Hello WASFAA,

This will be one of my briefer updates, since like many of you I find myself busier and busier as our fall start in the “new normal” draws near. This is on top of the exhaustion of seemingly nonstop video meetings and other forms of remote communication.

Nevertheless, WASFAA members have been busy at work on a number of projects, so I wanted to be sure to mention these summertime efforts before they were lost to the rustle of autumn leaves. Last month the Executive Council was finally able to meet virtually, after the June in-person meeting was cancelled along with the Summer Institute. Among the actions taken by the board were to approve the registration fees for both the virtual Jerry R. Sims Management & Leadership Institute this November and the yearlong Rebekah Hoppel Salcedo Leadership Development Program, which will launch at the same time. Also at the meeting, Ethnic Diversity Action Committee chair Christina Tangalakis presented a proposal to update the name of the committee, which will require approval of the membership to amend the by-laws. The full proposal will be sent to all current members for a 30-day comment period followed by an electronic vote.

More recently, the Summer Institute committee hosted a two-hour information sharing session, Reimagining the Financial Aid Experience in a COVID-19 Pandemic, during which participants heard panelists share their experiences, then had the chance to break out into smaller groups to share in more depth. Based on the positive response, the Training Committee plans to hold similar sessions as we head into the fall.

Finally, the Federal Relations committee responded to the latest developments in DC by addressing a letter to Senate leadership in support of continued student loan relief and additional funding for education in any forthcoming COVID-19 relief legislation. Now that I have kept you up to date on how our WASFAA volunteers are working behind the scenes to keep us connected and continue to advocate for our profession, I will let us all get back to the good work we do best.

Stay safe and stay in touch!