



Flying with All Four Engines

THOMAS RATLIFF
ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES



Traveling Through



Uncharted Territory

SWASFAA | TASFAA
Conference 2023

C-130 Cargo Plane and the B1-B Lancer



Four Powerful Opportunities

On-campus committees

State Financial Aid Associations

SWASFAA – Our Regional Financial Aid Association

**National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
(NASFAA)**

What is needed to help you grow?

More conversations in the "weeds", more details

Crosstraining

Professional development, not just in the office, but all throughout campus

DEI, difficult topics, etc.

More understanding of federal aid processes

To better understand the strategic relationship between processing, operations and counseling

Helping other departments understand that we don't have buckets of free money

Improve the effectiveness of our centralized system between all departments

More opportunities for me to contribute broader than with my basic job duties

On-campus committees

Absolutely a great way to get started!

Gets you more exposure to how the campus operates

Connects you to departments and campus peers outside your normal circle

Helps you see the bigger picture

Gives you an opportunity to become known around campus

Makes a direct difference right there at home

Lincoln Technical Institute

Three new Financial Aid Advisors hired on

Primary charge: Reduce accounts receivable

- Our Indianapolis location was the worst school in the chain for receivables

Weekly review of every student

Good progress, but not all work showed on reports when expected

- ***Why?***

State Associations

Normally excellent training opportunities

Chance to learn from peers in similar or higher positions

Lots of variety for committees and engagement

Most are initially one-year commitments

Commonality for state aid programs

Geographic tightness allows travel to be relatively easy

State Associations - Committees

Conference

Finance

Membership

Nominations & Elections

Training

Awards & Scholarships

Governance & Compliance

Early Awareness

Diversity & Inclusion

Legislative Issues

NASFAA Credentialing

Regional Training

Site Selection

Sponsor Relations

SWASFAA Relations

Web Services &
Communications

Historian

Local Arrangements

Entertainment

Long-Range Planning

Advisory

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Regional Association – *SWASFAA!*

Normally excellent training opportunities

Chance to learn from peers in similar or higher positions

Lots of variety for committees and engagement

Most are initially one-year commitments

Different insights about state aid programs

Pleasure of experiencing more unique cultures

Often looked at as an important step before national involvement

SWASFAA – Committees & Task Forces

Committees:

Annual Conference Committee

Corporate Sponsorship

Diversity Awareness

Electronic Initiatives & Archives

Long Range Planning

Membership

Nominations and Elections

Site Selection

Professional Development & Training

Task Forces:

Branding

Governing Documents

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NASFAA

Normally excellent training opportunities

Chance to learn from peers in similar or higher positions

Lots of variety for committees and engagement

Many short-term project possibilities and/or one-year commitments

Deeper insights into federal aid

Pleasure of experiencing many different cultures and perspectives

Potential direct contact with U.S. Department of Ed officials, policy makers and even Congress

NASFAA – Committees and Task Forces

Association Governance

Financial Affairs

Nominations & Elections

Advocacy Network

Advocacy Pipeline

Authors

Publications Editorial Board

Staffing & Benchmarking

Test Development

Advancing the Profession

Associate Advisory Board

Community Volunteers

Conference Mentor

Conference Program

Diversity Leadership
Program

Resumption of Loan
Repayment

Awards

Ethics Commission

Examining Federal Work-Study

FAFSA Simplification

Implementation Working Group

Leadership & Legislative Conf.

Policy Rapid Response Network

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Access to Make a Big Difference

Return to Title IV Aid – an exception

“Intent to Return”

- “...the student has confirmed attendance in a module that begins no later than 45 calendar days after the end of the module the student ceased attending in the payment period or period of enrollment, no action is required by the school unless the student does not return as scheduled.”

The Real Job

For me, my involvement in associations cannot be separated from my “real job”. My association work makes me a better aid administrator and leader.

Early in my career (and still to this day), I had the opportunity to be connected with mentors, see amazing training sessions, and attend summer institutes, all because folks volunteered their time and gave back. I would not be where I am today without it.

I always feel like I get back twice as much as I put in to any committee, presentation, and executive board experience. So for me...association work is part of the “real job”.

- Alex DeLonis, NASFAA Treasurer



Expanding the Way You Work

Often as a professional, you might normally only get to do specific work related to just your primary job

Through committee work, you learn more skills that can improve your abilities for your current tasks as well as prepare you for the next steps in your career

You are able to see more of what other people do. Different offices, departments, various size organizations or types of schools.

As you grow, you can more readily shift from learner to contributor in various situations

This helps you build on your “real job”

Improving My Skills

Being involved has helped me hone those soft skills that you don't always get in your day-to-day work early in your career. I gained confidence in my abilities and had a lot of fun along the way.

- Sandy Neel, Associate Director of Financial Aid, Spalding University



Soft Skills for Success

Leadership

- Volunteer organizations offer many opportunities where you can lead

Adaptability

- We get this a lot already with our ever changing rules
- However, even more so with the challenges associations face as they work on causes

Curiosity/creativity

- Planning conferences takes a lot of creativity to keep members coming back
- Developing new ways to teach sessions requires use of creative skills

Teamwork

- Where better to learn to work collaboratively than with your peers from other schools?

The Inside Scoop

Being a part of the organizations has given me insight in issues related to statues, regulations, etc. before the general public, as we're often working on issues "behind the scenes" before they are rolled out to everyone. That means my school (and me) have access to the latest information often before others, giving us more time as an institution to do what we need in response to the issues at play.

- Brad Barnett, NASFAA Past National Chair



Indiana Legislative Affairs Committee

A State Senator wanted to make changes to state aid programs

Require all students to earn a minimum of 30 credit hours per year

Cliff effect, full state aid at 30 credits earned, no aid if less

This was to build an incentive to graduate on time

He connected with the Indiana Student Financial Aid Association (ISFAA) to team with our Legislative Affairs Committee to work out details for his bill before taking it to the State Senate floor for a vote

Career Growth

When applying for jobs throughout my career, each time there was a connection to people I had met through my involvement and volunteering in financial aid associations.



- Kristi Jovell, NASFAA National Chair-Elect

Costs

Nearly all committee work and professional volunteerism is free

No travel costs with campus committees

Travel costs normally paid by the association for state, regional and NASFAA

Many committees now meet exclusively via electronic means, so no travel or expenses

Yet, there are costs to often consider:

- Time – away from family and personal activities
- Time – away from the office (many choose to keep up late in the evenings)
- Extra effort – can be tiring, even though rewarding and satisfying
- You might be asked to do things that are out of your normal comfort zone
 - *THIS CAN BE REALLY GOOD FOR YOU!*

For me personally

Some of my biggest moments...

The CORSA Nationals

SWASFAA 2003

Arkansas Traveler

1965 Chevrolet Corvair Fitch Sprint



1965 Corvair Fitch Sprint



1965 Corvair Fitch Sprint – “Spirit”



CORSA International Convention 2023



2023 SWASFAA/TASFAA Annual Conference

SWASFAA President 2003



SWASFAA 2003

Guided goal development for 15 committees

Chaired deliberations at four Board of Director meetings

Visited and presented at a conference in all 5 states (AR, LA, NM, OK, TX)

Advised Congress and NASFAA on reauthorization issues critical to our members

Helped spark increases in both SWASFAA membership numbers and revenues for the year

Assisted in totally revamping our association's web site

Created new association logo to aid in marketing promotions

Finalized restructuring of our vendor sponsorship categories

Directed review of our membership structure

Arkansas Traveler



Countless Benefits



I've gotten to know some of my dearest friends through my association work, and the network I built by volunteering has opened countless doors while also allowing me to give back. Truly, I can never repay the gifts I've received because of my association work, despite my many efforts to give back.

It all began with a year on my state's conference committee, and I could not be more grateful.

- Helen Faith, 2023-24 NAFSAA National Chair



**Thanks
for coming!**
Go volunteer!!

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