



Lisa Erwin
Public Policy Division Director
Report for the July 2014 Board of Directors Meeting
June 27, 2014

NASPA Board Action Items

1. Approval of the 2014-2017 Public Policy Agenda

NASPA Mission

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

Leadership

- All of our Public Policy Division (PPD) representative positions are filled, and we are very pleased with the engagement and commitment of the group.
- The PPD held the monthly calls in April, May and June. The regional representatives and Knowledge Community liaison also participated in monthly calls with their Regional Advisory Boards.
- 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 participated in the final round of negotiating in the time period covered by this report. I continued to have amazing support from VP Brian Sponsler and Senior Policy Analyst Edward Smith in preparing for the negotiations. VP Sponsler and Senior Policy Analyst Smith attended the final negotiated rulemaking session and provided excellent counsel and advice. I prepared summary documents for the PPD and the NASPA Board, and will be authoring a column for the Fall Leadership Exchange on my experiences as a negotiator.
- The (PPD) held an annual meeting on Sunday, March 16, at the annual conference in Baltimore. We were joined by members of the staff from *United We Dream*, who expressed interest in partnering with NASPA on their *Dream Education Empowerment Program (DEEP)* and other efforts to provide higher education access to and support for undocumented students. An immediate follow up step was that we agreed to help UWD promote National Educators Coming

Out Day. The event was promoted through Twitter and Research and Policy Institute (RPI) blog post by Senior Policy Analyst Edward Smith.

- The Division undertook a major initiative in this quarter to update the NASPA Public Policy Agenda, 2012-2014. These activities occurred in support of the initiative.
 - I shared at the December NASPA Board meeting the intent of the Division to engage in this work.
 - We discussed the current agenda, its continued relevance to student affairs professionals, and whether there existed a need for changes on monthly PPD calls.
 - The PPD held a Town Hall at the annual conference where these same questions were examined with members.
 - Through our discussions and the feedback from the members, we explored the possibility of revising the fourth issue area (“Additional areas of interest”) to reflect a more specific focus on student safety and wellness.
 - I drafted a revision that was reviewed by the Division. Edits and suggestions were incorporated into a final draft that has been presented to the membership for comment.
 - NASPA staff promoted ways to provide comment to the membership (NASPA Weekly Update) via the Identify a Policy Issue portal and email. Senior Policy Analyst Edward Smith will be analyzing and synthesizing the feedback received.
 - Regional representatives and the Knowledge Community Liaison communicated directly with their respective leadership groups and regional boards to encourage and solicit feedback about the draft.
 - At the date of this report, plans are to finalize the agenda after reviewing the feedback, and presenting a final version to the NASPA Board of Directors at the Summer meeting in New Orleans.
- I was a co-presenter on a NASPA sponsored webinar called *Implementing Guidance: Sorting Out the Latest OCR Guidance on Sexual Assault*. John Wesley Lowery from Indiana University of Pennsylvania also presented, and President Kevin Kruger moderated the webinar.
- The PPD contributed to the division’s webpage on the new NASPA website.
 - Work continues 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. NASPA’s Senior Policy Analyst, Edward Smith, has been an invaluable resource for the blog authors, providing references and editing.
 - *Remedial Education Reform: Observing a Legislative Mandate*, Aynsley Diamond, Region I Representative
 - *Transgender Healthcare at Colleges and Universities*, Penny Rue, Region III Representative
 - *Beyond Campus: Mental Health is a Community Issue*, Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Knowledge Community Liaison to the PPD

- 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.
 - April – Discussion focusing on students’ and student organizations’ right to counsel in disciplinary proceedings, with Dr. Reuban Rodriguez, Virginia Commonwealth, and Seann Kalagher, Region I Representative
 - May – *Schuette v. Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action*, with Dr. Liliana Garces, Penn State
- Planning continues with the Small Colleges Division on a webinar on the Affordable Care Act.
- Tom Grace, PPD Representative from Region II, published a monthly public policy blog on the Region II website.
- Matt Aschenbrenner, PPD Representative from Region IV-East, submitted materials for inclusion in the Region IV-East email updates with a goal of starting discussion and driving interested individuals to more information on the PPD website. In addition, Matt reached out to his regional network to encourage public policy presentations at the regional conference.
- Kimberly Grieve, PPD Representative from Region IV-West, provided a public policy update to the Region IV-West Board at their Summer meeting, and included a review of the draft Public Policy Agenda, promotion of the Law and Policy Conference and an overview of the resources available on the PPD website.
- Amy Johnson, PPD Representative from Region V, addressed major issues for her regional leadership specific to interest arising from the recent developments at the federal level regarding sexual assault on campus.
- 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. Those are listed in the scholarship section.
- Regional Representatives are actively engaged in presenting at the regional level, and the Division is in discussion about the role of members in the fall Law and Policy Conference in Denver.

Scholarship

- Publication of two Public Policy related articles in the Winter 2014 Region VI Newsletter:
 - “Revisiting Policy to Increase Access and Inclusion for Transgender Individuals in Higher Education” by Abraham Monzon, M.S., Graduate Student, California State University, Fullerton

- HOW DO YOU DEFINE ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY? NASPA Wants You to Share Your Opinion! - Current Issues in Federal Funding for Higher Education, by Valerie Shepard, Ph.D., Program Manager, University of California, Los Angeles

Professional Development

Professional Staff Development Series for Academic Affairs

March, 2014 ◇ Nassau Community College, Hempstead, NY

- Presented by Thomas Grace, Region II Representative
- Session on the public policy and legal aspects of dealing with disruptive students in the college classroom (e.g. change in Title II, ADA/504 considerations, current cases)

NASPA Annual Conference

March 16-19, 2014 ◇ Baltimore, MD

The PPD sponsored the following sessions.

Policy 101

- 40 Participants
- *Senior Policy Analyst Edward Smith, PPD Director Lisa Erwin, presenters*
- This session was aimed at building knowledge, skills, and understanding of the federal public policy process, this interactive session explored ways student affairs professionals at all levels can engage and influence policy direction and implementation.

FERPA Update and Overview

- 100 Participants
- *Leroy Rooker, Senior Fellow, American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, presenter*
- This session provided useful information about balancing privacy concerns with the overall safety and well-being of the campus community. The session included a discussion of FERPA as well as recently issued resources, opinions, and findings issued by the Family Compliance Office from the U.S. Department of Education.

Federal Policy Update

- 100 Participants
- *Senior Policy Analyst Edward Smith; Lorelle Espinosa, Assistant Vice President for Policy Research and Strategy at American Council on Education, presenter; Aynsley Diamond (Region I), moderator*
- This policy briefing provided an overview of recent legislative activity, relevant to the work of student affairs professionals.

Public Policy Town Hall

- 100 Participants
- *Senior Policy Analyst Edward Smith, PPD Director Lisa Erwin, presenters*
- *Kandy Mink Salas (Region VI), Kim Grieve (Region IV-W), Penny Rue (Region III) and Tom Grace (Region II) facilitated small groups. Matt Aschenbrenner assisted with documenting and synthesizing small group responses.*

- NASPA staff will summarize NASPA's accomplishments toward the priorities set for the current year and facilitate a discussion to determine what the organization's priorities should be for the upcoming year, to include gathering ideas about the Public Policy Agenda for 2014-2017.

NASPA Public Policy Division Breakfast

- 50 Participants
- *Christina Potolowski, Senior Policy Analyst, Young Invincible; Steven Bloom, Director of Federal Relations, American Council on Education, presenter; Senior Policy Analyst Edward Smith, moderator*
- This breakfast session showcased a panel discussion regarding the implementation of the Affordable Care Act on college campuses while offering critical perspectives from experts, speaking from their own individual or organizational vantage points.

NASPA Region-II Conference

June 8-10, 2014 ♦ Seaview Resort, Galloway, NJ

- Number of Attendees/Participants: 50
- Description of Program: Presented overview of NASPA Public Policy agenda items including rationale for importance; discussed some key related public policy actions at state and federal levels
- Successes of the event/changes that one would make next year: The feedback was very positive; was asked to give consideration to offering more or longer session next year, multiple requests for copy of PowerPoint and notes

Advocacy

- VP Sponsler, Senior Policy Analyst Smith and 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.
- Many of the activities under "Leadership," "Scholarship," and "Professional Development" also fall under "Advocacy."

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.