

FEDERAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Executive Meeting

2/2/04

- 1) Spring 2004 Symposium – Plans are firming-up for the 2-day symposium in Washington, D.C. on February 18-19, 2004, at the same location as last year. (We anticipate that things will be gearing up, reauthorization-wise, around February or so, and the symposium will be addressing issues pertaining to this always-evolving topic). Ingrid Valentine has, once again, taken the lead in planning the Symposium. This year, we have invited members from other sectors within the EASFAA membership (outside of TriState) so that they may also learn more about advocacy and in meetings with our legislative representatives in the House and Senate. Talking points are being developed, as things progress in Congress pertaining to reauthorization but will include focus on the Pell Program.
- 2) Research is being done to develop “student stories” to relate to our legislative representatives. We want to provide Congress with ways in “real-life” that students are affected by the availability of financial aid, or by not being able to access financial aid resources to help them to complete their education.
- 3) TriState forwarded a letter, authored by Rachel Brinkley (formerly of UMBC), to NASFAA regarding the impact that Verification and the IRS match will have on students and on financial aid offices. The issue centers around the use of IRS prior year information, but the requirement by Ed to use prior-prior year information when verifying student income information, as well as the way that it will be “flagged” as a mismatch without noting what the mismatch actually is.
- 4) Re-Authorization was looking like it would happen in November, but there is some concern that Congress may speed things up and try to get things passed through by April. We are keeping an eye on this, and keeping touch with NASFAA so that we will be prepared to respond to issues as things proceed in the House and Senate.
- 5) (Attachments: Letter from Rachel Brinkley regarding IRS Data Match issues, and Report from Sarah Bauder regarding the impact of needs analysis formula on working students).

Respectfully submitted,

Beth McSweeney and Rich Heath
Co-Chairs, Federal Relations Committee