

Helen Faith
STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY
National Chair-Elect

"I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality, and freedom for their spirits." --Martin Luther King, Jr., 1964. I find deep resonance with these words and alignment with the vision we pursue in making college possible for all students. We are blessed to belong to an inspiring community of like-minded, committed, generous colleagues. When I started out as a financial aid advisor at my alma mater decades ago, it never occurred to me that I would be a director someday, and nor could I have imagined that I would have the honor of being nominated to run for National Chair-Elect of NASFAA, an organization I've always held in the highest esteem.

Like so many colleagues, I fell into our profession almost by accident, and like so many of our students, my own financial aid path in college was rocky. When I happened upon the job announcement for a financial aid advisor position, I saw an opportunity to help other students navigate the process with fewer speedbumps. Since then, I've committed to improving aid processes and the policies undergirding them at a diverse array of institutions, as well as at the state and federal levels.

I owe these opportunities to make positive change for students to the uniquely collaborative nature of our profession. The work we do to make college affordable for families is challenging, complex, and high-stakes, and to quote Benjamin Franklin, *"We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately."* As mission-driven professionals who have chosen public service, we are quick to support one another, to step up and do the work at hand, and to stand up for what is right. This collective spirit of service drives volunteerism in our associations, our indomitable work ethic, and our advocacy.

As we emerge from the global COVID-19 pandemic into a forever-changed world, we have proven our adaptability, determination, and creativity in pivoting to a virtual environment; in supporting our students in managing the disruptions to their lives and their learning; and in administering three distinct rounds of emergency grant funding in the face of shifting guidance and realities. Our students depend on our resilience, compassion, innovation, and advocacy now more than ever, and our institutions and legislators need our insights to chart the future course of college access and affordability. NASFAA has done outstanding work in keeping our community informed and connected, and has elevated our voices in advocating for policy positions to improve college access and affordability. Furthermore, the recently established Diversity Leadership Program helps to address a critical need to develop and grow leaders in our profession with lived experiences reflecting the diversity of the students and families we serve.

My experience spans institutions in three states and two regions, including 2-year, 4-year, and graduate/professional; public and private; selective and open access; large and small; under-resourced and well-funded. I have served in national, regional, and state volunteer roles in supporting professional development for our members while advocating for better policies to support our students. I helped broker consensus in Negotiated Rulemaking to improve student loan repayment, and I have engaged with research to ground our practice and policy advocacy in evidence. In addition to financial aid, I have overseen admissions and recruitment, registrar, placement and testing, veterans' services, multicultural center, gender equity center, student government and engagement, and child and family education.

My breadth of experience helps me to understand issues of college access, affordability, and success through multiple lenses in my commitment to serving our diverse students and institutions. I am grateful to everyone who has encouraged and mentored me on my path, and I would be deeply honored to pay these gifts forward through carrying out the responsibilities of NASFAA National Chair-Elect.

NATIONAL CHAIR-ELECT RESUME

NAME: Helen Faith

REGION: MASFAA

CURRENT POSITION: Director of Student Financial Aid
From: August 2020 University of Wisconsin-Madison, WI

PREVIOUS POSITIONS:
From: March 2020 Associate Dean of Student Engagement
To: August 2020 Lane Community College, OR

From: December 2017 Dean of New Student Transitions
To: March 2020 Lane Community College, OR

From: November 2011 Director of Financial Aid
To: December 2017 Lane Community College, OR

From: September 2006 Director of Financial Aid
To: November 2011 University of Western States, OR

From: May 2004 Financial Aid Administrative Coordinator
To: August 2006 Oregon Health & Science University, OR

From: June 2003 Financial Aid Counselor
To: April 2004 Portland State University, OR

From: April 2000 Financial Aid Advisor
To: June 2003 University of California Santa Cruz, CA

EDUCATION: Doctoral coursework, Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis
University of Wisconsin-Madison
January 2021-present

M. S., Education: Policy, Foundations, and Administration
Portland State University
Portland, OR – December 2010

B.A., Literature
University of California Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz, CA – June 1997

NASFAA FAAC ®

TYPE OF INSTITUTION: Public, 4-year, Research 1, Land Grant

SUMMARY OF PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

NASFAA	2020-21	Board of Directors, Representative-at-Large
	2020-21	Financial Affairs Committee member

NATIONAL CHAIR-ELECT RESUME

	2021	Small Group Leader, Leadership Symposium
	2021	Webinar Presenter: Research on Effects of Grant Aid
	2013-21	Presenter, Annual Conference
	2014-17, 2021	Rapid Response Network member
	2017-19	Board of Directors, WASFAA Representative
	2018-19	Nominations and Elections Committee member
	2017	Cost of Attendance Task Force member
	2017	Association Alignment Thought Force member
	2015	Advocacy Pipeline Hill Visit Participant
	2015	Webinar Presenter on Cohort Default Rates
	2013-14	Diversity and Access Committee member
MASFAA	2021	Annual conference presenter
	2021	MASFAA Matters webinar panelist: college affordability
WASFAA (Region)	2019-20	Chair, Federal Relations Committee
	2019-20	Chair and Faculty, Jerry R. Simms Management & Leadership Institute
	2016-2019	President-Elect, President, Past President
	2018-19	Chair, Strategic Planning
	2018-19	Chair, Nominations and Elections Committee
	2017	Faculty, Jerry R. Simms Management & Leadership Institute
	2015-19	Presenter, Annual Conference
	2015-16	Ethnic Diversity Representative-At-Large
	2014-15	WASFAA Executive Council, Oregon Representative
	2014-15	Conference Program Committee
	2007-2019	Federal Relations Committee
OASFAA (Oregon)	2016-17	Legislative Committee Co-Chair
	2013-2016	President-Elect, President, Past President
	2012-2020	Conference Presenter
	2011-13	Summer Drive-In Co-Chair
	2011	Summer Drive-In Committee member
	2006-08	Conference Committee member
CASFAA (California)	2017-2020	Presenter, Annual Conference
ACCT, TICAS, CAP	2020	Contributor to <u>What Works: College Strategies for Reducing Student Loan Default</u> (ACCT & TICAS) https://www.acct.org/files/ACCT_TICAS_CDR_Brief_FIN_AL_2020.pdf
	2018	Contributor to <u>Results from Modeling a One-Time FAFSA Using Institutional Data</u> (CAP, ACCT, NASFAA) https://americanprogress.org/article/one-and-done/

NATIONAL CHAIR-ELECT RESUME

		Co-presented findings at Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Leadership Congress
	2014	Contributor to <u>Protecting Colleges and Students: Community College Strategies to Prevent Default</u> with the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) and The Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS) https://ticas.org/wp-content/uploads/legacy-files/pub_files/Protecting_Colleges_and_Students.pdf Co-presented research at NASFAA Conference
FEDERAL	2015	Alternate Nonfederal Negotiator representing 2-year public institutions in Negotiated Rulemaking on Student Loan Repayment Issues (NASFAA nominee)
STATE	2014	State of Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC): Oregon Opportunity Grant Design Team
	2013-14	State of Oregon Department of Community College and Workforce Development (CCWD): Developmental Education Workgroup, Lane Community College Student Affairs Representative
HONORS & AWARDS	2020	WASFAA (region) President's Award
	2019	WASFAA Meritorious Achievement Award
	2019	WASFAA Committee of the Year Award, Membership
	2016	OASFAA (Oregon) Distinguished Service Award
	2015	WASFAA Committee of the Year, Federal Relations
	2013	Lane Community College Innovation Award