President’s Corner

Dear Colleagues,

It’s already busy on campuses and the peak season is just around the corner. With it comes new audit requirements around data security policies and practices. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) has suspended several colleges’ access to federal systems due to suspicious cyber activity. These changes are necessary to keep student information safe. However, this impacts the financial aid processing cycle and institutions’ ability to draw down federal funds. There are unanswered questions in several areas, specifically the acceptable means for data sharing. We hope ED will issue further guidance shortly.

The FAS Compliance Team is carefully watching the PROSPER Act. When enacted, the “skin in the game” philosophy could have a campus-wide impact on all colleges and universities. Institutional accountability for educational outcome and value will be increased and federal regulations on how tuition is adjusted when students withdraw will be tightened. Institutions lose some control over their tuition and refund policies. Likewise, this further complicates the Return of Title IV (financial aid) Funds process which already represents significant potential for risks and liabilities. This change would affect all institutions but be especially challenging to those serving students with unconventional enrollment patterns.

FAS & Western Team Up to Finish NASFAA P&P Builder

Challenge

Western Technical College (Western) serves all or part of eleven counties with six campuses, offering more than 100 programs designed to deliver skills and expertise that students need in today’s work force. Founded in 1912, Western offers interactive classes, service learning experiences and internships to its 10,000 students. As previous FAS clients, Vice President of Special Projects, Dr. Denise Vujnovich, and Manager of Financial Aid Jerolyn Grandall, called on FAS to help get Western’s existing policies and procedures converted into the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) P&P Builder, a powerful new online resource. P&P Builder allows schools to transfer and format new and existing policies and procedures content in one centralized tool.

Solution

“The policies and procedures manual had been on our to-do list for years,” said Vujnovich. “We started it many times, but weren’t sure how much data to include, and never seemed to have enough time to finish it. When Jerolyn read that FAS formed a partnership with NASFAA to help do the heavy lifting on P&P Builder conversions, we decided to run with it.” Grandall and her staff provided information to FAS Consultant Michael Shields, who formatted it for the P&P Builder, and also added information from the College’s student handbook, training manual, and existing procedures. “Shields identified gaps where information was missing or incomplete, and we worked together to bring it up to date,” said Vujnovich.

In This Issue:

President’s Corner
Case Study - Western Technical College
Consultants Profile
Compliance Corner
Congratulations to Colleagues
Welcome New Clients

Continued on Page 2...
President’s Corner  continued from page 1

A number of new clients have joined FAS. All of us are grateful for the opportunity to work with each one of them and help them achieve their goals. We also want to welcome several new consultants to FAS.

Two of them are Chris Steckmann and Michael Shields; they are great additions to our team. Chris has decades of financial aid experience from a variety of different campus settings. He also brings an in-depth knowledge in Veterans Administration (VA) programs. Chris will be a tremendous asset to clients looking to better synchronize how Federal Student Aid and VA Benefits are administered.

Michael is known in our industry as a “regs guru” and he has been intricately involved in our partnership with NASFAA for Policy and Procedure Consulting. Michael serves as the lead consultant for this project. Last fall, he worked closely with the staff of Western Technical College (WTC) to implement NASFAA’s P&P Builder Tool. WTC participated in one of our Client Case Histories. We were delighted to hear about their experience and appreciate the kind words they had about FAS’ role in making that conversion a success.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate two of our colleagues and friends from the business office sector. David Glezerman, Associate Vice President and Bursar at Temple University and Anne Gross, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs at NACUBO were recognized for achieving special milestones in their respective careers. Both David and Anne have advocated for federal policies that put students first and ease the administrative burdens on business offices and financial aid offices.

Enjoy this edition of The FAS Compass. If there are issues you would like addressed in an upcoming edition, feel free to contact me directly.

Regards,

David Gray, President

If you find the information in The FAS Compass informative, we invite you to follow us on LinkedIn. We frequently post industry insights and policy updates.

Compliance Corner


Dear Colleague Letter (DCL ID: GEN-18-02) provides guidance on modifications to the Campus-Based Programs for institutions and students impacted by Hurricanes or Tropical Storms Harvey, Irma, and Maria. https://ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/GEN1802.html


The final version of the March 21st Omnibus Spending Bill clarifies that, with an applicant’s written consent, institutions may release FAFSA information to tribal organization and scholarship providers. https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CPRT-115HPRT29374/pdf/CPRT-115HPRT29374.pdf


For additional information or guidance on these compliance updates, contact the FAS Compliance Team.

FAS & Western Team Up to Finish NASFAA P&P Builder  continued from page 1

Now, all of Western’s financial aid policies and procedures are in P&P Builder, documenting compliance measures and enhancing training efforts. “What took Shields three weeks, would have taken us several years,” said Vujnovich. “He is very knowledgeable about financial aid, is very efficient with his time, met deadlines, and sent regular progress updates.” Grandall noted that Shields was willing to do whatever was necessary. “It’s an amazing feeling to have this done,” she said. “It’s nice to finally have this checked off my to-do list!”

Results
Consultant Profile

Michael Shields, Consultant

Michael Shields has over 30 years of student financial aid experience in two-year and four-year public, for-profit private and four-year private institutions. Michael came to FAS in 2017. As a consultant, he supports financial aid offices across the country. He provides Interim Staffing, Consulting and Assessment services to improve business processes and enhance student satisfaction. He has a strong knowledge of federal regulations and regulatory guidelines to assist clients in strengthening their compliance efforts.

His most recent tenure was with Antonelli College, where he was Vice President of Student Finance, overseeing the Financial Aid, Student Accounts, Registrar and Default Management areas.

Prior to joining Antonelli College, Michael was Executive Director of Financial Aid at Kaplan University, managing Financial Aid Training, the Office of the Ombudsman and the Regulatory and Compliance teams. He has served as a senior aid administrator for the majority of his professional career in higher education.

He is experienced with several financial aid software systems, including Ellucian (SunGard) Banner, Ellucian (Datatel) Colleague, College Board PowerFAIDS and the U.S. Department of Education’s suite of applications and website for administering Federal Student Aid.

Michael has been active in financial aid professional associations at national, regional and state levels. He has served on a variety of different committees and made numerous presentations at the Midwest Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (MASFAA) and the Illinois Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (ILASFAA). His reputation as a trainer and presenter earned Michael invitations to speak at many other state conferences over the years.

Michael received his Bachelor of Science from Illinois State University and Master in Administration in Higher Education from DePaul University in Chicago Illinois.

Consultant Profile

Chris Steckmann, Consultant

Chris has over 16 years of student financial aid experience in both two-year and four-year private and four-year public institutions. Chris also served seven years with the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of the Inspector General as an Investigator. Chris came to FAS in 2017. As a consultant, he supports financial aid offices across the country. He provides Interim Staffing, Consulting and Assessment services to improve business processes, strengthen compliance efforts and enhance student satisfaction.

His previous experience includes Director of Financial Aid at The University of Great Falls, Rogers State University, and Lincoln College and Assistant Director at Brewton-Parker College. He was also a Special Agent with U.S. Department of Education’s Office of the Inspector General in Dallas, Texas.

Chris is experienced with several financial aid software systems, including Ellucian (SunGard) Banner, College Board PowerFAIDS and the U.S. Department of Education’s suite of applications and website for administering Federal Student Aid.

He has been an active member of the State Financial Aid Professional Organizations in Georgia, Montana, Oklahoma and Illinois.

Chris received his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.
Congratulations to Colleagues

FAS extends warm congratulations to:

David Glezerman, Assistant Vice President and Bursar of Temple University, recipient of the NACUBO’s Student Financial Services Award

Anne Gross, NACUBO’s Vice President of Regulatory Affairs on her upcoming retirement

Welcome New Clients

We welcome some of our newest clients. Our entire staff looks forward to working with them and being part of their successes.

Athens State University  Beacon College  Briar Cliff University  Brookdale Community College  Georgia Piedmont College

Howard Community College  Occidental College  Shaw University  Southeastern Community College  University of Alaska Anchorage

Williamson College of the Trades

The FAS Verification Compliance Checklist

2018-2019 Verification Compliance Checklist is now available. Request your free copy today.