



**Lisa Erwin**  
**NASPA Public Policy Division Director**  
**Report for the 2014 March Board of Directors Meeting**  
**February 2014**

## **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**

- I was nominated by NASPA to serve as a negotiator in the rulemaking process for the Violence Against Women Act. My nomination was supported by the Consortium on Government Relations for Student Affairs. I received notice in November that I was selected to be a primary negotiator, representing institutional centers for women, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered individuals. I participated in two rounds of negotiating in the time period covered by this report. I had amazing support from VP Brian Sponsler and Senior Policy Analyst Edward Smith in preparing for the negotiations. Senior Policy Analyst Smith prepared detailed briefing materials that were invaluable and attended several of the sessions. VP Sponsler attended all of the negotiated rulemaking sessions and provided excellent counsel and advice throughout the process (sometimes via texting!). I prepared summary documents for the PPD, and shared those with Consortium members as well.
- The Public Policy Division (PPD) held monthly calls in November, January and February.
- The PPD contributed to the division's webpage on the new NASPA website.
  - 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 stayed on a schedule in contributing a monthly blog entry that was highlighted on the division's site. Matt Aschenbrenner, PPD representative from Region IV-East authored

- the December blog, entitled *Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act: Implications for Student Affairs Professionals*. Kimberly Grieve, PPD representative from Region IV-West authored the December Blog, entitled *Reasonable Accommodations? The Debate Over Service and Emotional Support Animals on College Campuses*. Thomas Grace, PPD representative from Region II, authored the February blog, entitled *Self-endangering Student: The Public Policy Conundrum*. NASPA's Senior Policy Analyst, Edward Smith, has been an invaluable resource for the blog authors, providing references and editing.
- 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 continue to be cross-posted to the PPD blog when appropriate. We are still working on more cross-posting with the Regions and Knowledge Communities as the site evolves.
  - The PPD continued to engage the divisional members in timely conversations around "hot" issues. Each month, VP Brian Sponsler, Senior Policy Analyst Ed Smith and I identified a public policy issue for the upcoming division call. The topics for our calls this quarter include the following.
    - January – Violence Against Women Act and negotiated rulemaking (I provided an overview of the first round of negotiated rulemaking, and led a discussion of several of the major issues)
    - February – AASCU's Top Ten State Higher Education Policy Issues for 2014, led by Mr. Thomas Harnisch, Assistant Director of State Relations and Policy Analysis at the AASCU
  - All of our PPD representative positions are filled, and we are very pleased with the engagement and commitment of the group.
  - Planning continues with the Small Colleges Division on a webinar on the Affordable Care Act.
  - Penny Rue, PPD representative from Region III, provided contact information for those members of the region who expressed an interest in Public Policy. She compiled this group into "Public Policy Liaisons" who will receive timely updates as they are disseminated by the Public Policy Division or the National Office.
  - Matt Aschenbrenner, PPD representative from Region IV-East, hosted a PPD dinner at the regional conference in Skokie, Illinois.
  - Kandy Mink Salas, PPD representative from Region VI, continued her work in recruiting graduate students and new professionals to write articles on various public policy issues for the Region VI on-line newsletter. Two articles appeared in the Spring edition. The first article by Abraham Monzon (Graduate Student, Higher Education Program, Cal State Fullerton) describes California state legislation protecting the rights of transgender students, as well issues transgender students face on college campuses. The second article is entitled *Current Issues in Federal Funding for Higher Education*, and was written by Dr. Valerie Shepard, Program Manager at the UCLA Graduate Student Resource Center. The articles were also shared with the members of the PPD.
  - One of my goals as Division Chair was to connect the Division to the NASPA Law and Policy Conference. VP Sponsler and Senior Policy Analyst Smith worked with the PPD to ensure the

Division had a great presence at the conference (specifics are noted in the Professional Development section).

## Scholarship

Nothing to report

## Professional Development

### **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Affairs Conference at New York University**

*February 14, 2014 ◇ New York University*

- PPD Region II Representative Thomas Grace chaired the organizing committee.
- Mr. Grace presented *Big Brother is Doing More than Watching: The Assurgent Public Policy Agenda for Higher Education*.

### **Professional Staff Development Series for Division of Student Affairs**

*February 20, 2014 ◇ Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ*

Region II PPD Representative Tom Grace presented *Overview of NASPA Public Policy on Higher Education*.

### **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, Louis 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.

### **2014 NASPA AVP Institute – Excellence in the “Number Two” Role**

*January 19-21, 2014 ♦ Hyatt French Quarter, New Orleans, LA*

KC Liaison to the PPD Representative Jeanna Mastrodicasa presented *Eggs and Policy*.

- 77 Participants
- Presentation slides were shared with KC leadership.

## Advocacy

- Region V PPD Representative Amy Johnson brought forward an issue from the Region V Board of Directors. Of grave concern to a number of Region V campuses is the issue of eligibility requirements related to food stamp/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Specifically, the requirements around hours of employment have been challenging for students. The PPD will develop the relationship with the new Socioeconomic and Class Issues in Higher Education Knowledge Community.
- 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.