoing COVID-19 emergency. Because guidance is changing rapidly, Joey and the Committee have held off on sending information about CARES to the Membership, to avoid adding to the confusion. Adam added that with the day-to-day changes taking place, it does not make sense to send information out because there is too much noise surrounding the CARES Act.

**Lender Liaison: Ray Jones**

Ray explained there is not too much to report on; however, Lenders are having many conversations about student loan repayment and what options are or are not available to students. A group is working to get parity for relief and help of FFELP Loans and Direct Loans. What is causing an issue with FFELP is every lender is different; you are trying to satisfy the borrowers and the investors are looking to ensure they are getting a return on their investment. Ray also explained that the low/non-existent default rates are false and will spike again in a year or so.

Ray also reported that SCSLC and CHE are looking at updating the SAT/ACT requirement for the South Carolina Teacher Loan, as students are having difficulty getting test scores with the SAT and ACT summer tests being cancelled.

**Program (Conference): Shannon Jones, Chair; Zachary Christian, Vice-Chair**

Shannon not present.

Zach explained that there is nothing new to report for 2019-20, as the conference was a success. Zach reported that he and Traci had a meeting with the hotel in early March, and things were on track prior to the COVID-19 shutdowns. A survey will go out to the membership regarding the potential of changing the format to virtual, should things not be returned to normal by October.

**Site Selection: Elizabeth Milam, Chair; Jennifer Williams, Vice-Chair**

Elizabeth explained they are working on negotiations with a few locations; one room rate proposal was over \$200 a night; she also explained they are working to move the conference back to a 4-day/3-night conference with no weekend travel. Most of the hotels offered Monday-Thursday; some sent in Sunday-Wednesday. Elizabeth reported they are still working on making changes to the Fall 2021 Conference contract.

**Sponsorship: JW Kellam, Chair; Kim Chalmers, Vice-Chair**

JW not present.

Kim announced there is nothing new to report at this time.

**Involvement: Holly Gilliam, Chair; Samantha Hicks, Vice-Chair**

Holly announced the Volunteer Event will be going out to the Membership soon.

**Long-Range Planning: Michelle Jacobson**

Michelle not present; nothing new to report.

**New Business**

Samantha announced that Nikki Miller left Coastal in April and that Coastal wishes her well.

**Announcements and Closing Remarks**

Melanie announced that on Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, the Coffee and Conversation event will take place at 9AM.

The next board meeting (Transition) is scheduled for June 22, 2020. Additional information will be sent out closer to then.

Meeting adjourned at 10:36AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Zachary Christian  
2019-2020 SCASFAA Secretary