

# VASFAA

## **BOARD - COMMISSIONER - COMMITTEE PLANS & REPORT FORM**

(Add additional objectives and status reports as needed)

**Committee:** Government Relations

**Commissioner/Board Position:** Bill Wendle, Rep-at-Large Organizational Services

**Year (e.g., 2005-06):** 2007-08

**Committee Members:**

Marilyn King, co-chair, Virginia Tech

Yvonne Hubbard, co-chair, UVA

Jeff Arthur, ECPI

Michelle Bhatta, University of Richmond

Laurie Schiavone, John Tyler Community College

Henry Debose, Virginia State University

Barry Simmons, 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 weekly Government Relation Committee meetings 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:** May 9, 2008

**Report:** Government Relations Committee scheduled weekly contact meetings each Wednesday to discuss federal and state “hot topics” relating to the administration of financial aid. Lee Andes, VASFAA’s SCHEV contact, was invited to participate in weekly meetings and was able to attend several, providing key insight regarding upcoming state legislation. Due to illness and scheduling conflicts, the committee was unable to meet every Wednesday, but met as often as possible.

**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:** May 9, 2008

**Report:** The Government Relations Committee has discussed how to create opportunities for the Committee to establish annual formalized lobbying efforts to keep VASFAA’s concerns at the forefront. They have discussed ways to encourage the VASFAA membership to visit legislative staffers in home offices to get to know them on a more personal level. In addition, the committee plans to discuss this issue and their thoughts with other VASFAA members during the next experience aid officer training activity, hoping to create ideas and enthusiasm.

**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:** May 12, 2008

**Report:** Although the Government Relations Committee was off to a slow start with this objective during the fall 2007 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. Starting in late February, the committee started forwarding a monthly digest of financial aid related articles, information about reauthorization, and most recently information regarding the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008.

**Budget:**

**Item** (*Broad general categories*)  
N/A

**Cost**  
N/A

The Government Relations Committee anticipates no cost incurred during the 2007-08 academic year. They would request maintaining the current budgeted amount for the 2008-09 academic year to start initiatives to both foster relations with Virginia Legislative staff and finding ways to bring the VASFAA membership together to discuss legislative issues.

**Board Approved Amount:** \$500

**Date:** May 9, 2008