



Commitment



South Carolina Association
of
Student Financial Aid Administrators

2021-2022 Executive Board Meeting

DATE 1/27/2022

LOCATION SC Student Loan Corporation Columbia, SC

Present

Traci Singleton
Zach Christian
Carolyn Sparks
Ana Mountjoy

Missy Perry
Holly Gilliam
Melanie Gillespie
Michelle Upchurch

Michelle Jacobson
Regina Haley Smith
Adam Ghiloni

Samantha Hicks (via Zoom)
Nicole Brownlow (via Zoom)

Meeting

President Sparks called the 2021-22 Executive Board Meeting to order at 9:08 AM. A quorum was established.

President Sparks turned the floor over Adam Ghiloni. He started by going over the purpose of the State Legislative and Advocacy Consensus Building Workshop.

- The board members broke up into groups to discuss ideas.
- Each group presented ideas. The ideas were put on a board and sorted into likeminded ideas.
- Ideas were prioritized by the board members.
- Adam will take everything back to the Legislative Committee to discuss and put together a presentation.

Break for lunch 11:55 AM.

Reconvened at 12:42 PM.

Action Item: Approval of Agenda with authority given to the President to make changes as needed in order to facilitate the flow of business. All members in agreement to continue.

Action Item: Approval of non-standing committees.

There was no old business to report.

Report of Officers

President – Carolyn Sparks –SASF AA Update – the annual conference will be held February 20-23. As of Monday there are 24 SC attendees registered.

Past President – Traci Singleton reported that she had to adjust the dates for the timeline including the report for elections. The election ran December 14, 2021 – January 14, 2022. All Candidates were notified on January 18, 2022, of the results. The Executive Board and SCASF AA members were notified on January 19, 2022. Results are as follows:

President-Elect	Zachary Christian, SC Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission
Vice President	Adam Ghiloni, Tri County Technical College
Secretary	Danielle Rymer, University of South Carolina
Treasurer-Elect	Michelle Upchurch, Limestone University
Member-At-Large	Jernitha Smith, University of South Carolina

Action Item: Traci – I move that the board accept the election results. Missy 2nd.

Vice President/ Professional Development – Samantha Hicks – Reported that two NASFAA-U credential pre-conference workshops. She is enjoying the book club; they have had three sessions. There will be one more for the current book. She will be sending out an invite for the spring book soon. New/Intermediate Aid Workshop coming up in March and the Leadership Symposium will be in May. On webinar has been hosted in December on Commitment. Would like to have another before the end of the year on a financial aid topic.

President Elect/Special Projects – Missy Perry reported she will be attending the NASFAA Leadership Symposium in March. She is currently working on setting dates for the Transition Board Meeting.

Secretary/ By Laws – Michelle Upchurch –

Action Item: Approval of the board meeting minutes. Elizabeth so moved, all approved.

Treasurer/ Budget –Michelle Jacobson – Budget and Financials were sent out for everyone’s review. There were no questions about budget or financials for Michelle. All expenses for the conference have been paid.

Treasurer/Elect - Regina Hailey Smith - Reported she feels like a debt collector! She is working on collecting past due membership and conference fees.

Member At Large – Holly Gilliam – Reported that we have 364 active members. There was a 30 person increase since the last meeting. She will continue to reach out to schools that are not active in SCASFAA and those that have a low membership rate.

Committee Reports

Communications – Ana Mountjoy – Reported that she sent an email to the membership this week asking for information to include in the Palmetto Pages. She is open for any ideas on content. Holly suggested that she would like to do an introduction for a few new members.

Financial Awareness – Danielle Rymer – not in attendance – see attached report.

Loan Agency Liaison (Business Partners) – Shannon Jones – see attached report.

Electronic Services – Zach Christian – Reported that the website is good. There has been a lot of turn over in the state right now, with a lot of job postings. He stated he would like to get out that the List Serve is more than just a Job Search. Currently that is all it is being used for. He would like to see more widespread use of it. He will send something out to the membership. He is working on getting together a resource for how to do everything in Wild Apricot. We now have a 4th projector. SCASFAA is also still in possession of a Chrome Book.

Financial Planning – Elizabeth Milam reported – the Financial Review has been submitted. She reported we are in good shape. Edward Jones is doing a good job with our investments.

Legislative Relations – Adam Ghiloni – handed out P&P changes for the Legislative Relations and Advisory to CHE.

Action Item: Presentation of recommended P&P updates. Adam set in motion for approval all approved. Adam will send an electronic copy to Michelle Upchurch to update the P&P and to Carolyn.

Conference – Melanie Gillespie – Reported that we came in under budget on the conference - \$04,000 was budgeted, we came in at \$31,300. See the Conference Committee Report for Survey results. The Conference committee recommends that the board consider a hospitality suite that offers refreshments all day and close when the sessions close, that would be inclusive to the entire membership. As well as invite the entire membership to a “happy hour” with our sponsors from 4-6 on the day of the presidents choosing.

Site Selection – Jennifer Williams – not in attendance. See attached report.

Association Involvement and Leadership Force (Volunteer Committee) – Kyle Wade - not in attendance see attached report.

Sponsorship – Nicole Brownlow - Reported – All sponsors have paid conference fees. She is ready to start preparing for next year.

New Business

No new business.

Announcements and Closing Remarks

Zack reported that Earl is doing well and enjoying retirement.

Carolyn noted the next board meeting will be held via Zoom April 12.

Adjourned 2:13 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Upchurch
2020-2021 SCASFAA Secretary



Commitment



SCASFAA 2020-2021 Board Report

Date	01/20/2022
Committee	Business Partner Advisory
Committee Chair	Shannon Jones
Vice-Chair	Melanie Gillespie

Goals:

- To provide the business partners a voice to the SCASFAA Board
- To implement and vet ideas and suggestions to better the business partner experience
- To give the board an idea of what concerns the business partners may have and the struggles they have to engage

Accomplishments:

- Had a successful conference in the fall
- Vendors felt like they got their monies worth for the exposure that they had.
- Successful bingo activity to have attendees engage with vendors. (Another great production from Mrs. Gillespie!)

Submitted by: Shannon R. Jones



SCASFAA 2020-2021 Board Report

Date	January 2022
Committee	Financial Awareness Committee
Committee Chair	Danielle Rymer
Vice-Chair	

Committee Member	Institution
Kelly Savoie	Sallie Mae

Goals:

1. Develop and disseminate information concerning financial aid opportunities as well as financial planning to as wide an audience as possible through use of available media.
2. Coordinate with other Association committees to ensure that all pertinent information, concerning their activities that affect the public, is made available through appropriate media.
3. Recommend to the President and Executive Board means for enhancing the availability of financial aid information to consumers.
4. Actively solicit involvement by members of the financial aid community.
5. Develop specific annual objectives to be undertaken by the committee.
6. Upon completion of his/her term in office, the committee chairperson shall forward one set of all appropriate records and material to the incoming chairperson and one set to the Secretary of the Association for addition to the Association Archives.
7. Complete the duties as assigned in the Long-Range Plan.

Accomplishments:

June 2021 During the transition meeting, it was decided to change the name of the Consumer Relations Committee to the Financial Awareness Committee.

June 15, 2021 Spoke with Kelly Savoie (Sallie Mae) by phone about the transition and plans for 2021-22

June 24, 2021 Suggested Conference session from Brian Sellier from Regions Bank would be available to present a session on retirement. The overview of the session follows: Saving for Retirement Presentation –

Retirement may seem far in the distant future, or it may be creeping up on you. The sooner you prepare for it, the more prepared you will be. This seminar will teach you why it is important to save for the future, when you should start saving, and how much to save. Your life stage and personal financial situation will determine the best course of action for reaching your individual goals. We will cover expense management, debt elimination, and investment opportunities for a brighter financial future.

June 29, 2021 SCASFAA at the Watercooler, wonderfully facilitated by Kelly, which had just over 25 participants.

July 29, 2021 SCASFAA at the Watercooler, wonderfully facilitated by Kelly, which had just over 16 participants.

September 30, 2021 SCASFAA at the Watercooler, wonderfully facilitated by Kelly, which had just over 20 participants.

November 18, 2021 SCASFAA at the Watercooler, wonderfully facilitated by Kelly, which had just over 20 participants.

Submitted by: Danielle Rymer



SCASFAA 2021-2022 Board Report

Date	01/27/2022
Committee	Program/Conference Committee
Committee Chair	Melanie Gillespie, Tri-County Technical College
Vice-Chair	Sarah Dowd, Trident Technical College

Committee Member	Institution
Missy Perry, President-Elect	Piedmont Technical College
Elizabeth Milam	Clemson University
Zach Christian	SC Tuition Grants Commission
Nicole Brownlow	Trident Technical College
Michelle Jacobson, Treasurer	Tri-County Technical College
Carolyn Sparks, President	Wofford College
Gena Myles	SC Tuition Grants Commission
Diana O'Bryan	Bob Jones University
Kevin Perry	Coastal Carolina University
Sam Hicks	Coastal Carolina University
Holly Gilliam	University of South Carolina
Katie Harrison	SC Tuition Grants Commission
Regina Hailey-Smith, Treasurer Elect	TRiO

We made a comeback to face to face for our conference! While we internally celebrated that it did come with known hurdles. More specifically, by no choice of our own, we had to have virtual offerings due to COVID and the surge we saw in the fall. We were keenly aware that this would not be something SCASFAA members would “favor” but also that we needed to push forward. After surveying the attendees, the following was determined:

- 53 attendees completed the survey, out of 128 (41% completion rate)
- 88% were satisfied
 - 49% Extremely satisfied
 - 30% Satisfied
 - 9 % somewhat satisfied
- 1 person was dissatisfied

General issues noted:

- Horrible federal trainer
- Virtual presentations
- Offerings not hearty enough
- More free time should be built in

General things liked:

- Excellent networking events
- Excellent food
 - Vegetarian choices actually cooked with meat
 - Water not available in each room
 - Water/Coffee breaks missed
- Best conference (noted it was missed)

Separate survey used for lender satisfaction:

- 9 out of 16 completed the survey (56% completion rate)
- 77% prefer pre-dinner drinks (4-6pm) over late night event
- 88% noted that the hospitality suite doesn't appear to be inclusive of the full membership
- 66% love the game we offer to drive folks to their booth
- Most commented that they didn't feel like they had a chance to "shine" in front of the membership. Overall 50% did feel well represented....but this number does not satisfy me as the committee chair.

This committee is recommending that the board consider a hospitality suite (of old days) that offered refreshments all day and closes when the sessions close, that would be inclusive of the entire membership. As well as invite the entire membership to a "happy hour" with our sponsors from 4-6pm on the day of the presidents choosing.

In addition, the conference came in under budget: The budget was \$40,000 and we spent \$31,369.

Submitted by: Melanie Gillespie



Commitment



SCASFAA 2020-2021 Board Report

Date	1/21/2022
Committee	Site Selection
Committee Chair	Jennifer Williams
Vice-Chair	

Committee Member	Institution
Elizabeth Milam	Clemson University

The Site Selection Committee has reached out to Melissa Pitzley with Helms Briscoe to request bids from hotels in the Myrtle Beach area for the Fall 2023 conference. We're specifically asking to include the Marina Inn and also have provided feedback that we were not happy with the Kingston experience in 2021. I expect to have a recommendation for the board at the next meeting.

Submitted by:

Jennifer Williams



Commitment



SCASFAA 2021-2022 Board Report

Date	1/20/2022
Committee	Volunteer
Committee Chair	Kyle Wade
Vice-Chair	

Committee Member	Institution
Darby Tippit	Spartanburg Methodist College

Goals:

- Increase involvement of members in the Association.
- Revamp the Volunteer Form, process, and timeline for recruiting and connecting volunteers and connecting them to Committee Chairs
- Increase Committee Chairs interest in having Volunteers to develop a funnel for future leadership and growth potential in the Association for all members

Accomplishments:

- Admittedly, I am off to a slower start than I had hoped. I have tried to connect Chairs with the Volunteers that are interested in their Committee, but it seems like the ones that are popular with the volunteers do not need additional people at this time. It seems there is a lot of down time with this Committee but I anticipate it will pick up now that the new Board has been elected and we push for volunteers to be involved as we go into spring.

Submitted by: Kyle Wade