



Mike Segawa, Past President
Report for the March 2011
NASPA Board of Directors Meeting

February 17, 2011

In a typical Past President year my responsibilities would have been focused on the evaluation of the Executive Director, election of a President-Elect and a Board of Directors evaluation. Those tasks were all completed in very successful ways and information on those responsibilities has been passed to Elizabeth for her soon-to-come Past President role. I could leave my last Board report with that short report but I just couldn't! It has been a privilege to serve the NASPA Board of Directors for almost 10 years and there are many colleagues to acknowledge, so please indulge me with this last of over two dozen Board report I file.

The immensely talented and fun Shannon Ellis appointed me the chair of the 2001 conference and I will be forever grateful for that opportunity, especially the chance to catch a flying salmon in front of thousands of people! Chairing Seattle enabled me to work with a group of colleagues that to this day still assemble at the national conference for committee reunions and has seen most of them go onto chairing their own conferences, serving on regional and national boards, receiving association awards, and earning professional advancement that place them in influential roles throughout the country. They are the epitome of my only two requirements for conference committee members: be competent and have fun!

I have always considered my home base to be Region V thanks in large part to Jeremy Stringer who first brought me into regional involvement many years ago. It is the community that has consistently nurtured and supported my association work. As Region V RVP I was able to serve three years on the Board and be involved in important national topics such as the registry/competencies, investment policies, initial consideration of our own office space, the growth of our national staff, evolving to Knowledge Communities, moving from MUFP to NUFP, creating The Placement Exchange with my other professional home ACUHO-I, and enhancing the presence of small colleges and community colleges in association governance. The list of Region V RVPs includes some of my closest colleagues and I am grateful to them for their unwavering support for over 25 years but especially Art Costantino, Barb Snyder, Penny Wills and Kari Ellingson.

My friend, Peg Blake, provided me with perhaps my most daunting role: chair the 2007 Joint ACPA/NASPA meeting in Orlando. But with President Barb Jones' unconditional support, Jill Carnaghi

and I were able to assemble an experienced and talented group of colleagues to plan and execute a very successful meeting. In the end, we were very proud of the product and have always joked that we had 10,000 of our closest colleagues together for a wonderful time! Plus we made a lot of money for both associations!

I had a year “off” from Board work after Orlando and did not sit on Jan Walbert’s Board but she got even! I became President-elect under her watch and have been extremely grateful for the opportunities to work side-by-side with such a high quality colleague. Together with Diana Doyle, my ice cream and shopping buddy, the three of us launched the process in NASPA to consider consolidation. Admittedly, there are those who probably curse us (!) and admittedly there have been days where we’ve been cursing ourselves! But I am proud to have been a part of a group of colleagues in both NASPA and ACPA who have finally brought this historical question to our membership.

As has been the case this year under Elizabeth Griego’s amazing leadership, in spite of consolidation dominating our association landscape, the Board during my presidential year was amazingly productive and conscientious in their work. The highlights included the Chicago conference and Live the Legacy Be the Movement (Lori White), creation of core competencies for our profession (Marilee Bresciani), the creation of a research agenda for the profession (Dave McKelfresh who has known me for 32 years!), the creation of the Journal for Student Affairs Research and Practice (Kathleen Manning) and the purchase of a beautiful office space for our first rate NASPA staff.

And speaking of the staff, I stand by my assertion that there is no finer association staff in higher education than NASPA’s. Under the leadership of Gwen Dungy, NASPA has never been stronger on any measurement scale we might use. Programs, staff, facilities and finances, and reputation are at the highest levels ever and that is due in large part to Gwen’s skills and dedication. She has surrounded herself with highly capable staff and I am especially grateful to Kevin Kruger, Stephanie Gordon and Arlene Kidwell for their professional and personal support of NASPA and me. The basket of chocolate, popcorn and root beer in my Chicago suite was especially appreciated!

It doesn’t seem right that I mention the most important people last but there it is! My colleagues at the University of Washington, Evergreen State College and now the University of Puget Sound have been my unsung heroes. Because they were so good at their jobs and so supportive of me, I was able to do the fun work of NASPA. And especially in the most recent years, I have been surrounded on a day-to-day basis with a president, cabinet colleagues, divisional leadership team, divisional staff and students that have allowed NASPA to use my time and energies over an extended period of time. Go Loggers!

Finally, my children now have some idea of what their father was up to during all those trips away from home. Chris and Kelsey kept their mother company during my absence and that made it easier to be away. But it was always good to come home to them and to Mary, the most supportive of partners and who, as a former practitioner, has never lost her love for our profession. And truth be told, Gwen likes Mary better than me!

I have been honored to serve NASPA and will cherish the relationships that have been nurtured because of this special association. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.