

VASFAA Fall Business Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 22, 2014
Norwich University

Call to Order:

Greg Davis (Champlain), 9:40 am

Officer Reports:

President's Report – Greg Davis (Champlain)

VASFAA Meetings –

This fall is ½ day meeting, the spring meeting is planned to be a full-day and likely held at VTC.

Summer 2016 Conference

Woodstock Inn offered 2015 rate to VASFAA for 2016. There is no minimum but there would be an extra charge if the 100 room block isn't fully booked if we hold the conference on a Tuesday or Wednesday. No penalty if conference is Monday and Tuesday. UVM conflict on Monday, June 6th but if the move to Monday/Tuesday isn't permanent, they are on board. Greg to move forward with June 6 and 7, 2016 with Woodstock Inn.

EASF AA Executive Council

To meet first week of November. EASF AA President hopefully to come to VASF AA spring meeting to discuss how financial aid associations are evolving.

EASF AA training offered on "Need Analysis".

EASF AA would provide the presenter, VASF AA would need to provide the location and snacks. Training would be free for EASF AA members. VASF AA might help cover non-EASF AA members. Training would be a full day. Training would be geared toward seasoned and new professionals. Interest was expressed from several colleges. Greg will try to find a date mid-week and not during heart of winter.

Spring Elections

Reminder that there will be elections in spring 2015 for VASF AA treasurer-elect (3 yr term) and secretary (2 yr term). Announcement of positions in February, election in March, announcement of results in April, term to begin at VASF AA conference in June.

Insurance – Discussion about increasing need for VASF AA to have group insurance for meetings/trainings (event insurance). Sense is that price might be in \$500 range per year (as no alcohol is served at meetings). Greg believes that EASF AA is covered at about \$1000 a year.

Secretary's Report- Mike Griffith (CCV)

Mike briefly read minutes from VASF AA summer meeting at conference.

Motion to approve: Matt DeSorgher, (St. Mike's)

Second: Cathy McCullough (VTC)

Abstained: Marie Johnson (UVM)

Motion Passed

Treasurer's Report – Marcia Corey (VSAC)

Reported receiving dues from 17 schools with 10 schools missing.

Received dues from 5 member organizations with 6 others missing.

Received \$5390 in dues thus far. Income and expense report for period of 6/9/14 to 10/21/14 was presented. Checking account activity was also presented. Conference income and expense report presented from 12/26/13 to 10/21/14. Current balances are: \$18,200 checking at Citizens Bank and \$26,300 Money Market.

Treasurer's Report Discussion

Matt D. (St. Mike's) commented on annual interest of \$15 on VASFAA accounts and asked if thought has been given to investing.

Greg Davis – It has been discussed, which led to some funds in money market. Association needs to discuss future goals, might we need funds for an event or project?

Marie Johnson (UVM) – Possibly move ½ the funds into something with more income potential? Or VASFAA could spend more on trainings?

Matt D. (St. Mike's) – How about scholarships for Vermont students?

Kristi J (Champlain) – Discuss that EASFAA has large reserve and recommended VASFAA preserve funds for future and to be careful about investment strategy or spending.

Greg Davis - VASFAA to look at investment options for a portion. Felt that if VASFAA went a bit over budget on an event or a great speaker, that might be ok.

Motion to approve report: Marie Johnson, UVM

Second: Kathy O'Meara, Castleton

Motion passed

Annual Budget Draft – Marcia Corey (VSAC)

VASFAA budget was presented for discussion for 2014-2015 academic year. Budget proposed was put next to expenses for each expense category for past 2 years. Clarification on \$43 misc. charge was for Treasurer software and the "travel" expense of \$311 was committee visiting potential conference sites. Discussion that conference has made a bit of money the past few years. VASFAA income exceeded expenses but a little over \$3000 in 2013 and 2014. Something new is proposal of funds for committees. Possibly more funds for scholarships. Utilities cost listed in budget is thought to be website cost (approx.\$300).

Greg Davis – reason for budget is to show VASFAA is making a bit and we can adjust expenses if need be. Reminded folks of VASFAA scholarships for EASFAA, VASFAA and FSA conferences.

Matt D (St. Mike's): Will conference be pricier at The Essex?

Greg Davis: Possibly

Marcia Corey (VSAC): Options could be for VASFAA to sponsor the conference dinner, or reduce cost of conference or a pricier speaker.

Deborah Lessor (VSAC) – spending some funds to make conference more engaging and fun may make more folks attend the conference

Martin Daniels (Norwich)- Recommended the event insurance be put in the budget

Kristi J – (Champlain) – Might want to allocate funds for VASFAA President to attend NASFAA, EASFAA, etc, in case their college isn't able to send them.

Deborah Lessor (VSAC) – Asked Greg if there was a need for a President's budget for tasks or networking

Greg Davis – Hasn't been a problem

Marie Johnson (UVM) – For trust, recommends that President propose an activity to executive committee or membership if needs funds. May want to avoid a budget line item for President without a specific purpose in mind. Could VASFAA cover conference registration fees for presenters? Kristi J (Champlain) recommended making conference waiver optional to presenters. Deborah Lessor (VSAC) will look at numbers of presenters to get an estimate to the cost of the registration fee waivers.

Much discussion on idea of a VASFAA student scholarship that could possibly be administered by VSAC. Would it give VASFAA more exposure? Would VASFAA want to administer the scholarship and have the recipient present at a conference? Is a student scholarship helping fulfill the VASFAA mission of helping Aid Professionals? Would VASFAA want to do a scholarship that they can't commit to funding every year? Should VASFAA do scholarships for members? No consensus reached.

Committee Reports

Conference committee, Deborah Lessor (VSAC)

2015 VASFAA conference to be held at The Essex on June 9th and 10th

The committee is doing conference calls to plan and will do a face to face meeting to discuss sessions and keynotes. There may be more general sessions and less break-out sessions. Committee excited about The Essex connection with NECI for food. There is possibility of food activity as well use of pool, exercise room, yoga, fire pit for s'mores. Please let Deborah Lessor (VSAC) know if you have any session ideas.

BREAK – 10:50 am

Government Relations – Matt D (UVM)

VASFAA trying to increase connection with State representatives such as Sanders' Office. It would be great to invite a representative to our meetings.

Matt wrote letter to introduce VASFAA to Congressman/Senator. Discussion that VSC, UVM and VSAC are plugged in to delegation but not VASFAA as much. Delegation may shy away from VASFAA if they need a quick response? Comment that we should probably send a similar letter to delegation each year. Should VASFAA have positions on issues? Discussion about a couple of issues VASFAA may be able to agree on are that Prior/Prior would be helpful and that origination fees on direct loans should be ended. Does VASFAA want to align positions with EASFAA/NASFAA? Concern that VASFAA voice might be lost if with align with regional/national organizations. Good for delegation to hear from more than 1 voice. Matt will send updates to letter to Greg Davis.

Training Committee – Joann Larson (Castleton)

Please email Joann with training ideas for spring meeting

Website Committee – Jill King (UVM)

We may want to use google analytics to see what folks are looking at on website

VASFAA may want to add member profiles

Post job openings at member schools

If you have any website updates, email Kim Meilleur (UVM)

Email Marie Johnson (UVM) for folks to take off VASFAA Listserv

Constitution and Bylaws Committee – Jill King (UVM)

Request to get group together to update VASFAA bylaws. Jill did draft, Greg Davis and Renee Blanchet (UVM) will assist.

Discussion Items

Kathleen Hewes wrote wonderful thank you note to VASFAA for funds allowing her to attend a conference.

Discussion about companies going after struggling borrowers. VSAC to create a template the schools could use to warn students of scams and that consolidation is free.

Training – Joann Larson (Castleton)

Discussion about how schools communicate to students about exit counseling. Several send paper letters with NSLDS info, others send mailed letter only as exit counseling pulls up their NSLDS info, others thinking about just sending an email to students non-college email address.

Kathy O’Meara brought up the FSA Pin switching to FSA ID #. Unclear when the switch will happen but sense is late spring/summer. The changeover will be a hard cut off date. Dept. of Ed envisions the change to be “seamless”.

Motion to close meeting: Marie Johnson (UVM)

Second: Marcia Corey (VSAC)

Motion passed.

Meeting ended at 12:10 pm

Members in attendance:

Kristi Jovell, Champlain College

Ryan Loucy, Champlain College

Baine Trombley, Champlain College

Greg Davis, Champlain College

Lisa Cummings, Johnson State

Mike Griffith, CCV

Cathy McCullough, VTC

Kathy O’Meara, Castleton

Joann Larson, Castleton

Marcia Corey, VSAC

Maria Calamia, CCV

Jill King, UVM

Matt DeSorgher, St. Michael’s College

Sue Hackney, NECI

Marie Johnson, UVM

Sarah Harris, Norwich

Jodi Sibley, Norwich

Martin Daniels, Norwich

Renee Blanchet, UVM

Ryan Gates, VSAC

Deborah Lessor, VSAC