

DECEMBER 1977

PASFAA NEWSLETTER

SOMETHING NEW?

The following article appeared in the EASFAA newsletter. Jean Fazio traced the origins, and the regulation comes from the old NDSL manual, page 51, section 20303. It seems that the old National Defense Student loans considered aid officers to fit into the category of "Remedial and Special Institute Staff".

Aid Officers Receive Forgiveness!

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus, or at least an Uncle Sugar. Several financial aid officers are now receiving the 10% a year cancellation of their National Defense Loans for "assisting students concerning scholarships, loans, and jobs" on a full-time basis.

The decision to classify aid officers as "teachers in an institution of higher education" appears to have turned on separating their instructional and counseling functions from either administrative or research ones. In the future, the determining factor may be whether the counselor appears on the instructional or administrative payroll of the institution.

CONSUMER INFORMATION

Final Regulations were published in the December 1 Federal Register covering the kinds of consumer information that colleges must provide to students.

Main concerns:

Any administrative allowance for the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, National Direct Student Loan, College Work-Study, and Guaranteed Student Loan programs must be used first for student consumer information services. Left-over funds must be used to administer the aid programs.

Institutions must provide information about available financial assistance--including all Title IV programs as well as their own and state programs--to prospective and enrolled students upon request. Application forms and instructions for filling them out will be part of the service.

Information also must be provided on the cost of attendance, refund policy, student eligibility, and the criteria used by an institution to select financial-aid recipients and determine award amounts.

Institutions must prepare for distribution a statement of the rights and responsibilities of students receiving Title IV grants and loans, descriptions of academic programs, and figures showing the percentage of students having completed a particular course of study if the figures are available.

Each college or vocational school must have an employee or group of employees available on a full-time basis to assist all students in obtaining information. However, this requirement may be waived for an institution too small to need such a full-time employee.

ORGANIZATION OF REGIONAL OFFICES

In the November 30 Federal Register there was a statement of organization, functions and delegation of authority for our Regional Offices of the Bureau of Student Financial Assistance.

The model organization consists of four primary divisions: Certification and Program Review, Claims and Collections, Training and Dissemination, and Compliance. A brief description follows as it appeared in the Register.

Division of Certification and Program Review

Conducts program reviews of postsecondary educational institutions and lender agencies and institutions participating in student assistance programs, to ascertain compliance with program regulations and effectiveness of program administration; recommends certification of institutions based on conformance to established fiscal and program standards; conducts workshops and reviews and processes annual applications from institutions to participate in grants work, and loan programs; recommends limitation, suspension, or termination of institutions or programs based on review findings.

Division of Claims and Collections

Establishes controls over and reviews claims filed by lending institutions for payment of defaulted loans under the Guaranteed Student Loan Program; approves insured claims for payments; contacts borrowers who have defaulted on loan payments and attempts collections; reviews and approves requests for forbearance of payments based on hardships or extenuating circumstances; provides preclaims assistance as requested by lending institutions; and monitors contracts with private organizations for loan collections. Provides data management support for automated systems; maintains control on claims and collections files and, as necessary, provides mail receipt and other information support to the Office.

Division of Training and Dissemination

Determines need for, and provides for training of, institutional student financial aid officers and regional staff; disseminates program information to institutions, students, and the general public, on student assistance programs. Arranges for Federal participation in workshops and conferences for institutional financial aid officers; attends professional organization meetings to disseminate technical information on student assistance programs; participates in other public meetings to provide general program information to students, parents, and other interested parties; prepares responses to inquiries from institutions, the general public, and members of Congress, on student assistance programs.

Division of Compliance

Conducts investigative and compliance reviews of problem schools to determine alleged or possible fraud and abuse; prepares documentation in support of cases which may be referred to the Inspector General and/or Department of Justice for criminal and civil action; recommends limitation, suspension, or termination actions based on investigative findings; maintains liaison with regional representatives of the Inspector General, General Counsel, Department of Justice, and other law enforcement or regulatory agencies.

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS

Your Executive Council for 1977-78.

President

Mr. Edward K. McCormick, Director of Financial Aid
Susquehanna University

President Elect

Mrs. Renee Saleh, Director of Financial and Student Aids
Lehigh County Community College

Vice-President

Mr. Hervey S. Schlesinger, Assistant Director, Financial Aid
Temple University

Secretary-Treasurer

Mrs. Lucretia K. Hill (Lucky), Coordinator of Financial Aid
Keystone Junior College

Corresponding Secretary

Ms. Cathy R. George, Director of Financial Aid
Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science

Past President

Mr. Eugene R. Mariani, Director Financial Aid
Duquesne University

Council PersonsProprietary

Mr. Cosimo A. Cardinale (Jim), Assistant Financial Aid Director
Duff's Business Institute

Private

Mr. Salvatore Ciolino (1978 Conference Chairman), Director of
Financial Aid
Gettysburg College

State Owned

Mr. Jack D. Ferrara, Director of Financial Aid
East Stroudsburg State College

State Related

Mr. Nicholas A. Flocco, Director, Financial Aid
Temple University

Community Colleges

Mr. Arthur J. James, Financial Aid Officer
Harrisburg Area Community College

Nursing

Mrs. Alice W. Johnson, Chairman, Admissions & Financial Aid Officer
Shadyside Hospital School of Nursing

2-Year Private

Sister Kathleen Smith, Director of Financial Aid
Mount Aloysius Junior College

State Trainer

Ms. Deborah J. Dwyer, Director of Financial Aid
Muhlenberg College

Conference Chairman

Mr. Salvatore Ciolino
(see above)

The first meeting of the Executive Council was held in Harrisburg on October 31, 1977. The following items are from the minutes of that meeting.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as submitted. The Treasurer indicated that Conference bills amounting to \$2,991.00 have not yet been submitted for payment. Mrs. Hill also stated that a check for \$200.00 was expected from AFSA (Academic Financial Services Association). This amount represents a contribution to PASFAA in lieu of a hospitality party by AFSA. A thank you note will be sent to AFSA.

The President welcomed the Council members, and each introduced him or herself. Mr. McCormick stated his three major areas of concentration:

1. The 1978 Annual Conference
2. State Training Program
3. Newsletter

He then requested approval of his selections for Conference Coordinator, Sal Ciolino, and State Trainer, Debbie Dwyer.

Legislative Committee - Herm Schlesinger

The Legislative Committee will try to incorporate the changes to the certification proposal as suggested at the Annual Meeting. The revision will be presented to the Executive Committee for comment and recommendations. Council members are asked to take the draft back to their groups and let the Liaison Committee know their feelings. The Liaison Committee's attitude is that it will not work hard to sell certification. This is not its mission. The question is for the constituency to decide. Generally speaking, people like the idea of certification, the question is the why and how to meet the needs of the members. One critical area appears to be the levels of certification rather than education.

PHEAA personnel joined the council for lunch. From the informal discussion with them, the following items were announced.

1. The Financial Aid brochure sponsored by PHEAA and PASFAA has been prepared and will soon be distributed.
2. PHEAA/BEOG forms will be distributed to financial aid officers and high school guidance counselors after December 1.
3. Other states are looking toward Pennsylvania to see how PHEAA makes out with Multiple Data Entry. Pennsylvania has gone one step further in providing need analysis for state institutions. New Jersey, Illinois, and Kentucky may follow PHEAA's lead.
4. Applications will be mailed to students between December 1 and December 15 in zip code order.
5. There is not now a practicing aid officer on the PHEAA Board. Mrs. Generett's term expired in July, 1977. The Governor did not reappoint. The present appointment expires in six years. The next vacancy will occur in two years.

There are 16 six-year legislative appointments and three six-year appointments designated by the Governor. The present incumbents are:

Dr. Wachman, University President
Mr. Wickert, Bank President
Dr. McKenzie

Nominating Committee

Gene Mariani was chosen as Nominations Chairman. He may select his committee.

PASFAA Conference 78

Sal Ciolino will visit possible conference sites today. The conference will begin Sunday afternoon and end on Wednesday. Extending it by one day will enable him to present concurrent sessions for neophytes and experienced financial aid officers. The pre-conference workshop would also be included in this time period. He plans also to present panels dealing with LEEP, PHEAA, V.A. Programs and Welfare.

State Training

Mrs. Dwyer reported on activities of the State Trainer. She has received positive comments on the one and one-eighth day pre-conference workshop. Thirty-one attended. Other remarks:

1. There is a need for a separate three-day training workshop.
2. Training should be broken down into a two-day needs analysis session in December or January. Another two days during the summer followed by a one-day update in March or April.
3. Divide State in to nine regions -- the agenda for training, by date, to appear in Newsletter. Regionalization would provide visibility and continuity.

New Business

The Application for Federal Funds included ten percent for job location and development. See Federal Register of September 28, 1977, page 511 of handbook.

REPORT FROM ART JAMES on the Community College Financial Aid Administrators Workshop

The Association of Community College Aid Administrators held its semi-annual meeting at Northampton County Area Community College on November 30 and December 1. Twenty-three people from twelve community colleges attended. Topics such as processing changes, welfare problems and academic progress were discussed. Gary Smith from PHEAA, Dan Shaeffer of ACT, and Ed Carine of CSS participated in the discussions.

The next meeting will be held in the Spring in the Pittsburgh area.

PARTICIPATION

The following questions were submitted by Herney Schlesinger. If you are interested, please complete the questions and return them to the PASFAA Corresponding Secretary.

Are you interested in participating in a PASFAA Committee?

What type of committee(s) would you like to participate on?

What type of committee(s) would you like to see PASFAA develop?

BITS AND PIECES

- . Congratulations to the former Alice Kleca who is now Alice Johnson.
- . PASFAA executive council meetings are open to all members; the next one is scheduled for late January, early February. Contact any council member for exact time and date.
- . The revised certification proposal is almost ready to be mailed to the membership. Proposed mailing date - mid January.
- . PHEAA will consider late applications for 77-78 state grants through December.
- . The 1978 PASFAA CONFERENCE will be held at the Host Inn in Harrisburg on October 1 - 4. Any suggestions for the conference should be mailed to Sal Ciolino at Gettysburg College.
- . The Financial Aid Community suffered a recent loss on the sudden death of Robert M. Moore, Director of Financial Aid at Elizabethtown College.
- . Any articles of interest, complaints or news should be mailed to your Corresponding Secretary. The next tentative publishing date is January 30 with a deadline for submissions of January 15, 1978.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Financial aid for students has grown even more rapidly than college costs in the past ten years. If we mark time within our state organization by means of the annual conference - Fall, 1977, 9th annual meeting - we are keeping pace at least in this decade with the remarkable growth of student financial aid. PASFAA has grown from a few people in the late sixties to an organization boasting membership well in excess of 200 individuals at present. It can be stated without fear of argument that the business of the aid office has multiplied geometrically during this period at a rate far exceeding even the rise in capital within the programs. With financial aid annually in excess of 4 billion dollars nationally the Pennsylvania scene is not small change. Neither is it small time.

To be about the business of PASFAA is to reflect the business of the aid community. We are a dissimilar group of individuals from varied backgrounds. Our occupational purposes are not necessarily similar. We accomplish our ends through a variety of means, some of which are bound to federal and state regulations that have an influence in creating elements of similarity.

The membership of PASFAA describes itself through a variety of titles. We define our roles with an even larger listing of accomplishments, e.g. counselor, administrator, educator, etc.

The purpose of this preamble is to state that PASFAA is not me or you, rather it is you and me and all of us. We are fiercely proud of our differences both philosophically, institutionally and personally. At the same time we struggle to unite and reach our ends through similarity. Can we be all of this at once without ending up being none of it at all? I think we can and must be "all of this" - at least "all of this". For it is written in that yet to be published story the strength and ultimate purpose of PASFAA a strength bred of sharing, comparing, learning, training and being.

As president of PASFAA I am on a course that includes limiting our activity to a set of workable goals. We must be first fundamentally strong before setting out on more external concerns. Membership, training, the annual conference and a quality newsletter are my priority items.

To date I am satisfied with the spirit of the Council as we set out on our mission. The first Executive Council meeting held October 31, was noteworthy for the fact that we could not accomplish the agenda within the working day. Some items will be carried over to the December 12 agenda. We will meet in the PHEAA Board Room beginning at 10:00 a.m. If you can please plan on joining with us for that session or any future Executive Council meeting.

With the Council's unanimous approval of my nominees for State Trainer and Conference Coordinator, Debby Dwyer and Sal Ciolino respectively, I feel confident that each will undertake to provide the best possible activity within their areas. Their efforts did not begin with their appointment. Each has been developing a program since early 1977. I know we will have the finest possible training program and conference.

Renee Saleh as President-Elect brings to the office experience and ability that cannot be asked to wait in the wings for a year. With Renee's consent and encouragement I am already utilizing her services on a presidential level. She presided at the afternoon session of the first Council meeting as a symbol of my belief in a partnership between the President and President-Elect.

Renee, Debby, Sal and I met prior to the Council meeting to coordinate in person the common elements of responsibility we share. On November 21, we will meet with Dr. Samuel Johnson of PHEAA to begin utilization of the \$42,000 State Student Financial Aid Training Grant secured by Dr. Johnson and Past President Gene Mariani.

Herm Schlesinger as Vice President wasted no time calling together his government liaison committee (November 1) in Harrisburg to be about the business of the committee in general and the certification mandate of the membership in particular.

PHEAA personnel including Mr. Reeher, Mr. Fabian, Mr. Smith, Dr. Johnson, Mr. Evans and Mr. McKelvey interacted with Council at appropriate times throughout the day. We are fortunate as a State Association to have an Agency of the calibre of PHEAA to share the responsibility of maintaining Pennsylvania's keystone position within the national financial aid picture.

We have begun our year at a rapid pace. I expect that pace will quicken as ideas begin to take form. We solicit your support. All of the members of Council stand ready to work with you. Please keep the lines of communication open and flowing with activity.

