



**Lisa Erwin**  
**NASPA Public Policy Division Director**  
**Report for the 2013 Winter Board of Directors Meeting**  
**11.15.13**

## NASPA Board Action Items

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 (PPD) held monthly calls in September, October, November and December.
- The PPD worked collaboratively with NASPA staff to develop the division's webpage on the new NASPA website.
  - A number of features of the new site will promote member engagement. One feature that has already been implemented is a place where members can submit policy issues to the Division. Future initiatives include the implementation of the "CQ Roll Call Tool," providing members an efficient way to get policy feedback to Congressional and other governmental leaders. The implementation is expected to be completed by the end of the year.
  - The PPD developed and implemented a schedule for a monthly blog entry that will be highlighted on the division's site. Each volunteer member of the division will write one blog entry this year. Kandy Mink Salas, representative from Region VI authored the first blog, published in October, entitled *Providing Educational Equity for Undocumented Students*. I authored the November Blog, entitled *Leading the Transformation of Higher Education to Support Post-Traditional Learners*.
  - Plans for the PPD website also include an archive of NASPA's Policy Sign-On Letters, a means for demonstrating NASPA's commitment to leadership in the policy arena.
  - Entries from the Research and Policy blog are cross-posted to the PPD blog when appropriate. We envision more cross-posting with the Regions and Knowledge Communities as the site evolves.

- The PPD developed and implemented a new strategy to engage the divisional members in timely conversations around “hot” issues. Each month, VP Brian Sponsler, Senior Policy Analyst Ed Smith and I identify a public policy issue for the upcoming division call. Ed creates a brief report for the division, and provides draft written materials (powerpoint, policy brief, analysis, etc.) to accompany his presentation. Ed’s presentation is followed by a divisional discussion about the issue. Following the call, Ed finalizes the written materials and provides them back to divisional representatives so that they can be disseminated among their constituencies (regional boards, knowledge communities, regional newsletters, etc.). The topics for our calls this quarter include the following.
  - September - Congressional Budget Office Report *The Federal Pell Grant Program: Recent Growth and Policy Options*
  - October - the Affordable Care Act and Student Health Coverage Exchanges
  - November - Schuette v. Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action
- NASPA partnered with the National Forum on Higher Education for the Public Good to offer a webinar entitled *Supporting the Success of Undocumented Students: Implications of Federal Policy for Student Affairs*. Kandy Mink Salas, Region VI representative, served as a panelist and created an FAQ for posting on the National Forum website. Kandy provided a wealth of invaluable information in her segment of the webinar, and this led naturally to the first blog entry on our new PPD website. I had the honor of moderating the webinar. The webinar was a tremendous success, with 540 participants.
- One of our goals was to more closely connect the PPD to the annual NASPA Law and Policy conference. I’m very pleased with our progress this year at the 2013 event in Newport, Rhode Island.
  - Aynsley Diamond, Region I representative, served on a panel entitled *Rankings, Ratings and Scorecards: How Much Information Does Our Policy Process Need?* Her expertise with state policy was insightful and a vital part of the session.
  - I introduced one of our plenary speakers, Jeffrey Sun.
- All of our PPD representative positions are filled, and we are very pleased with the engagement and commitment of the group.
- Plans are underway to partner with the Small Colleges Division on a webinar on the Affordable Care Act.
- Ed Smith put together a power point presentation for PPD representatives to use in their fall regional conferences. The shared power point ensured a consistent PPD message, but also allowed for each representative to customize the presentation to include additional information pertinent to their region.
- Penny Rue, Region III representative, has created a list of “Public Policy Liaisons,” comprised of regional members who expressed an interest in public policy matters. Penny will be sending this group timely updates related to public policy.
- The connections with the Knowledge Communities are strengthening, with a think tank project that included consideration of public policy issues and how Knowledge Communities could work

more effectively with the Public Policy Division. Jeanna Mastrodicasa, KC Liaison to the PPD, was integrally involved in this work. The recommendations from the think tank include the following.

- Each KC leadership team will be encouraged to have a role with a focus on public policy, as appropriate.
- To highlight the intersection of public policy and the KCs, a standing presentation will be suggested for the NASPA Annual Conference.
- The KC liaison to the Public Policy Division will be asked to create/share knowledge by authoring an article for the KC publication that reflects on public policy relevant to KCs that occurred in the previous term, or discusses court cases/ policy on the horizon of which KCs should be aware.
- New training will be developed to provide clarity on the process related to how KCs seek NASPA endorsement related to public policy issues.
- Kandy Mink Salas recruited five graduate students and professionals to write articles on various public policy issues for the Region VI on-line newsletter. The first of those articles appeared in the Fall 2013 edition - *Understanding and Supporting our Undocumented and DACAmented Students*, by Henoc Preciado, Post Graduate Research Intern, Cal State Fullerton.

## Scholarship

Nothing to report

## Professional Development

### **Supporting the Success of Undocumented Students: Implications of Federal Policy for Student Affairs**

*August 14, 2013 ◇ Webinar*

- 540 Participants
- The webinar covered the complex set of federal policies that impact higher education policy and practice in support of undocumented students. A panel of three presenters, include Region VI PPD Representative Kandy Mink Salas, address edthe fluid policy context facing institutions and student affairs professionals serving undocumented students, with a central focus on the political, legal and practical implications of the Department of Homeland Security's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Process (DACA), the DREAM Act provisions of the pending immigration bill, and insight regarding other pending policy actions.

### **2013 NASPA Region II Careers in Student Affairs Conference**

*October 4, 2013 ◇ Simulcast to Buffalo State University, Chatham University, Fashion Institute of Technology, and Towson University*

*Region II PPD Representative Tom Grace presented two sessions*

*Presented session for conference attendees on making the decision to pursue doctorate; discussed various degree options; psycho-social tasks associated with pursuit of degree*

- 25 Participants
- Very positive evaluations; was contacted by multiple attendees after session for follow-up guidance.

*Roundtable session for conference attendees on policy matters associated with management of student behavior issues*

- 30 Participants
- No formal evaluation – feedback was positive; venue was in large room with multiple sessions and it was very difficult to hear due to noise....that must change if similar session done in subsequent conferences.

### **Law and Policy Conference**

*October 20-22, 2013 ◊ Hotel Viking, Newport, RI*

*PPD representatives participated in two sessions*

*Rankings, Ratings and Scorecards: How Much Information Does Our Policy Process Need?*

- 25 Participants
- *Region I Representative Aynsley Diamond, Senior Policy Analyst Edward Smith, Lewis Soares, VP Brian Sponsler (moderator)*

*Legal Guidance to Student-to-Student Sexual Harassment: An Accessible Approach to Understanding the Law*

- 100 Participants
- Jeffrey Sun, *PPD Chair Lisa Erwin (moderator)*

### **NASPA IV-East Conference**

*November 3-5, 2013 ◊ DoubleTree – Chicago North Shore Conference Center, Skokie, IL*

*Region IV-E PPD Representative Matt Aschenbrenner presented the Public Policy Update*

- 40 Participants
- This presentation utilized, as a base, the power point developed by Edward Smith.

### **NASPA IV-West Conference**

*November 5-7, 2013 ◊ Hot Springs Convention Center, Hot Springs, AR*

*Region IV-W PPD Representative Kim Grieve presented the Public Policy Update.*

- 42 Participants
- This presentation utilized, as a base, the power point developed by Edward Smith.

### **NASPA Western Regional Conference**

*PPD representatives participated in three sessions*

*Region V Board Meeting*

- 20 Participants
- *Region V Representative Amy Johnson facilitated a board discussion of key policy issues of interest and concern to the region.*

### *Region VI Board Meeting*

- 20 Participants
- *Region VI Representative Kandy Mink Salas provided an update to the regional Leadership Team on public policy issues such as the Government Shut-down, NASPA's participation in the amicus brief in Fisher v. University of Texas, and Department of Education Open Forums on President Obama's College Value and Affordability Plans.*

### *Public Policy Update*

- 45 Participants
- *Kandy Mink Salas presented Navigating the Public Policy Landscape.*

## Advocacy

- The Department of Education is holding public hearings in four different parts of the country to solicit input as the President's higher education plan is further developed. Matt Aschenbrenner (Region IV-E) and Penny Rue (Region III) sent emails to CSAO's in the areas surrounding the forum sites (University of Northern Iowa, George Mason University, and Louisiana State University) to encourage attendance. Kandy Mink Salas provided a real-time update to the Region VI Leadership Team (the session at Cal State University, Dominguez Hills, occurred during the regional conference).
- I was nominated by NASPA to serve on the negotiated rule-making committee for the Campus S.A.V.E. Act, part of the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. My nomination was also supported by the Consortium on Government Relations for Student Affairs.
- VP Sponsler and/or Senior Policy Analyst Smith represent NASPA in our lobbying organization, the Consortium on Government Relations for Student Affairs. We participate in Consortium calls and activities.
- The PPD provides advice to President Kruger and VP Sponsler as needed when questions arise about sign-on letters.

## NASPA Strategic Plan

### Goal 2

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

*Our work in support of Goal 2 is fully described under the Mission and Advocacy report sections.*

#### *Objectives*

- 2.1 Assert NASPA's leadership role in critical issues of public policy regarding higher education.
- 2.2 Define, adopt, and communicate a public stance on critical policy issues in higher education.
- 2.3 Build capacity among membership in order to effectively influence public policy.
- 2.4 Track state and regional issues that might significantly affect students, practitioners, and/or campuses.