



**Rebecca Mills, Public Policy Division Chair**  
**Report for the 2012 Summer Board of Directors Meeting**  
**June 19, 2012**

**Discussion Items**

Proposed Public Policy Agenda  
Proposed Guiding Principles for the Public Policy Agenda  
Assumptions about National Conference Session(s) about Public Policy

**Action Items**

Approval of the Public Policy Agenda (sent under separate cover)  
Approval of the Guiding Principles for the Public Policy Agenda (sent under separate cover)

**NASPA GOALS & GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

1. Build the capacity to create knowledge and use data to provide evidence that will support excellence in practice.

The Public Policy Division Chair represents NASPA on the Higher Education Mental Health Alliance (HEMHA). This year, HEMHA members worked with the Jed Foundation to create a document focused on campus based teams designed to “identify and monitor students whose behaviors may be troubling. . . so that they can receive any needed referrals or other appropriate assistance and treatment.” NASPA is one of the sponsors of this document, and the public policy division chair participated in the planning and editing of the document. The resulting document will serve to provide evidence that will support excellence in practice.

Specifically, the publication, will, as stated in the introduction of the draft document, “help both existing and new teams make informed decisions about their structure, scope, functions, and day-to-day operations. This guide summarizes the existing literature on campus teams and suggests some of the key issues that should be considered when creating or managing a campus team. The guide may be particularly useful to new teams considering various options for how they should be organized and led, but should also be helpful to existing teams interested in assessing their current functions or changing their emphasis or operations in the future.”

2. Lead advocacy efforts that shape the changing landscape of higher education.

The Public Policy Division focused our efforts to build capacity among members so that they can help lead advocacy efforts in two primary ways: regional and national conference presentations and public policy articles for newsletters and Leadership Exchange. Specifically, as a division, we accomplished the following:

- Presented the following well-attended sessions at the national conference:
  - Shaping the Agenda: Current Issues in Public Policy
  - Shaping Change: Public Policy Leadership on Campuses
  - Town Hall Meeting: Setting NASPA's Public Policy Agenda
- Planned and worked with others to coordinate the following well-attended sessions at the national conference:
  - Public Policy Breakfast Briefing: The Attainment Agenda and Student Affairs
  - ADA Compliance
  - FERPA Overview and Update
  - Exclusively for SSAOs: What SSAOs Need to Know from Washington; The Policy Landscape for 2012
  - Title IX and the Dear Colleague Letter
- As individuals presented and/or co-presented public policy presentations on
  - Providing Excellent Service to Undocumented Students (Kandy Mink Salas)
  - Enough is Enough: Concealed Carry on College Campuses (Rebecca Mills)
- Worked with NASPA staff to create a template for use in regional conference sessions on Public Policy and presented public policy overview sessions at regional conferences for Regions I, IV-E, V, and VI.
- Created a series of articles on Public Policy for Leadership Exchange that supported NASPA's strategic plan. These included:
  - *Public Policy Sets New Course* by Kandy Mink Salas
  - *Show Your Support for Federal Student Aid Programs* by Lisa Erwin
  - *Informed Voices, Powerful Agenda: Contributing to NASPA's Public Policy Agenda* by Rebecca Mills and Brian Collins
  - *Setting NASPA's Public Policy Agenda* by Rebecca Mills, Kandy Mink Salas, Lisa Erwin, and Erik Kneubehl

- The Public Policy Division also addresses this goal by responding to requests from NASPA’s leadership and staff. Division members provide advice on requests about legislative proposals, advocacy initiatives, possible partnerships (such as signing on to letters or statements drafted by other higher education advocacy organizations). Issues of note this year included the following (in no particular order):
    - Weapons on campus
    - Credit Hour Bill
    - Impact of budget on higher education programs and initiatives
    - Pell language in the Omnibus Bill 2012
    - ESPN vs OSU Amicus Brief
    - Budget impact on minority-serving institutions
    - Amicus Brief supporting University of Illinois (FERPA issue)
3. Launch an initiative to collaborate with student affairs worldwide.
  4. Strengthen NASPA by making it a more responsive, vital and sustainable organization.

***Integrity*** – Committed to high moral principles exhibiting authentic, honest, just and ethical behavior.

***Innovation*** – Continuously seeking improvement through new and creative approaches.

***Inclusion*** – Seeking ways to ensure access, voice, acknowledgement, opportunity, and participation at all levels.

***Inquiry*** – Supporting research and scholarship to add to the knowledge base of the profession and ensure that data informs practice.

### **PUBLIC POLICY REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

In addition to the division’s regional representatives, the Public Policy Division includes a Knowledge Community representative; she submits her report to the National Director of Knowledge Communities; the information about her involvement with public policy is a part of that report.