

Maine State Report – October 2021

Executive Council:

Jennifer Hutchinson - University of Maine Farmington (President)

Carri Frechette - Maine College of Art

Amy MacDougall - University of Maine Orono

Lew Miller - Eastern Maine Community College

Ron Milliken - University of Maine Farmington

Connie Smith - University of Maine Orono

Candace Ward - Eastern Maine Community College

Becky Woods - Southern Maine Community College

Conference: We were planning to have a joint meeting with the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) November 18 at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland, as this is when they usually hold their annual Showcase Maine with lots of vendors, a fabulous dinner, and a guest speaker - this year's was going to be Maine's Governor Janet Mills. Unfortunately, their event has gone virtual so MASFAA will have its own meeting that day. This meeting will be virtual and some of the planned topics are:

1) FAME will present on the impact that the FAFSA Simplification bill will have on the State of Maine Grant program, an announcement regarding the reestablishment of the Commission to Study College Affordability and College Completion, and the impact that restarting Federal loan repayments will have on borrowers.

2) There will be breakout sessions on FAFSA Simplification; Needs Analysis and eligibility changes on the horizon, including Pell; ASLA; a roundtable to check in with members on how COVID has impacted their operations (and morale); enrollment and delivery challenges during COVID and while working/studying remotely; and financial aid outreach, to name a few.

3) MASFAA Business Meeting

Membership: 75 members

Training: Taking place with MASFAA membership participation on November 18 at the Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland., prior to the regular MASFAA meeting which will follow in the afternoon. This presentation/training will touch on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Special Initiatives: The President is recognizing all financial aid offices in Maine for Financial Aid Day, October 20, by sending each office a box of chocolates from Haven's Candies in Westbrook.

Committees: Currently not meeting, but still in the By-Laws stages of change: Budget and Finance Committee, Conference and Training Committee, Public Service Committee and Advocacy Committee.

Miscellaneous: MASFAA School Support Initiative (MSSI) counselors are ready to assist students with the 2022/2023 FAFSA process. Last year we served 101 individual students with 82.7 counseling hours. We are extending invitations to all of our school partners. So far this year, presumably because most high schools are back in person, the appointments are looking to be more frequent and students are motivated to go on to higher education.