PRESIDENT’S Report
By WASFAA President, Kate Peterson
Oregon State University

I strained to peek beneath the wheels of the plane to get a glimpse of the rolling hills of the Palouse country as we touched down at the Pullman-Moscow airport. I couldn’t see the small farm that I once called home, just a short drive from the airport. There have been a lot of changes to the area, new roadways, homes, and impressive structures on the University of Idaho campus that didn’t exist a short four years ago when I moved from Idaho to Oregon.

One thing did not change: the friendly, warm group of professionals that make up the Idaho Association of Financial Aid Administrators. As a guest of the IASFAA at their annual conference in Moscow, Idaho, October 6-8th, it was especially rewarding to take part of some excellent training and professional development opportunities. Great folks, great topics, good information. Even though I have reached “old timers” status, I learned some helpful information and got to ask the “hypothetical” questions of the experts.

And that’s not all folks! There are more opportunities coming at ya….take a look at the WASFAA/NASFAA training that is being offered to our members. To view the schedule and register for training, visit the website at www.wasfaa.org and hit on the training pop-up box. Sign up!
Strategic Planning
by Catherine King-Todd, Co-Chair

Last year WASFAA members voted to add Strategic Planning as a standing committee. As a starting point from our results of our Strategic Planning activity, this year we are continuing to look at a few areas of our Action Planning to focus on. These areas are training, membership, and communications.

The committee will be sending out a survey asking for your feedback to assist the Executive Council and other WASFAA leaders determine the next steps. In the meantime, we would like you to begin pondering the following:

1. Training
   a. What type of training do you wish to receive from WASFAA?
   b. Decentralized NASFAA training presented by WASFAA trainers
   c. Other technical training
   d. Professional Development training (what topics)
   e. What has been the best WASFAA training that you’ve attended?
   f. Does WASFAA do a good job of training?

2. Annual Conference
   a. Should the annual conference provide more technical training?
   b. What is missing from the annual conference program, if anything?
   c. What is usually a part of the annual conference that you do not feel is necessary?
   d. What has been the best conference session ever for you?
   e. Is the annual conference a good event for WASFAA members?

3. Management & Leadership Institute (MLI) and Summer Institute (SI)
   a. Should we continue to offer the MLI?
      i. How often should this be offered? (annually, every 2 or 3 years, etc.)
   b. Should we continue to offer the SI?
      i. How often should this be offered? (annually, every 2 years, etc.)
      ii. Is it more important to rotate the SI around the region or to keep costs more reasonable?
   c. Would combining the MLI and/or SI with another region make a difference in whether you would attend or send a staff person to an MLI or SI?

4. Membership
   a. Is the membership fee reasonable?
   b. WASFAA dues are paid members as individuals. Do you think WASFAA should change to institutional membership?
      i. If so, what do you think would be a reasonable fee?
      ii. Should the fee vary by institutional size?
      iii. Should the fee be the same?
      iv. Should the fee be at one amount for up to a certain number of individuals?
   c. Do you think that non-financial aid staff should be encouraged to be members?
Strategic Planning continued

5. Communication

a. What forms of communication that WASFAA provides are most useful to you? (newsletter, listserv, website)

b. Would you be interested in receiving monthly updates via email about WASFAA activities?

c. Are you a member of the WASFAA listserv?

d. How often do you visit the website?

e. What do you feel is the most useful area of the website?

f. What do you feel is the least useful area of the website?

g. How would you like to hear about WASFAA activities, Executive Council meetings & minutes?

h. How important is WASFAA’s connection to NASFAA?

i. How important is WASFAA’s connection to each of the states in the region?

Your comments and input are important to WASFAA. We cannot help you if you do not help us! Please share your thoughts on any other areas that you wish WASFAA to work on to make this organization even better!

I may be reached at 602/978-7888 or kingtodc@t-bird.edu.

Jim White, 03-04 President-Elect is also a co-chair and may be reached at whitejim@seattleu.edu.
The College Board held the fourth of five seminars regarding the decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court on the cases addressing affirmative action at the University of Michigan. In the previous seminars there were some who did not feel challenged by the decisions but others felt that there was a great deal to challenge us in our admissions and outreach activities.

Just as in financial aid, there are degrees of legal and illegal: in compliance and not in compliance. The University of Michigan Law School Admissions Policy used race as one factor of many in the admission process and used an individualized review of each applicant. This was determined to be lawful or constitutional. On the other hand, the University of Michigan undergraduate admissions policy gave an “automatic” point to applicants based on certain admissions criteria, including race and ethnicity. This was determined to be unlawful or unconstitutional. Changes have already been implemented in their admissions policies. Previous court cases have clearly prohibited racial and ethnic quotas and racially and ethnically segregated admission processes. The decisions for *Gratz v. Bollinger* and *Grutter v. Bollinger* tell us that we can justify using race in admissions and financial aid, but it must have limited consideration with a holistic or individualized evaluation.

With respect to financial aid, race and ethnicity may be used as one of the factors of or condition of eligibility if necessary to achieve educational diversity. Before using a race or ethnicity-conscious policy, an institution must explore other options and alternatives to see if they would be equally effective in achieving a diverse student body to further educational goals.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor provided the swing vote and predicted in her ruling that in 25 years it should no longer be necessary to factor race and ethnicity into admissions decisions in order to achieve diversity in education. This establishes the possibility of an end.
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Alice’s Astrological Forecast
by Kate Bligh, Historical Archives Committee

Found in the WASFAA Archives, from Vol. VI, #2, Spring 1990. I did take the liberty to update references to dates and locations.

Alice has provided the following predictions especially for financial aid administrators with the assumption that financial aid can be fun!

**ARIES**
The stars smile upon you as you devise a sure-fire method of coping with the 2003-04 delivery system. Your students even heed your sage advice and read the application instructions.

**TAURUS**
Your biorhythms are up all this month. Everything will break in your favor and you will find the money to attend the WASFAA conference.

**GEMINI**
Your institution receives a full allocation of campus-based funds as requested on the FISAP. You are hailed as your college’s savior.

**CANCER**
The threat handing over your head is removed; the program review has been canceled. You will travel to Minneapolis to attend the next NASFAA conference.

**LEO**
You’ll be accused of making an outlandish claim related to simplifying the FAFSA. Four days later you will be vindicated and receive numerous awards for designing a 20 question form.

**VIRGO**
You will receive a supplemental allocation of SEOG funds and see your Perkins default rate fall to .75%.

**LIBRA**
All your requests will be granted. Now is the time to seek additional staff. You will hire a Track-Record-Disclosure-Form Director.

**SCORPIO**
Your colleagues will draft you to seek a state association office. You will feel compelled to run and will be elected.

**SAGITTARIUS**
Your co-hort default rate will fall to under 2% from 15%. You will be asked to do panel presentations by your colleagues.

**CAPRICORN**
You will translate and condense the Title IV federal regulations to 50 pages and will be the first recipient of the Paperwork Reduction Act award.

**AQUARIUS**
You will contemplate a sudden career change from an aid administrator to an opera singer, but will stay in financial aid. You will do so because they are not writing any new songs, but are writing plenty of new regulations. You like change.

**PISCES**
Potentially divisive aid community issues will be dumped on you to resolve. After a series of frustrating efforts, you will achieve community consensus. Persistence and patience pay off, in the end.

2004-2005 Elections
by Catherine King-Todd
Chair, WASFAA Nominations & Elections Committee

Well, the nominations process is over and I wish to thank those of you who nominated someone or yourself for a position. It is now time to cast your vote for your 2004-2005 WASFAA officers.

The elections are available using your login and password in the area of Online Forms at www.wasfaa.org. It only takes a few minutes to vote. It is your association and the voters select the leadership through this process!

Voting begins **December 16, 2003** and ends **January 15, 2004**. I will be sending reminders electronically. Help us reach a record with percentage of votes. The committee appreciates the time you take to provide your input.
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It is hot in Arizona!

No, I don’t mean we have set a record for the latest date for triple digit temperature, although, we have. I mean the changes that are happening are HOT, HOT, HOT! AASFAA has introduced our new web presence and it is receiving rave reviews from many members. In general, the transition to the new and improved website was rather smooth. The look is fresh and more importantly the new site is much more functional for our members. I would like to thank Nancy Barnes, Thunderbird, and Jeff Edris, Bank One, our co-chairs of the Technology Committee for a job well done. It looks great and it’s very HOT, HOT, HOT!

The Electronic Financial Needs Analysis is moving forward to assist tribal agencies, schools, and more importantly, Native American students to ease the process for tribal funding. I feel this process will increase efficiency and assist thousands of students in Arizona gain access to college. I would like to thank the ad-hoc committee headed up by Becky Vinzant, American Student Assistance, for making their dream a soon to be seen reality. What a wonderful project! HOT, HOT, HOT!

A mini conference was held at Coconino Community College in Flagstaff and it was wonderful. All the sessions were useful and timely for the participants. Once again the Membership Training Committee, Keith Temple, EFSI, Adrienne Sapper, Mesa Community College, Shirley Vaden, M&I Bank, and Noel Petruncola, ACS/AFS, has put together SCORCHING sessions for our members.

A special election was held to fill the position of president-elect since our previous elected official in this position has changed positions and now works for a lender. Shirley Vaden is still quite actively involved with the organization but had to resign as president-elect according to our by-laws. I am happy to announce the president-elect for 2004-2005 is Paula Cady of The Art Institute of Phoenix. This just SIZZLES!

As if things are not HOT enough, by the time you read this article, the AASFAA will be holding its fall conference. As always the conference will be a spectacular that is not to be missed. I will tell you all about it in the next newsletter. I assure you it will be very STEAMY!

Until next time,
Have a great Fall!
IASFAA held its 35th anniversary fall conference October 6-8 in Moscow, Idaho at the University Inn Best Western. We had a record turnout of 70 attendees, 53 of whom were from schools. I don’t know what brought them in droves to Moscow, but we were excited to host them!

The theme of the conference, “Celebrating 35 Years of Service,” allowed for a broad range of topics for the program. Our keynote speaker was Dr. Terry Armstrong, University of Idaho Professor Emeritus of Education, who discussed his research on the human brain and the importance of funding education in order to fully develop the minds of our youth, from preschool on up. While Dr. Armstrong focused on pre-post-secondary education students, our final speaker, Dr. Steven Austad, University of Idaho Professor of Zoology, discussed how the research and advances made in the field of gerontology will extend the average lifespan. Dr. Austad, one of the world’s leading experts on the aging process, anticipates a day in the near future when the 60- to 70-year old student will be the norm on our campuses. He speculates that as people live longer, healthier lives, they will continue to change careers and seek higher education beyond the current rate.

The plunge into the hard-core financial aid sessions on exit counseling, distance learning/consortium agreements, etc., gave way to a well-deserved break from cerebral activity. Conference participants enjoyed a guided tour of the National Headquarters of the Appaloosa Horse Club as well as a tour of the University of Idaho campus while being chauffeured by the Vandal Trolley. Festivities continued after Tuesday’s dinner with our annual auction. Schools and vendors donated auction items with the proceeds put in a scholarship fund to enable members to attend the WASFAA conference in Scottsdale.

IASFAA’s scholarship program, is, in fact, being polished and will be part of the bylaw update underway this year. The committee is eager to go through the bylaws and constitution in order to make recommendations that will clarify and embellish current practices, and it may also make recommendations for more comprehensive changes.