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NASPA Public Policy Division Director
Report for the 2013 Summer Board of Directors Meeting
June 26, 2013

NASPA Board Action Items

In this area, please list (in numerical order) the action items that will need a Board motion and Board action/vote during this meeting. Please send proposed Action Items to the Board Chair prior to the Board submission deadline. Documents for action items must be included with Board Materials for prior review by the NASPA Board.

None at this time

NASPA Mission

To be the principal source for leadership, scholarship, professional development, and advocacy for students.

Leadership

- The Public Policy Division provided members the opportunity to engage in the Public Policy Agenda through a Town Hall meeting at the annual conference in March.
- The Public Policy Division also engaged in initial conversation about the new PPD website wireframe, and sought ways to increase membership involvement through this vehicle.
- There was considerable turnover in the Division this quarter, and so orientation was provided to new members.
- Knowledge Communities Liaison Jeanna Mastrodicasa provided an email to KC chairs with information about current events in Public Policy/Knowledge Community topics. This was also shared with the Division. (She will be doing this regularly.)
- Region II representative Tom Grace published a Public Policy Blog as part of the Region II Blog.
- We prepared a power point presentation with Public Policy updates for Division members to present/share at summer conferences and meetings, ensuring that a consistent message was going out across the regions.

Scholarship

Nothing to report.

Professional Development

NASPA Annual Conference

March 16, 2012 – March 20, 2012 ◊ Orlando, Florida

The Division offered the following sessions

- 113th Congress Legislative Update – Carol Holladay
- Public Policy Breakfast – Changing the Demographics: The Students of Tomorrow and Implications for Policy and Practice - Brian Sponsler and Brian Prescott (WICHE)
- Public Policy Town Hall – Rebecca Mills coordinated the program
- Public Policy Issues: Impact on the Student Affairs Practitioner – Lisa Erwin and Brian Haynes
- FERPA Update and Overview – LeRoy Rooker (AACRAO)
- Knocking on the College Door: Demographic Changes and their Implications for Institutional Practice: Brian Prescott, WICHE
- The sessions were well attended and well received. We will continue to connect the PPD conference sessions to NASPA's Strategic Plan and Public Policy Agenda. Consideration will be given to repeating the Breakfast and Town Hall meetings.

Region I Summer Board Meeting

June 17, 2013 ◊ University of Southern Maine, Gorham

- PPD Region I Representative Aynsley Diamond presented a Public Policy Update to the Region I Advisory Board.

Region II Annual Conference

June 9, 2013 – June 11, 2013 ◊ New York, New York

- PPD Region II Representative Tom Grace presented a Public Policy Update session.

Region IV-West Summer Board Meeting

May 29, 2013 ◊ Hot Springs, Arkansas

- PPD Region IV-West Representative Kim Grieve provided a Public Policy Update to the Region IV-West Advisory Board.

Region IV-East Summer Board Meeting

June 14, 2013 ◊ Skokie, Illinois

- PPD Region IV-East Representative Matt Aschenbrenner provided a Public Policy Update to the Region IV-East Advisory Board.

Advocacy

The Public Policy Division was founded to assist NASPA in its public policy advocacy efforts. The summary below for our activities to support Goal 2 of NASPA's strategic plan provides a quarterly update about the efforts of the division.

NASPA Strategic Plan

Goal 2

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

Objectives

- 2.1 Assert NASPA's leadership role in critical issues of public policy regarding higher education.

The Public Policy Division 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). We also engage in discussion of "bubbling" issues in order to determine whether to share those issues with NASPA staff and board members. Issues of note this quarter included the following (in no particular order):

- VAWA/Campus S.A.V.E. Act
- American Indian Mascots
- Direct Loan Interest Rates
- Immigration Reform
- Fisher v. University of Texas
- Guns on Campus

- 2.2 Define, adopt, and communicate a public stance on critical policy issues in higher education.

The work for objective 2.1 overlaps with this area. In addition, the Division affirmed the relevance at the March Town Hall meeting at the National Conference. We collected information about specific ways the Public Policy agenda is impacting members' practice and students.

- Costs and Funding
 - Dwindling resources (need for aid)
 - Graduate enrollment and tuition
 - Financial Literacy (incl grad prep)
 - Performance Based Funding
 - Price Differentiation
 - Vet Resources
- Success and Completion
 - Student demography (vets, 1st gen, etc) and socio-economic status

- K-16
- Ease of transferability
- State-based initiatives
- Curricular revisions
- Mission and Access
- Undocumented Students
 - Guide to best practices
 - Available resources
 - Clarify/provide info (DACA)
 - State-to-state differences
 - Dispelling myths
 - Resources (good, bad, and ugly)
 - State vs Federal Issues
 - Creating safe space(s)

These practical considerations about public policy issues will help direct the work of the Division in terms of the development of resources and planning for future professional development sessions.

2.3 Build capacity among membership in order to effectively influence public policy.

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:

- As noted in the report, we provided sessions at the national conference.
- As noted in the report, 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 and summer board meetings. Regional representatives added issues to the template for their audiences. These issues were included in the presentation slides.
 - NASPA Statement Regarding Guns on Campus
 - Federal Financial Aid Changes
 - Federal Comment Periods
 - VAWA
 - Higher Education Act Reauthorization
 - DREAM Act
 - Fisher v. University of Texas
 - Sequestration Impact – TRIO and GearUp
- Regional representatives are working on providing columns for regional newsletters.
- As noted in the report, our work on the Public Policy page in the new NASPA website is directly related to fostering engagement and involvement by NASPA members in Public Policy work.

2.4 Track state and regional issues that might significantly affect students, practitioners, and/or campuses.

To stay abreast of state and regional public policy issues of interest to NASPA members, the Public Policy Division:

- Discusses state and regional issues of interest during the monthly divisional phone calls
- Solicits and shares information from regional board colleagues and regional members
- Appoints a liaison from the Knowledge Communities leadership group to ensure that issues of interest to the KCs are shared with the division.