

## Resolution

### Discussion of the Possible Unification between NASPA and ACPA

Presented Tuesday, March 9, 2010, at the Annual Business Meeting of the Association in Chicago, Illinois

Whereas, the current discussion about a possible consolidation is important to the future of NASPA; and

Whereas, any discussion of a possible unification must take into consideration the tremendous historical legacy from which current association members and leaders benefit; and

Whereas, the current discussion about a possible unification has enormous programmatic, business, and financial implications for NASPA; and

Whereas, the final report titled, "Envisioning the Future of Student Affairs" that was written by the NASPA/ACPA Task Force on the Future of Student Affairs, while thoughtful and offering views about association organizational issues, it only just beginning to be circulated to the members for their review and consideration; and

Whereas, many NASPA members on either side of the issue are feeling rushed to make a decision without sufficient information; and

Whereas, most members and leaders of campus student affairs programs would not consider such a unification on our campuses without careful, thoughtful, rigorous, and open discussion and debate; and

Whereas, NASPA has been an organization that changes and adapts to the professional needs of its members and the colleges and universities it serves; and

Whereas, many NASPA members do not have enough information about why an association at its peak in terms of programs, publications, members, institutional members, and financial strength, in a very tough economic environment, would consider giving up its identity and traditions to consolidate with another association and create an entirely new entity; and

Whereas, there will not be sufficient time for the members of the Board of Directors and the association to consider the reports of the eight committees considering issues important to any discussion of unification and develop a clear and compelling vision for a possible new association for the voting members to consider; and

Whereas, these committees are focused on: Governance, Bylaws, and Structure; Social Identities Groups (currently Knowledge Communities/Standing Committees); Functional Areas (currently KC/Commissions/Divisions); Members Structure; Conferences/Conventions; Geographical Organization; Placement Services; and Publications/Scholarship); and

Whereas, rushing a vote about unification may cause a major rift in NASPA between members and colleagues in the association that can possibly be avoided with more time to talk through the important issues before us;

Therefore be it resolved:

That the NASPA Board of Directors strongly consider postponing taking a vote in its July 2010 meeting on whether or not to ask the voting members of NASPA to vote on a possible unification with ACPA until after the national conference in Philadelphia in March 2011 to allow for discussions of any proposed new organizational structure, programs, and business plans at regional meetings, special forums, and the next national conference of the association;

Further be it resolved,

That the NASPA Board of Directors hire a separate attorney to represent its interests, independent from ACPA;

And that further it be resolved,

That any consideration of possible unification be done after a full financial due diligence study that can be presented to the members as to the relative financial and business strength of the two associations.

Respectfully submitted by,

Michael Jackson, NASPA President, 2002-2003  
Vice President for Student Affairs, University of Southern California

Shannon Ellis, NASPA President, 2000-2001  
Vice President for Student Services, University of Nevada, Reno

Karen Pennington, NASPA President, 2003-2004  
Vice President for Student Affairs, Montclair State University

Theresa Powell, NASPA President, 2001-2002  
Vice President for Student Affairs, Temple University

James Rhatigan, NASPA President, 1975-1976  
Vice President for Student Affairs Emeritus, Wichita State University

Doris Ching, NASPA President, 1999-2000  
Vice President for Student Affairs, University of Hawaii System, Emeritus

Cynthia Forrest, Region I Vice President, 2001-2003  
Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, University of New England

Linda Kuk, Former Region II Vice President  
Associate Professor of Education, Colorado State University

Almeda Jacks, NASPA Foundation President, 2008-2010, Region III Vice President, 1995-1997  
Vice President for Student Affairs Emeritus, Clemson University

Brian Hemphill, Vice President for Student Affairs/Enrollment Management  
Northern Illinois University

Ainsley Carry, Vice President for Student Affairs  
Auburn University

Kent J. Smith, Vice President for Student Affairs  
Ohio University

Tony Ross, Vice President for Student Affairs  
California State University-Los Angeles

Ed Whipple, NASPA Foundation President, 2006-2008  
Vice President for Student Affairs, Bowling Green State University