

Committee: Government Relations

Commissioner/Board Position: Paula Rafferty, Rep-at-Large Organizational Services
Year (e.g., 2005-06): 2008-09

Committee Members:

Laurie Schiavone, Tri-chair, Virginia Community College System

Pam Freund, Tri-chair, Aviation Institute of Maintenance/Centura College

Barry Simmons, Tri-chair, Virginia Tech

Standard Stated Goal 1: Initiate, foster and maintain relationships with the Virginia legislative staff, State Council of Higher Education (SCHEV) and other parties with vested interests in the administration of student financial aid.

Objective 1 (HOW the committee plans to achieve the stated goal): *Involve the SCHEV contact to VASFAA in Government Relation Committee meetings/discussions to discuss state and federal legislative issues relating to financial aid.*

Status Reports of Objective 1: (Please report your progress toward achieving the stated goals – this is where the committee provides updates to the Board, including any suggestions or modifications to the goal and/or the Strategic Plan): *Due to hardships for 2 out of three of the tri-chairs, the committee was not able to make progress toward this goal.*

Objective 2: (HOW the committee plans to achieve the stated goal):

Foster and maintain relationships with Virginia legislative staff.

Status Reports of Objective 2 (Please report your progress toward achieving the stated goals – this is where the committee provides updates to the Board, including any suggestions or modifications to the goal and/or the Strategic Plan): Date: June 24, 2008

Report: *The Government Relations Committee has discussed how to create opportunities for the Committee to interact with SCHEV. Laurie is a member of the Financial Aid Strategic Team which was created by SCHEV and meets/interacts*

with SCHEV regularly to discuss concerns and issues relevant to SCHEV and the VA colleges and universities. Laurie is also regularly involved in discussions with SCHEV regarding the new Transfer Grant Program as part of her role with the VCCS.

Standard Goal 2: Disseminate relevant federal and state financial aid legislative issues to VASFAA membership and other constituencies

Objective 1 (HOW the committee plans to achieve the stated goal):

Provide relevant and timely information to the VASFAA membership through the VASFAA listserv.

Status Reports of Objective 1 (Please report your progress toward achieving the stated goals – this is where the committee provides updates to the Board, including any suggestions or modifications to the goal and/or the Strategic Plan): Date: Ongoing

Report: *The committee has forwarded approximately 50 e-mails to the membership during the year with information regarding a wide range of issues affecting the membership and the industry. Information provided included: (1) articles regarding the presidential candidates views regarding higher education and financial aid; (2) the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA); (3) the Stimulus Bill, it's effect on the economy and higher ed; (3) links were provided so interested parties could monitor progress of bills during the State General Assembly; (4) the membership was asked to contact their state representatives to congress regarding the future of financial aid programs and most particularly FFELP.*

Budget:

Item (Broad general categories): Cost

The Government Relations Committee anticipates no cost incurred during the 2008-09 academic year.

Board Approved Amount: \$0

Date April 25, 2009