

PASFAA

NEWSLETTER

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS

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PRESIDENT

W. Arthur Switzer
Villanova University
(215) 645-4010

PRESIDENT ELECT

Barry W. McCarty
Lafayette College
(215) 250-5055

VICE-PRESIDENT

Donald Raley
Dickinson College
(717) 245-1308

SECRETARY - TREASURER

Mary Andrews Miller
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
(412) 357-2218

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Sheila E. Angst
Albright College
(215) 921-2381

PAST PRESIDENT

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Harrisburg Area Community College
(717) 780-2330

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Public Two-Year

Richard F. McCracken
Community College of Philadelphia
(215) 751-8275

Private Two-Year

Lucretia K. Hill
Keystone Junior College
(717) 945-5141 ext. 280

Private Four-Year

Kaye Caplinger D'Angelo
LaSalle College
(215) 951-1070

State-Related

John F. Brugel
Pennsylvania State University
(814) 865-6301

State-Owned

William F. Behrendt
California University of Pennsylvania
(412) 938-4415

Proprietary

Rebecca I. Denova
School of Computer Technology
(412) 391-4197

Nursing

Leslie A. Dengler
Bryn Mawr Hospital School of Nursing
(215) 896-3065

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear PASFAA Member:

When you elected me to the office of President Elect last year, I looked forward with some trepidation to the day I would have to assume the Presidency. We have had a series of outstanding presidents who are a hard act to follow. However, it is a tribute to our system that having worked for a year under Art James, I really do feel prepared for the job.

I am grateful to the membership for the fine slate of officers you have given me. We met briefly at Seven Springs to maintain the continuity of activity for PASFAA in the coming year and more recently at the December Executive Council meeting. Please take an active part in the conduct of our Association by communicating with leadership regularly. By so doing you will assure that we carry on the business of PASFAA in a way that truly reflects the needs and desires of the membership.

Respectfully,

Art Switzer, President

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT !!!

As the newsletter was going to press, we learned that arrangements have been made for Dallas Martin of NASFAA and Jim Ream of PACU to participate in the PAATP Professional Development Seminars in February. Senior PHEAA officers will also participate. Aid officers and presidents of Pennsylvania institutions will receive further information in January about these workshops designed to bring these groups together and provide excellent discussion by panel members. One seminar is planned for the west and one for the east.

Watch for the PAATP announcement !

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL NOTES

Executive Council met December 4-5 at the Pocono Hershey Resort, White Haven. Various committee reports appear in this newsletter. Council is scheduled to meet for the 1983-84 year on February 6, April 2, June 4. Most meetings will be held at the PHEAA Board Room in Harrisburg. Any business which members wish to bring to council attention should be sent to President Art Switzer prior to these meeting dates.

UPDATE ON SATISFACTORY PROGRESS STANDARDS

Institutions can expect to receive a *Dear Colleague Letter* from ED which is expected to delay implementation of the Satisfactory Progress Standards until July 1, 1984. The October 6, 1983 regulations on Satisfactory Progress Standards required implementation by January 1, 1984.

Bea Rosenfeld, ED Region III, indicates that the *Dear Colleague Letter* is currently being revised but is expected to require that the standards be in place at institutions by January 1, 1984 but that they will not need to be implemented until the 1984-85 academic award year. The letter is also expected to provide more leeway in the way in which institutions measure the time frame increments.

CONFERENCE '83

The 1983 PASFAA Conference in Seven Springs was a huge success with a record number of PASFAA members, lenders, vendors and sponsors attending. The conference committee, speakers and the Seven Springs staff are to be congratulated for a very successful and enjoyable conference.

CONFERENCE '84

The 1984 PASFAA Conference will be held September 30 through October 3, 1984 at Pocono Hershey Resort, White Haven, PA. The Conference Committee is chaired by Catherine Kratzer of Northampton County Area Community College. Members are Kathleen Hetherington of Community College of Pennsylvania, Cynthia Lewis of Moravian College, Rachel Lohman of Wilkes College, Michael Schreier of Kutztown University of Pennsylvania. Also, Mary Andrews Miller of Indiana University of Pennsylvania who has been named Conference Chairman for 1985, will serve on the 1984 Conference Committee.

Input from members regarding the conference is welcomed. Please contact any member of the committee to share your suggestions.

The Pocono Hershey is adding a new \$6-million wing which is slated for completion in March 1984. Seventy-five new guest rooms are being added plus other features. So mark your calendar and plan to be with us at PASFAA '84!

MEMBERSHIP AND ELECTION COMMITTEE

Chairman Art James reported that PASFAA numbers 388 members with an increase in associate memberships over previous years. A mailing is scheduled to 1982-83 members who had not yet renewed their memberships.

Jack Ferrara of East Stroudsburg University is maintaining the PASFAA membership file again this year. Robert Prince, Director, Institutional Division of Financial Collection Agencies, has again generously agreed to publish the PASFAA membership directory which should be mailed in January to all current members.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

PASFAA president-elect Barry McCarty serves as chairman of the Standing Committee for Professional Standards. Other committee members are the executive council members at large: Richard McCracken of the Community College of Philadelphia, Lucretia Hill of Keystone Junior College, Kaye Caplinger D'Angelo of LaSalle, John Brugel of Penn State, William Behrendt of California University of PA, Rebecca Denova of the School of Computer Technology, and Leslie Dengler of Bryn Mawr Hospital School of Nursing.

Since this committee is charged with responsibility to "adopt standards of good and ethical practice for the administration of financial aid", concerns about practices employed in Pennsylvania can be directed to any committee member for consideration at future meetings of the executive council when the committee is assembled.

The president-elect of PASFAA is also responsible for training activities administered by the Pennsylvania Aid Administrators Training Program (PAATP). PAATP has a comprehensive series of workshops scheduled for the period November 1983 through July 1984. After consideration of survey responses and needs identified by the financial aid community, the following meetings and workshops have been scheduled:

- 10 guidance counselor workshops held throughout the Commonwealth in November;
- 6 support staff workshops in November and December emphasizing counseling and interpersonal skills and program knowledge;
- 6 workshops for student loan officers including program information and PHEAA demonstration of services and equipment;
- 2 professional development seminars in February which will address the external role of the financial aid administrator;
- a new series of proprietary school workshops which will address program regulations and matters peculiar to this segment of the aid community;
- 6 workshops for financial aid officers focusing on the PHEAA Uniform Methodology system and equipment;
- 10 workshops in May for student loan officers and financial aid administrators focusing on the GSL program.

In July 1984 another 5-day summer institute will provide intensive training of new financial aid officers. More information will be provided periodically to expand upon the content of workshops, provide site information and registration procedures.

As the PAATP program planning committee prepares for the various workshops, all resumes submitted for consideration as faculty are considered. Although a comprehensive effort was made about one year ago to elicit candidates for PAATP faculty positions, we have not been able to utilize all interested parties. If any PASFAA members who did not submit resumes a year ago wish to be considered for faculty positions with future training efforts, please submit appropriate resume material to Barry McCarty, Director of Financial Aid, Lafayette College, Easton, PA 18042 as soon as possible.

Through this newsletter, the committee chairman would like to officially thank all those within the financial aid community in Pennsylvania who have served the PAATP effort through advisory committees, curriculum preparation, service as teaching faculty or as participants.

PUBLIC AND PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Executive Council at its December 5 meeting established an editorial board for the PASFAA newsletter to assist chairperson Sheila Angst. Councilpersons Richard McCracken, Kaye Caplinger D'Angelo, and William Behrendt will serve as members. The editorial board will establish newsletter policies, review editorials and letters to the editor.

This issue of the newsletter contains an editorial of interest to aid officers on selective service registration compliance regulations. Comments and letters are welcome in response. Editorials for consideration in future issues should be sent to the editor. The newsletter will be published mid-month in February, April, June and August. Articles, letters, cartoons, position openings, and other items for submission must be received by the first of those publication months.



EDITORIAL

LET'S AT LEAST TRY TO STAMP OUT LUNACY IN OUR LIFETIME!

by Sheila Angst, Albright College

At first, we commented and argued about the Solomon Amendment which ruled that no student could receive Title IV funds unless he had proven that he had registered for selective service. Then we argued against the regulatory nightmare we foresaw to implement the law.

At this point, let's give them the law. Let's give it to them even though only a tiny percentage of those men who have not registered are likely to be on our campuses. And at this point, let's give them most of the regulations. Being law-abiding professionals we'll comply. But there has to be a point where we as sensible, reasonable people say "NO." And we have been pushed to that point. We should make our feelings known, and perhaps the only way to do it with any shred of hope for results this time is with ironic humor and satire to show how ludicrous some of the final regulations are.

Should students at an all female school have to complete a Selective Service Compliance document? Perhaps at a large co-ed institution we couldn't tell for sure if Dale, Carol and Marion are male or female, but the single sex institution should have no difficulty.

When a student voluntarily gives us a copy of his Selective Service Registration Acknowledgement Letter should we still require him to sign an SRC? After all, we have the real McCoy in our hands!

And perhaps the height of stupidity: should we ask a female if she is a female *each year*? Or if someone born before 1960 *still* was born before 1960 a year later? Or if someone who has told us he has registered is *still* registered?

Maybe we have to point out to the congress and to the department and to whomever will listen to reason about these unreasonable regulations that we will follow most of the laws and regulations quietly and accurately, but that we have to draw the line at behaving like sheep. We should let them know we are tired of blindly following ridiculous regulations especially when we have such perfect examples to wave in front of them. Perhaps we need to fight this with the same lunacy it portrays.

Should we offer to start doing selective service physicals in our offices? After all, someone may have undergone a sex-change operation since last signing an SRC. And someone may only be claiming to be female? Doesn't that require checking? Shouldn't we start requiring birth certificates to be sure someone was really born before 1960?

While both the NPRM and final regs included a requirement that the student file an SRC *each year*, the NPRM went to great length to assure reduction in "future administrative burden."

It indicated that "once that document was part of those student's records, the number of students certifying that they were registered for whom documentation would have to be received in subsequent award years would be drastically reduced...It would only consist

of those students certifying that they were registered who were previously enrolled at the institution but were not Title IV recipients or were not then required to register, such as those who were not yet 18 years old".

When the final regulations were published, there were radical changes requiring an SRC each year even if the institution has on file a registration compliance letter. And then they have the nerve to quote the Regulatory Flexibility Act and the Assessment of Educational Impact claiming no administrative burden to colleges and universities!

NASFAA reports that several discussions with the department seem to have had no impact in changing these regulations. ED feels they have the proper way to implement the law. NASFAA therefore urges that any attempt we might make to change regulations not be directed to the specific issues of registration or registration compliance for receipt of Title IV funds since that is a losing battle. Instead our argument should be against these few specific inane regulations, and perhaps a satiric approach as proposed here would have an effect.

Let's finally take some action on an issue we can sink our teeth into. This is not a complicated issue as are some on which we are asked to comment. This one seems clearcut and easy to determine your stand. Let's stamp out lunacy in our lifetime and fight this one! Let's do it with humor and satire to point out the ridiculous nature of some of these regulations. Let's get our staffs, our secretaries, our presidents, and yes, even our students to write letters to the department and to our congressmen. Someone like Sen. Proxmire known for pointing fingers at governmental dumbness should enjoy this one. The law didn't mean to require us to handle such ridiculous regulations -- only to prevent those not registered from receiving funds. They trust us with the stewardship of millions of dollars in student aid; can't we convince them to trust us to verify who must register, who has already told us they have registered or are not required to do so?

Our main fear in this matter should be the lesson we would transmit to students. Don't we work very hard in our institutions of higher education to teach them to affect change through the system? If we blindly follow them each year aren't we being hypocritical and antithetical to the educational system we represent? If we don't wholeheartedly oppose this seemingly small financial aid matter, will our voices have any power in the larger matters on the horizon? If we don't oppose these dumb regulations and comply without question, then Orwell's frightening 1984 is not just a few days away on our calendars. It's here!

POSITION AVAILABLE

Corporate Financial Aid Officer needed. Qualifications:

2 yrs. experience with Financial Aid Programs: Pell, VA, GSL.

Supervisory experience necessary.

Limited travel necessary.

Full company paid benefits.

Responsibilities:

Responsible for supervision of functions within financial aid office including office personnel.

Administer student aid programs.

Establish contact with lending institutions and guarantee agencies in marketing areas.

Send resume to:

Personnel Manager
MTA School
1801 Oberlin Road
Middletown, PA 17057

THE LIGHTER SIDE

PASFAA members are encouraged to submit financial aid related cartoons for this column.



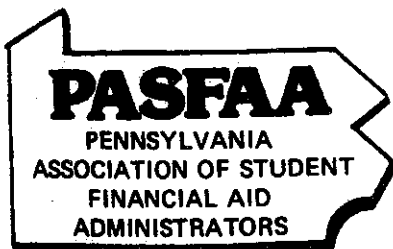
"My net worth happens to be none of your business!"

Drawing by Chon Day; © 1983 The New Yorker Magazine, Inc.

TIDBITS

- ★ Effective October 1, 1984 the IRS will charge \$5.00 for copies of filed tax returns. Aid directors are encouraged to remind students and parents to always keep copies of the returns they mail to the IRS.
- ★ ED has decided not to issue the final audit guide which was drafted earlier in 1983, according to NACUBO December 1983 *Business Officer*. Institutions may still use the draft audit guide for their 1982-83 student aid audits. Instead of developing its own audit guide, ED is working on program compliance sections to be included in a single federal audit guide expected to be available for the 1983-84 award year audit.
- ★ Sallie Mae's authority to consolidate student loans expired on November 1, 1983. NASFAA does not expect that further action will be taken on the controversial loan consolidation issue until Congress works on re-authorization of the Higher Education Act.
- ★ The new FISAP application is currently being reviewed and few changes are expected in the format. ED plans to hold FISAP workshops the first week in October 1984 with plans to mail the applications earlier than previously.
- ★ PASFAA members are reminded of the agreement between PASFAA and the PA Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation which provides for uniform coordination of student financial aid and BVR funding. The PA Vocational Rehabilitation Agency for the Blind is currently seeking a similar agreement with PASFAA. Art James is working on the draft of this agreement.

The PASFAA Newsletter is a bi-monthly publication of the Pennsylvania Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. Contributions, questions or comments may be addressed to Sheila Angst, Albright College, P.O. Box 516, Reading, PA 19603.



P.O. Box 516
Reading, PA 19603