

**MEEOA Meeting – April 1, 2020**  
**Zoom, 10 – 11 AM**

**Call to Order-** 10:04am

**President’s Report- Steve Visco**

- NEOA Conference update:
  - NEOA Board meeting was this week.
  - NEOA will be reimbursing conference registrations. If people paid by check they should contact Janelle to work out refund. Otherwise it will be automatically refunded to accounts.
  - The conference committee was able to enact the “force majeure” clause to get hotel rooms refunded and most of the contract released. NEOA is looking to reschedule, but is already under contract with the NH site for 2021.
- COE will be offering webinars over the next week or two. The one offered to NEOA pre-college programs conflicts with the NEOA business meeting on Thursday, and COE has offered to send the recording to anyone registered. They will also offer another webinar the following week.
  - Steve understands people have lots of questions, and suggested it would be best to reach out to COE with them.
  - COE knows people are stressed about summer programs (UB specifically), but there is not much direction yet. COE is suggesting UB programs plan to offer their summer programs remotely.

**Past-President’s Report- Mary Kate Barbosa**

- There is a full slate of officers, minus the Conference Chair:
  - Sam Prosser- President Elect
  - Lisa Black- Secretary
  - Nik Lallemand- Treasurer
  - Mary Sinclair will become President, and Steve Visco will become Past President.
- The ballot will be sent to all paid members via email and will be available for one week.
- Steve thanked each person for serving. Lisa and Nik both did great jobs this year, and he is excited to have them return.

**Treasurer’s Report- Nik Lallemand**

- Currently, the bank account sits at \$26,899.10, which is in good shape.
- Nik has been working with Casey to move the web server to a Go-Daddy host, which they did in February. Everything is running smoothly.
- They have also been looking into a Paypal option. Paypal charges a 2.9% plus \$.30 fee per transaction. The MEEOA Board discussed this at their March meeting and decided to go forward with implementing Paypal. This give more options for making payments to MEEOA, and make the tracking of payments easier.
- MEEOA is up to date on their 501C4 and Maine State Filing Report.
- Steve asked for members, when they make a payment through the Univ. of Maine System, to send an email to Nik notifying him. The direct payments are very difficult to track.

## Government Relations- Eric Pratt

- Last week, Eric, Steve, Mary, and Aimee Degroat (alumna), attended the virtual Policy Seminar. They met with representatives from Sen. King, Rep. Golden, and Rep. Pingree's offices.
  - The Asks were two-fold:
    - 1. For a \$428M designation for TRIO in the next round of stimulus funding. \$228M would go to SSS programs to give as grants to students and \$200M would go to all TRIO programs to help students with connectivity and technology needs.
    - 2. For the language to be changed in the CARES (3<sup>rd</sup> stimulus package) Act. Currently, the act would allow institutions to redirect TRIO funds. Also, SSS grants are only allowed for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year students, so the ask was to allow grants to be given to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year students, as well.
  - Eric is working with the representative from Sen. Collins' office to meet at another time. She wrote the letter for the appropriations increase, which all of the Maine delegation signed in March, but he was not able to set up a meeting with her office during Policy Seminar.
  - There is not specific language with how to reach out to congressional offices about the money designation in the CARES Act. Steve will send a letter with the Asks to everyone.
- Department of Ed/COE updates- Steve
  - SSS award notifications should be on time, as they are being read remotely. DOE looks for them to be out at the end of June or early July.
  - COVID-19 updates:
    - If a change of scope needs to be made, notify program officers.
    - Maureen Hoyler stressed programs should do what needs to be done to meet the needs of their students, and to spend grant money in reasonable ways.
    - When making changes, document them!
    - Program specialists do not have directions to any changes right now, so they are not able to answer questions or offer much help.
    - Nothing is known for sure, but Maureen has the following thoughts regarding adjusting recruiting numbers, carryover, and meeting objectives:
      - SSS should not be affected much by this, as this is the last year in the grant cycle.
      - Carryover is likely to be adjusted, but programs should spend their money. Now is not the time to save.
      - TS, EOC, and VUB will likely have their percentages adjusted, regarding numbers and objectives.
      - UB is likely to need to meet their recruiting numbers. Their objectives were less clear.
- State advocacy efforts/Follow up from MEEOA conference- Eric
  - Ahead of TGUAD, Eric reached out to Sarah Gideon's office. She and her staff stopped by to meet MEEOA people.
  - Eric has been working with Jen Rudolph since the January MEEOA Conference to create a plan and guide for replicating the work done both ahead of the Disparities in Education discussion and the follow up after. They have been looking at ways to reach out and advocate for TRIO programs at the state level.

- Sydney Brown is joining the Government Relations Committee, bringing lots of state level experience to the team.

### **TRIO/Gear Up Advocacy Day and Public Relations- Tony Staffiere**

- Tony would like to thank Chris Young and Bonnie Lucas for their help with organizing and planning.
- MEEEOA was recognized in both the House and Senate and received a proclamation from the Governor.
- Around 95 participants, in all.
- There were lots of guests: invited elected officials, Sen. Millette addressed the group, Speaker Sarah Gideon stopped by.
- Several broadcast networks provided coverage of the event. One of News Center Maine's reporters, Hannah, took a special interest in MEEEOA's work.
- Afternoon event was at UMA, including meeting current SSS students at UMA.
- News Center Maine contacted Tony again today, looking to highlight a MEEEOA student who immigrated to Maine and has been adversely affected by the school closings. Tony reached out to SSS directors looking for someone.
- Tony is interested in a unified message from MEEEOA: knowing what and how the organization wants to present itself, publicly.

### **TRIO Day 2021–**

- NEOA is under contract with the hotel (Holiday Inn by the Bay).
- Doris Juarez is going to chair the event; Brian Post will be president next year. Brian will be in touch with Doris, and she can also reach out to this year's co-chairs, Mona and Samieta.
- There is not much other change.

### **Touching Base –**

- How is everyone doing? Is there anything MEEEOA can do to help?
- Mary Kate felt like the meetings of individual program directors is helpful (SSS, for example).
- Steve offered another Hospitality Zoom, with lots of nods across this Zoom. He will try to put some times into the ballot sent out next week to get input.

### **Adjourn Meeting- 10:52am**

Submitted by Mary Sinclair, President Elect.