

Reauthorization Task Force: Purpose, Mission & Charter

Approved by NASFAA's Board on Dec. 21, 2011



Purpose

The primary purpose of the Reauthorization Task Force is to consult with NASFAA's membership and other important groups and agencies and to develop and recommend to the NASFAA Board the Association's position on issues and specific statutory changes in the federal student aid programs and their delivery systems.

Mission

The mission of the NASFAA Reauthorization Task Force is to produce a set of proposals for the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act that—

- Promote access to postsecondary education; and
- Provide simplicity, consistency, flexibility, and program integrity in the delivery of student financial aid; and
- Represent the diverse needs of the Association and its membership.

Guiding Principles

- Promote fairness and equity for students across all sectors of postsecondary education;
- Promote policies that address the needs of disadvantaged students;
- Promote accountability;
- Encourage simplicity;
- Provide schools with the flexibility to respond to the specific needs of their students;
- Promote the primacy of need-based aid;
- Recommend policies that accommodate the diversity of academic delivery models;
- Promote the use of technology wherever possible;
- Eliminate statutory requirements that use financial aid to enforce unrelated social policies;
- Support recommendations with research and data analysis wherever possible; and
- Promote programs and efforts that encourage student financial and academic preparation at an early age.

CHARTER OF THE NASFAA REAUTHORIZATION TASK FORCE

The Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965, as amended, authorizes the major federal student aid programs that are responsible for the majority of financial assistance to postsecondary students. To meet the changing needs in education, these programs are reviewed and "reauthorized" by Congress every five years.

Although current federal student aid program authorizations in the HEA do not expire until the end of 2013, there is growing interest in the U. S. Congress in issues that might be considered during the next reauthorization process. Major topics and issues that may be debated include the following:

- Access to postsecondary education,
- Standards and Accountability,
- Consumer Information,
- Program Integrity,
- Need Analysis,
- Distance Education,
- Teach Grant,
- Campus-Based Aid,
- Student Loans, and
- Pell Grant

The NASFAA Reauthorization Task Force (RTF) is constructed of members who represent the different sectors of NASFAA's membership. It will address items of concern and review and compile a set of proposals that will be presented to the U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce as NASFAA's official position on reauthorization of the HEA.

The mission of the RTF is to produce a set of proposals for the reauthorization of the HEA that:

- Promote access to postsecondary education, and
- Provide simplicity, consistency, flexibility, and program integrity in the delivery of student financial aid, and
- Represent the diverse needs of the Association and its membership.

As part of its responsibilities the RTF will use survey tools and listening sessions at state, regional and national association conferences to gather feedback from the membership regarding issues to address. Higher education associations and other important groups and agencies will also be contacted for feedback and assistance. A continuous effort will be made to monitor and address Congressional proposals and to make appropriate suggestions. NASFAA's Board of Directors will be provided ample opportunity to offer feedback to these proposals and adopt any recommendations.

Timeframe: The RTF will begin meeting in early 2012 and is expected to complete its work by July 2013 and present a final report to the membership at the 2013 National Conference in Las Vegas. Between July 2013 and 2014, when the Higher Education Act will need to be reauthorized, members of the RTF will work with the NASFAA Board to develop policy positions and an advocacy strategy.

Members of the NASFAA Reauthorization Task Force

- Bonnie Joerschke, Chair, The University of Georgia
- Thomas Babel, Devry, Inc.
- George Chin, American Association of State Colleges and Universities
- Georgette DeVeres, Claremont McKenna College
- Robert Gamez, Kansas State University
- Richard Heath, Anne Arundel Community College
- Patricia Hurley, Glendale Community College
- Governor Jackson, Texas Woman's University
- Mark Lindenmeyer, Loyola University Maryland
- Craig Munier, University of Nebraska--Lincoln
- Michael Pede, State University of New York-- Upstate Medical University

- Kay Soltis, Pacific Lutheran University
- Brent Tener, Vanderbilt University
- Francisco Valines, Florida International University
- Laurie Wolf, Des Moines Area Community College
- Pam Fowler, University of Michigan