

Tri-State Federal Relations Committee

7/18/03 Meeting Minutes

Members present:

Bob Foultz, Kelly Foultz, Rich Heath,
Andrea Hunt, Beth McSweeney, Eric Miles, Amy Spinnato,
Ken Robinson, Ingrid Valentine, Cissy VanSickle,
Nancy-Pat Weaver, Holly Zaglaniczny

1. Goals for the year were discussed, highlighting the two visits to Capitol Hill in the fall and spring. Ingrid has formed a sub committee who will help her plan both visits and make recommendations to us regarding the final proposed expenditures. The Fall Visit will be a one-day event in mid September to follow up the visits we made last March. The Spring Hill Symposium will follow a similar format as the March Symposium but will also include offering 10 spots to Bill Irwin and the EASFAA Federal Relations Committee for their participation. Ingrid and her sub committee will try to get a date in mid September for the Fall Visit and will check the legislative agenda for a time in February or March for the Spring Hill Symposium.
2. Discussion took place regarding current committee assignments in relation to tracking “legislative issues”. Andrea “volunteered” to work with Dawn on the bills coming out of Congress. Those that have areas of interest will continue to target bills that address those topics and keep us updated as to their importance to our Tri-State members.
3. Holly gave us a brief update of the Re-Authorization process. We were encouraged to read through the NASFAA document that was posted last week that includes the legislative language. We need to be familiar with the issues so that we can communicate those issues to our supervisors and student bodies on our campuses as needed. The committee will follow the Return of Title IV Funds, Loan Consolidation and Loan Limits closely. Also the issue of “Accountability”, which Sharon is tracking and is an agenda item for the Congress, and “College Costs” which Cissy is following. While Pell and other issues will continue to be important to us, the possibility of seeing big changes appears distant at this point in the process. Cissy also noted that schools with Title VII need to keep watch on this, and Holly noted that NASFAA doesn’t generally track bills pertaining to Title VII, so it falls on the schools to track separately.
4. We will resume the monthly FRC “conference call” on August 11th at 9:00. These will continue on the 2nd Monday of each month using the same format as last year. Beth and Rich will send out a call agenda prior to the meeting so if anyone has something we need to discuss it can be added to the agenda and if it is an emergency brought up the morning of the call. We will finalize the calling information and send it to the FRC by the first of August.

5. Discussion re: use of a letter to inform supervisors (and copy for Presidents) so as to inform campuses of FRC activity resulted in agreement to formulate a template, along with a cover letter, that we can post on the website (Bob to check into this) for use by membership. The purpose of the letter was clarified with the committee, as we would use it to inform supervisors/Presidents of the activities of FRC and the member's involvement, as well as notification of a possible position so that supervisors/Presidents could be aware and make their positions known to FRC and the member(s).

6. A suggestion was made to make contacts with Student Associations to get them involved in self-advocacy on issues (and the pros and cons of this were also discussed).

7. Rich will conduct a session for the Neophyte Training in October and will send the presentation the FRC for their use on their own campuses as needed. He will also contact Roy regarding a session or two at the Fall Conference.

8. Our next meeting will be incorporated into the September Hill Visit and an additional meeting in late October.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth and Rich
Co-Chairs, Tri-State FRC