

Committee: Government Relations

Commissioner/Board Position: Paula Rafferty, Rep-at-Large Organizational Services

Year (e.g., 2005-06): 2008-09

Committee Members:

Laurie Schiavone, Tri-chair, Virginia Community College System

Pam Freund, Tri-chair, Aviation Institute of Maintenance/Centura College

Barry Simmons, Tri-chair, Virginia Tech

Standard Goal 1: Initiate, foster and maintain relationships with the Virginia legislative staff, State Council of Higher Education (SCHEV) and other parties with vested interests in the administration of student financial aid.

Objective 1 (*HOW the committee plans to achieve the stated goal*): Involve SCHEV contact in Government Relation Committee meetings/discussions to discuss state and federal legislative issues relating to financial aid.

Status Reports of Objective 1 (*Please report your progress toward achieving the stated goals – this is where the committee provides updates to the Board, including any suggestions or modifications to the goal and/or the Strategic Plan*):

Date: June 24, 2008

Report: Government Relations Committee met to discuss federal and state “hot topics” relating to the administration of financial aid. Committee also discussed the role of the Government Relations committee and what responsibilities each member would have.

Objective 2: (*HOW the committee plans to achieve the stated goal*): Foster and maintain relationships with Virginia legislative staff

Status Reports of Objective 2 (*Please report your progress toward achieving the stated goals – this is where the committee provides updates to the Board, including any suggestions or modifications to the goal and/or the Strategic Plan*):

Date: June 24, 2008

Report: The Government Relations Committee has discussed how to create opportunities for the Committee to interact with SCHEV. Laurie is a member of the Financial Aid Strategic Team which was created by SCHEV and meets/interacts with SCHEV regularly to discuss concerns and issues relevant to SCHEV and the VA colleges and universities. Laurie is also regularly involved in discussions with SCHEV regarding the new Transfer Grant Program as part of her role with the VCCS.

Standard Goal 2: Disseminate relevant federal and state financial aid legislative issues to VASFAA membership and other constituencies

Objective 1 (*HOW the committee plans to achieve the stated goal*): Provide relevant and timely information to the VASFAA membership through the VASFAA listserv

Status Reports of Objective 1 (*Please report your progress toward achieving the stated goals – this is where the committee provides updates to the Board, including any suggestions or modifications to the goal and/or the Strategic Plan*):

Date: Ongoing

Report: Although the Government Relations Committee was off to a slow start with this objective during the Fall 2008 semester, they have made strides in using the listserv to provide information to VASFAA members. The committee has forwarded a number of informative e-mails to the listserv with legislative and other issues of interest. Most recently, information regarding the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) and the Stimulus Bill was shared with the membership.

Budget:

Item (*Broad general categories*)

N/A

Cost

N/A

The Government Relations Committee anticipates no cost incurred during the 2008-09 academic year.

Board Approved Amount: \$0

Date: June 24, 2008