

NASFAA Off the Cuff – Episode 42 Transcript

Justin: All right. Welcome everybody to another edition of “Off The Cuff.” I’m Justin Draeger.

Allie: I’m Allie Bidwell, one of our Today’s News reporters.

Stephen: I’m Stephen Payne with NASFAA’s policy team.

Megan: Megan Coval with NASFAA’s policy team.

Justin: Welcome back everybody. Truth be told, we just spent a lot of time catching up because I feel like we haven’t seen each other collectively in weeks.

Allie: It’s been a minute.

Justin: Did you spend the summer in California or were you here?

Allie: I was here.

Justin: Okay. I feel like I saw you after the conference and then, how was your summers?

Allie: Good.

Megan: Great.

Stephen: It was a good summer.

Justin: Wow, that was convincing.

Megan: I’ll tell you what I felt about this summer.

Justin: Yes.

Megan: Is that usually here at NASFAA, I feel like the summer doesn’t really start until the conference is over.

Justin: Right.

Megan: Which is typically mid-July.

Justin: Yes.

Megan: So, the summer felt a little longer in way, with the conference being in June and I like that.

Justin: Yeah. I got a little worried when the House said they weren't going to, was it the House or the Senate now? I can't even remember.

Megan: The House.

Allie: It was the House originally.

Justin: Who said they weren't going to break.

Stephen: It was the Senate.

Justin: It was the Senate. So they could finish the DACA and I started to get a little, some palpitations because I'm like, now you're digging into August. I like my August the way it is. Also that's when I save up a lot of my off time because that's when Congress usually leaves.

Megan: They feel the exact same way and they ended up only doing a week.

Justin: One week. Yeah.

Megan: I think it's worth saying that it's not, when Congress goes away, it lightens the work load a little bit in some ways, but also the nice thing for those of us that live in DC, the traffic is cut down significantly. A lot easier to get around. Things aren't as crowded. I think that's a piece of it that we all really enjoy too.

Justin: One thing from your summer, what was it? Best part of your summer, summer 2017?

Megan: Did a week long beach trip where we actually had both parents come and the baby.

Justin: I question this whole arrangement. So you had both parents, your husband and your parents there?

Megan: Yep, yep. And baby. It was actually great. It was nice. It was relaxing. Four babysitters, one baby. We had other friends that were at a beach nearby. A couple nights out. Very fun.

Justin: Nice. Stephen?

Stephen: I had a really nice time for about five days in State College this summer at Penn State and there's no students there, so it's very calm.

Justin: What did you do there?

Stephen: Just walk around. Go to the bar.

Justin: So you took a vacation back to your alma mater?

Stephen: Yes.

Justin: Okay.

Stephen: Well, I did my vacation, I took a week in May.

Justin: You really love State College.

Stephen: Yeah, I do. I didn't really have a summer vacation because I did it earlier in May.

Justin: I feel like you did a lot of decorating too in your work area because when I walked in in August one week, yours is decked out.

Stephen: Yeah. I think I'm doing pretty well if you had to rate.

Justin: You had a bunch of, what are those things?

Megan: Trinkets.

Stephen: I have a lot of trinkets.

Justin: There was a floating something the other day.

Megan: Yes.

Justin: What is this thing?

Megan: It's amazing.

Stephen: Well, this is from Christina, my fiancé, her parents. It's a hover helmet.

Justin: Yeah. That's right.

Stephen: It's a Penn State football helmet, but it rotates automatically.

Justin: I grabbed it. It really does levitate off its thing.

Stephen: Yeah. I got it for my birthday from them.

Justin: When was your birthday?

Stephen: August 7th.

Justin: Happy birthday.

Stephen: Thank you.

Megan: Yeah, happy birthday.

Stephen: A month late.

Justin: I'm sure I signed a card.

Stephen: Yeah. I appreciate that.

Justin: Did I say, make it a great one?

Stephen: Sounds right.

Justin: Yeah. I remember very specifically saying that.

Stephen: I appreciate that too.

Justin: Allie, how about you?

Allie: Focusing in on August was probably this past weekend, my boyfriend and I went down to Chapel Hill for the Cal versus UNC football game. Yeah, it's Cal's only East Coast game and it was close enough so we went down. A bunch of people from my alumni club went down and they won. It was the first football game I've been to as an alum, so that was fun. Hung around down in North Carolina for a couple days.

Justin: Did you buy those tickets through Cal so you were sitting with the Cal fans or did you buy them?

Allie: I bought the tickets way ahead of time, before I knew that our alumni club was going down. We actually had tickets in a different section than the rest of the group was, but they didn't really care. So we just walked into a different section and sat with all the Cal people.

Justin: That's interesting because I've been to a lot of stadiums where they care a lot.

Allie: Yeah. I think a lot of the other seats in this section didn't sell, so they just weren't checking tickets.

Megan: Were you heckled?

Allie: No, but Pascal was because he went to Duke and he was wearing a Duke hat and a Cal T shirt. He wasn't heckled so much, but people were just kind of chuckling and being like, man you're really going all out here.

Justin: So he wore Duke gear and Cal?

Stephen: So it almost looked like he was just a Duke fan and just wanted to come and bought a Cal shirt.

Allie: Yeah. He said it was extreme trolling.

Justin: We had a great summer. We did some vacationing in August. We took up skateboarding as a family, so all of us now are skateboarders. Long boarders. I grew my hair out. No, I'm joking. No, we all took up skateboarding and it's a lot of fun. It's long boarding, so it's not like we're doing tricks.

Megan: No ramps.

Justin: No. My son owns a real skateboard, but the rest of us just bought long boards. If you don't know, are the boards you can get on and then just go. I actually walked the dog almost every day on a skateboard now.

Megan: Very cool.

Allie: Kind of like surfing.

Justin: Yeah, that's right. Exactly. They started in California, the long boards and a lot of these ones are made there. I actually took one on a NASFAA trip that I did to the University of Minnesota earlier in August. Took it and was like, I want to see the university, but walking obviously would take forever. Big campus. I was like, I'll just take my skateboard. I took it and was able to go all over campus. It was nice.

Megan: Can you commute in with your long board? If you could, I feel that you would do it. If you could, you would find a way.

Justin: If I could, yeah. But I feel like it's a good way to get around the city.

Stephen: If you could metro to a certain place and then long board from there.

Allie: Yeah because that's easier than people trying to take their bikes on metro.

Justin: Which is illegal during peak hours anyway.

Megan: Don't do it.

Justin: A lot of things have been happening in DC since Congress has come back. I think the one that's gotten the most amount of press, at least in the last week and we've done some pushes on it, is DACA. Who is going to catch us up on this?

Allie: I can. Yeah. Ever since January, it's just been really unclear where Trump was going to fall on DACA, whether he was going to keep it in place or repeal it. He was at first very hard on immigration and at one point said that he was going to get rid of DACA, but then softened his tone and said he was going to deal with it with compassion. It was just really unclear what was going to happen. Then it got a little more complicated when 10 state attorneys general filed a lawsuit saying that if he didn't roll back or phase out the program by September 5, they were going to go forward with their lawsuit, which was using sort of this same kind of reasoning against DAPA, which ended up getting repealed earlier in the summer. They gave him a deadline to make a decision and they were pretty confident, it seemed, that if they moved forward with this lawsuit that it would end up in their favor. We were expecting a decision on Friday actually, last Friday. It didn't end up happening, but there were reports Sunday night that President Trump would repeal DACA with a six-month delay to give Congress time to act. Then it was officially announced Tuesday morning by Attorney General Jeff Sessions. That's where we're at right now. There's no new permits being accepted, but if DACA recipients have a permit that expires by March 5th, I believe, then they can apply to have it renewed, but they have to get that in by early October. No new permits, but some people might get theirs renewed.

Justin: Yeah and the renewal period is 2 years, right?

Allie: Yes. Yeah.

Justin: Now, you guys disagree with me here, but for an administration that for the last 8 months, 9 months that has seemed like they've had a hard time politically speaking coming up with grand strategies and executing them. With leaks, with position reversals. This to me struck me as a little more sophisticated than what we've seen from the administration in the 1st 8 months of President Trump's term. Here's why. Late last week, the middle of last week, it was leaked and it almost seemed purposefully leaked that President Trump was going to repeal DACA. Obviously everybody is very

concerned because it sounded like it was going to be a straight repeal. Meanwhile, for the last several months, President Trump has been talking about how it's a difficult situation and there's a lot of heart and his feelings go out to these DACA students in particular. It sounded like a straight repeal. Then you had all sorts of members of Congress, advocacy groups, NASFAA included coming out with statements supporting DACA. The business community, Fortune 500 companies, Paul Ryan all coming out in support. Instead of a straight repeal, which I think they had this teed up for a while. He comes out with a six-month sort of stay and puts it into Congressional court and I would say, if I'm a supporter of DACA, nobody wants a repeal. I'm not arguing that. But you would want this codified in law. That is the surest way to make sure these students are protected. I mean we've been fighting for DREAM for 17 years now. Since 2000, 2001 NASFAA's supported DREAM. If you want this, of course the really big question is, will Congress get it done. Then in a very perplexing move, the President then tweeted almost as if he was negotiating against himself that if Congress doesn't get it done, he'll revisit.

Allie: That's what I was going to say. I *would* agree with you except for that, and a couple other points. In some ways, this is a straight repeal for some people. It ends starting Tuesday. It ended if you didn't fall into that category of having your permits renewed. For those people, it's a straight repeal.

Stephen: But he tweeted an hour ago and said, "for all of those (DACA,) in parenthesis, that are concerned about your status during the six-month period, you have nothing to worry about. No action."

Allie: But then there was another report looking at the internal memo for the repeal that said they should start planning to wrap up things with their work and to leave the country.

Justin: I do think there's a split in the administration. I think that's pretty clear. You've got hard righters in the administration who very much like to say, the end.

Stephen: At DHS and at Justice.

Justin: Then you've got people within the administration and Congress and I would put GOP leadership into this where they're saying, we support the idea of protecting DACA students, but what we really disagree with was the executive action that protected them because it's not in executive domain. It should be a legislative domain. Of course that doesn't recognize that Congress has floundered on this issue for 15 years. I don't know. If you actually got something passed, and the other reason I think this is somewhat more sophisticated than what I'm used to seeing from this administration is it does sort of shift the pressure to Congress as opposed to the administration. As soon as the President did that, I

understand the ire directed at the Trump administration for the repeal, but everything now is going to be pushed onto Congress, right? That's where all advocacy is going to go.

Allie: I think it does force their hand, but also what I got from Paul Ryan's remarks before the repeal actually happened was, it seemed like he was sort of saying, don't repeal it. Just let us find a solution legislatively before you roll back the executive action, so it's not like there's this weird limbo period now.

Justin: I agree, but I think it's all sort of like fool me once with Congress. They will never.

Allie: Right.

Stephen: He set a clock.

Allie: Like I said, now their hand is really being forced.

Justin: Except that he tweeted that he would revisit the issue.

Allie: I know. Which he can't. You can't. Now that...

Stephen: He could.

Megan: He could. I mean he could though.

Stephen: He could put it back in place tomorrow.

Megan: Yeah.

Stephen: He could. It's an executive order.

Allie: He could. He could, but I'm just wondering about, like I said, all those people who can't renew their permits or filed them before. It seems like it would be really, really messy administratively.

Justin: There's the heart of it, I think because on the one hand I can talk politically about it. I do think it was a little more sophisticated than I'm used to seeing with this administration.

Megan: I do agree with that.

Justin: But the heart of it is what you just said, which is when you remember that these are real people's lives, then the political gamesmanship loses I think some of the, it's tarnished because these are real

people who are now in limbo trying to figure out what they're going to do. Then you think about things like the hurricanes that hit Texas and that are about to hit Florida and shelters and people with undocumented status and whether they feel comfortable even going to a shelter. At the heart of the matter, it's a mess.

Megan: I think it's hard to watch the administration talk about this in terms of just a process issue. You know? I love the dreamers, but it wasn't constitutional. It doesn't pass muster. When really, I think there's a lot more going on there. I think that if there was real concern for these students, the administration could have taken an approach for example, right when they 1st came in and said, let me flip it. Congress, I'm going to tell you right now, I talked about this on the campaign trail. I'm going to give you six months. Give you 6 months. You do something. If you don't do something, then I'll take it away. I also just think the other thing I have to say about it is this whole Presidents issue executive orders and actions all the time. Anytime they're issued by any president, there are always questions about whether they're constitutional, right? Because it's executive office issuing some authority. I think that it's not unusual that people would question whether it was constitutional or not. That's not exclusive to President Obama.

Justin: If you take the politics out of this, nothing ever prevented Congress from doing something, whether there's an executive order or not. Congress could have done something. They just never do unless there is a cliff that we're all going to jump off.

Stephen: I think we have to insert the politics back in and a large part of the President's platform to get elected was on immigration. A huge, huge piece. The wall. That's one of the big pieces of the platform and cracking down on immigration and that's why he pulled together a winning coalition of a lot of folks, sort of blue collar workers who had voted for Democrats in Michigan and Pennsylvania and Ohio. One of the big issues for them was the economy, but also immigration. At some point, he has to deliver a message or something to them too.

Justin: Before I move off this topic, continuing sort of my being perplexed by the administration. There is a legislative fix out there and it's not even going as far as the DREAM Act. There's the Bridge Act, right? Which just basically takes DACA, puts it in legislation. That's a bipartisan bill. Congress could move on something very quickly, like this week. It's introduced. It's there. We could do it.

Megan: But they haven't done it the past 10 years.

Justin: I know.

Megan: So that's also why I think it's a bit disingenuous to kick it over to a Congress that can barely pass their own budget every year.

Justin: On that note, Congress has its hands full in the next four weeks, even without DACA being placed into their court. Sticking with sort of being perplexed with the administration, big news just happened yesterday with the budget, the debt ceiling. Who is going to catch us up here?

Megan: Yesterday there was a big meeting at the White House. President Trump, leaders of the House, and leadership in the Senate all coming together to talk about big ticket items that Justin just mentioned. How to deal with Harvey relief. How to deal with the debt ceiling. How to deal with the budget, which needs to be finished by the end of this month. Leaders got together to talk about how all of that was going to happen and ultimately President Trump ended up siding with the Democrats, so Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi, on kind of putting together this three-month fix that goes through December 8 that will tackle all of these issues. I think if you look at it just at a high level, it's like okay great. We don't have all this craziness happening in September now except it pushed the buck to December 8 and a very probably contentious budget battle to come up in just three additional months. The Republicans came in wanting a much longer term fix on the debt ceiling. They wanted an 18-month fix and then reportedly in these conversations, they even said okay, well what about 12? They kept coming down and down a little bit, but never to three months. And it really shocked everybody whenever Trump said, it appears just kind of on a whim, hey we'll go with you.

Justin: This is what I love about this whole story, is that right before going into this meeting, Speaker Ryan comes out and really blasts the Democrats for playing politics with things like disaster relief and the debt ceiling. Democrats want three months because it gives them more leverage to then come up to a cliff and then try to extract more.

Megan: On Harvey, on immigration, even the DACA stuff. Yep.

Justin: Right. Democrats do not have a lot of power in Washington, D.C. right now, but in these instances, because of the fractures in the Republican party, you need Democratic support to pass debt ceiling bills and in some instances, continuing resolutions. This is one of the rare instances where, if they can just get iterative increases, they can keep coming back and negotiating for more with a GOP

majority. They only wanted three. Ryan blasts them for playing politics with these things. Like you said, they go 18 months to get them past midterm elections. Then it's 12. Then they offer six.

Stephen: Because it's a hard, Paul Ryan fundamentally doesn't want on his watch, Republican Congress' watch, the government to default. Fundamentally you need to pass a debt ceiling increase and you have to do it because not all of your caucus is on board with some Democratic votes, but he doesn't want his vulnerable Republicans or his more conservative Republicans who don't want to raise the debt ceiling to have to keep voting on this again and again and again and again. It's a leverage piece and that's why he was so upset about the politics thing because the Democrats, they have leverage. They're like, we're not going to pass hurricane relief without the debt ceiling. And that is politics, right? Both sides do it and have done it for years with big ticket items. The point of it wasn't just for fun, we wanted to kick the can down the road. It was like, for the sake of our members and we're also Republicans here.

Megan: And midterm elections next year, so setting it up this way makes it much more likely for them to achieve the victories, things they can talk about.

Justin: The can was going to be kicked. It was just the length and time.

Megan: Right.

Justin: The other thing I love about this is when President Trump announces the deal, he doesn't mention Mitch McConnell or Paul Ryan at all. He mentions both Nancy Pelosi, who is the minority leader in the House and Chuck Schumer, who is the minority leader in the Senate. And his Republican colleagues are left out in the cold. Then reportedly in the meeting, while they're in the White House, his daughter Ivanka Trump walks in, disrupts the meeting, which is whatever. I mean, she's a political advisor, also his daughter. This gets into the he said, she said, but Politico is reporting that Paul Ryan and Mitch McConnell were in the middle of trying to make their argument not to do a three-month and she comes in and kind of disrupts things. Next thing you know, the deal is done. Then there's this picture. Through the West Wing window of Chuck Schumer and Trump embracing. It's just, this is like, political intrigue.

Megan: And apparently Ivanka came in and started talking about the Child Tax Credit or something.

Justin: Yes. Yes.

Megan: A different thing.

Justin: Completely different topic.

Megan: Right, so it's not even her coming in and it changes. You know, she's here now, what's going on? She's like, let's stop talking about debt ceiling. I'd like to chime in on the children's tax.

Stephen: I think this whole experience here really muddles the water in a lot of ways for immigration too because you don't always know where he's going to land and he didn't come up like Paul Ryan and Mitch McConnell repeatedly emphasizing their conservative orthodoxy and their principles of limited government and free markets. He comes from a completely different background. What does he actually believe? In this instance, he sided with the Democratic leaders and in the docket case, he's being very sort of wishy washy on, we may revisit this and it's hard I think for a lot of folks to see the writing on the wall where anything will land.

Justin: He's definitely upending the swamp. I think the unpredictability is part of the way that he gets leverage. If you're on the wrong side of that, it's terrible. And if you're on the wrong side of it, you're sort of, I mean the Democratic leadership was ecstatic yesterday. It was insane. The least powerful group in DC. I mean you would have thought it was Christmas morning.

Megan: And two days ago, he repealed DACA and they were, you know? Then they were sitting here with him.

Justin: Things are a little tough.

Megan: You were going to say something Stephen.

Stephen: I was just going to add to the craziness of it all. Just that now there some commentators and Lou Dobbs on Fox Business Network is saying, congratulating Donald Trump for this deal and then turns around and uses the term RINO, the "Republican In Name Only" term, which is typically used for more moderate Republicans who say they're for limited government, but end up voting with the Democrats and raising the debt ceiling and increasing government spending. Uses the term RINO in his opening monologue to talk about Paul Ryan as the ultimate RINO and Donald Trump is the true Republican. It's just here it is.

Megan: The one that just sided with the Democrats.

Justin: There it is.

Justin: It's swirled. It's like a tie dyed T shirt.

Megan: It's crazy.

Justin: It's very swirly right now.

Megan: But I want to just tie this back to something you said about DACA. You mentioned that was one of the more sophisticated political moves.

Justin: I thought it was. Yeah.

Megan: So, what happened yesterday? Do you think there was any strategy behind that or do you think that was just...?

Justin: Well, so here's the thing. Who can say anymore? But the 1 narrative that does sort of fit if I'm just trying Lego pieces to see what will fit here, is that if the President is truly done with this other stuff and wants to get the tax reform, I mean Steven talked about the big things he campaigned on. Tax reform, healthcare, immigration and infrastructure. If he wants to get the tax reform, then this stuff is a distraction to him. He knows the debt ceiling. Everybody knows the debt ceiling's going to be increased. Everybody knows, whether there's a short term shut down or not, we're going to have a continuing resolution. These are foregone conclusions. If he's like, clear the board with this nonsense so we can get to tax reform, then I can see it.

Megan: Yes. Except he's missing the piece of alienating leadership, but that's the part I don't, I mean he doesn't come from a political background, right? That piece I think is not as strong.

Justin: I agree, but also if he believes he doesn't need their leadership because he's got his own base that is above party.

Stephen: Lou Dobbs saying that.

Justin: Right. If he ends up not being affiliated with any real one party because for him, it's the agenda. Not the party.

Megan: But then there's Freedom Caucus resembles, I would say very closely his base.

Stephen: I thought they were elected by his base.

Megan: Elected by his base.

Justin: Some, like by immigration, but I don't know. I guess maybe on trade.

Megan: I think, I don't know.

Justin: I don't know. This is above my pay grade.

Megan: It's very interesting to think about. The whole thing is just wild to watch.

Stephen: But there are implications then for student aid in all of the budget things that we're talking about here. This three-month CR, continuing resolution to continue to fund the government. It doesn't appear, now that this deal's been struck, that there will be full government funding in place for student aid programs, though that's what we've come to expect over the last number of years. They're never done by September anyway, however there was House omnibus bill actually moving through the process. But it appears because of this deal, we'll do a CR and get to a deal later in December.

Justin: And Congress, did you have something else on that?

Megan: I was just going to say to remind folks that the CR just basically kind of keeps things the same level as they were last year. It just keeps it moving along. Just to distinguish between the work that was being done in the omnibus. That's talking about and debating new levels and changes for the following year.

Stephen: Yeah. For FY18 and so that's award year 2018-19. The thing that is unfortunate and there's really nothing we can do as advocates, is that with prior-prior year, you'd like to have all of the funding levels set as schools are beginning to send out award letters earlier than ever before. But just the climate that we're in, I don't really see that as the big motivator for Congress to get their work done by September 30.

Megan: Last year, I mean it wasn't wrapped up until early May, as in four or five months ago.

Justin: Of course this has all just been speaking. There's not actually a continuing resolution that's been passed yet. We'll see.

Megan: That's right. It isn't over until it's over. Right?

Justin: Congress is continuing to still work on their funding bills though for some long term funding for the 2018-19 year. I think some welcome news yesterday out of the Senate Appropriations Committee that oversees education spending. Who is going to catch us up on that?

Stephen: We saw the House put together their appropriations bill that was pretty non noteworthy other than the large cut to the Pell reserves. The Senate now is working on their Labor-HHS-Education bill for FY18 and they included a \$100 increase to the maximum grant for Pell. The last several years, we've seen an inflationary increase that's been automatic regardless of Congressional action, but now Congress is going to go in and sort of manually bump up the maximum award from \$5,920 to \$6,020. They'll also do a rescission from the Pell reserves of \$2.6 billion. So that's lower than the President's and that's lower than the House. And then flat-lining Federal Work-Study and SEOG. There's some other provisions in there, including prohibiting a move to a single servicer as well as restoring eligibility for Pell for defrauded students and encouraging the department to proactively contact defrauded students to let them know about their loan eligibility. A bunch of items in there. It's definitely the best proposal we've seen for FY18 if you look at the present budget, the House Appropriations bill and now the Senate Appropriations bill, it's certainly better. It's more bipartisan in its construction, so that certainly explains.

Justin: We're a long way off from actually having final spending numbers, but Pell rescission not great, but increase with the CPI going away. Positive news.

Megan: Compared to what was put out in the budget request from the administration, it's rosy.

Justin: Moving over to the Department of Education right now. Couple things. One is we just had a track announcement come out on protecting student privacy and this was something that we had actually talked about and talked to federal student aid about, the NASFAA board had talked to them about at our board meeting in June in San Diego. We're walking a fine line here because we know that this next year the DRT information that students and parents import is going to be masked. There's obvious and I think real concerns about due to parents and students either overwriting the data because they can't see it or 2, contacting the financial aid office and asking for it. When the board talked to the Department of Education, the conversation was really about walking this tightrope because on the one hand, we want to create policies and procedures that would prevent fraud, obviously because we don't want somebody contacting a school and saying something like, hey what was my AGI? Here's my date of birth and social security number. On the other, we don't want to make this so cumbersome that students and parents can't actually get information they need. So how do you walk that line? Then this electronic announcement, what I appreciated from the department, which isn't always easy for the community, is they really just emphasized that schools need to review their own policies and procedures to make sure they have secure practices in place to prevent identity theft and fraud without dictating a list of examples of what exactly they should be asking students and parents. The risk we run by having the

department tell us exactly what the procedures will be is that then the IRS can weigh in and start saying, not good enough. We're going to pull the whole thing down again. This is the tightrope, which is how prescriptive and how much are they going to leave to schools? On that note, NASFAA is pulling together a webinar. It will be free to all NASFAA members. We're going to have schools come in and talk about best practices and what they're doing to identify students to confirm their identities for both on campus and off campus students before giving out sensitive information.

Megan: I think the only thing I would add to that is just I think we have to give some credit to the department. I think the IRS was probably much less invested in bringing back up the data retrieval tool. I think to them, it was sort of just something that, they viewed it as something that just made it more efficient for students and didn't realize that it had a lot to do with access and simplification and things like that. My sense is the department really had to push the IRS's hand to even get the tool back up. I think what they're doing here too is trying to be sensitive and aware of the fact that the IRS is on very high alert right now and kind of like, if it messes up again, it will be very hard to come back, I think.

Justin: I think you're right. If you look at federal agencies when they're not being coordinated out of the White House, which new administration, if you had to look at which agency had leverage here, it's the IRS. It's their tool. They can pull it down. The department couldn't force the IRS to leave it up. So I think we are trying to walk this tightrope of balancing privacy, while still leaving some way for students to utilize the tool. I know this creates complexities for campuses. That's sort of the fallout. Not to mention, obviously students. We're hoping this is part of all this as kind of a short term solution will get to a longer term solution in some of the outliers where some additional authentication would do away with the masking, but that's in the works.

Allie: On that note too, we also wrote an article about how to talk to students and parents about the data being masked and sort of what that means and how to advise them. If anyone has additional questions on that about talking to them about the new security provisions, we're going to have sort of an "office hours" Twitter chat on Monday the 11th at 3 PM. Jill from our policy team is going to be around to answer questions. If you just tweet us and use the hashtag, #AskNASFAA with your questions on that topic, then we'll be there to help you out.

Justin: Great. 3 PM Eastern on Monday.

Allie: 3 PM Eastern.

Justin: Great. We're also, we'll have some things to talk about in the out weeks about the Perkins Loan Program, verification of non filer we're still working with the department on and we will be submitting comments on ways the department can back out of some really burdensome and unnecessary duplicative regulations. We'll tee all of that up for a future episode. Also want to give our thoughts to the folks who were impacted by Hurricane Harvey in Texas and the folks in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands and in Florida and possibly South Carolina who are about to be affected by Irma. We've been in contact with those state association presidents, the regional association presidents. During Harvey, we were receiving almost daily updates and briefings from federal student aid. Hats off to them for staying engaged. We've sent out letters to all the schools that are in the impacted areas letting them know we're here to help and obviously most of all want them to be safe. On that note, we will have a special episode next week where we've connected with some folks who've been affected by Hurricane Harvey.

Allie: Yeah, Justin has done a couple interviews with folks down there to talk about what's been going on and how other people can help and just the general lay of the land. We will have a special "Off The Cuff" episode early next week.

Justin: All right, well I think we're not doing away with "What Was That" entirely, but this was a summer catch up. I think we're just going to forego.

Allie: We had a lot to catch up on.

Justin: Thanks everybody for joining. Send us your comments, questions. Remember to subscribe, tell a friend. See you again next week.