OASFAA Executive Meeting
August 8, 2024
MINUTES

Present: Celeste Coles, Shaun Anderson, Mary Beth Scott, Anik Powell, Jeremy Potter, Krisha Marshall, Melanie Oakes, Tina Obediah, Juli Vlaminck

Regrets: Mary Santoli, Marian Doll, Leslie Aitchison, Brenda Cromb, Lana Hardwick

- **Business Arising**
  - **Committee Sign-Up – Update**
    - Committee sign-up – only 16 people signed up (1 for Communications, 15 for Policy & Procedures)
    - Need to bring forward; do another call – come up with a solution
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  - **HCR – not all proposed changes were implemented; requesting additional updates to align with the AB form, table format – hopefully for 2526?**
    - Committee looking for re-design of form; not just changes
    - Would like to see a table format – refer to MCU

- **Chair's Report**
  - **Introductions & Welcome (Northern Region Rep & MB replacement)**
    - Mark Robinson will be replacing Mary Beth Scott as the Treasurer
  - **Meeting frequency for Regions**
    - General expectation is once per term
  - **Teams form to solicit feedback for proof of Indigenous status**
    - Current requirement for proof of indigenous status; self-attestation working?
    - Is there an opportunity for fraud based on current policy?
      - Attestation form opens up more fraud opportunity; proper documentation should be provided
      - If we poll membership, we need to reiterate that they need to poll their indigenous offices too
  - **Letter to Director – any updates we'd like to make before sending?**
    - Celeste to finalize (ie: years + 1) to review at our next meeting. Once approved, send to Director
  - **Financial Aid Leadership Group- Update**
    - 19 people signed up; will meet 3 times per academic year

- **Past-Chair's Report**
  - **Issues with payment platform re: challenges with not being a registered non-profit**
  - **If we are going to continue then we may not be able to offer the convenience of cc payments**

- o **Most 3rd party payment platforms require some kind of business ID or formal proof of CRA registration**
- o **Service request to vendor about this**
    - o Do we need to register as a non-profit group? If not, we may not be able to offer credit card payments going forward
    - o Registering as non-profit is too much work, lawyers, require business ID, require CRA registration, etc
    - o Currently have a service request out to vendor to discuss options – <mark>update to come</mark>

- **Treasurer's Report**
    - o See above

- **Committee Reports --** need to send Committee sign up & call for for members

    - o **Professional Development**
    - o n/a

    - o **Procedures**
    - o n/a

    - o **Communications**
    - o n/a

    - o **Policy**
    - o n/a

    - o **Systems**
    - o First meeting with MCU is Aug 22nd
    - o Hoping that if student has 2 apps for the same institution, it can be flagged
    - o Template headers on YTD files
    - o Signature Page Queue – no denial button, therefore, goes to other queue

- **External Liaison Report (CASFAA)**
    - o Reviewing policy brief to re-assess what priorities would be for this year:
        1. affordability for education
        2. entrance & exit counselling for students
        3. review of part-time program
    - o Out-of-province summaries should be complete by end of August on CASFAA website

- **New Business**
  - **Tuition Waiver**
    - Current policy only refers to waivers that are <u>not</u> dependent on academic achievement. How are they reported when they ARE based on academic achievement?
      - Yes, these are also reported on OSAP

  - **Years+1 Policy**
    - Krista clarified to Jeremy that even for terms where a PCR was approved, it was to be counted as a funded term towards the years+1; only approved ECR terms were to be removed from calc
    - How are schools enforcing this policy? What method are you using?
    - Messy when student takes a reduced course load – consideration must be granted to allow flexibility for variation in program delivery across different institutions etc.
    - Lack of consultation from MCU on this – issue
    - Main takeaway – inconsistency in policy

      Table: Study Periods Plus One Programs of Study

Student's Program	Standard Length of Program based on a 100% course load	One Additional Year Equivalent	Maximum Assistance
Certificate	1 year program (2 terms of study)	2 terms	4 terms of study
Certificate	1 year program offered over 1 year (3 terms per year)	3 terms	6 terms of study
Diploma	2-year program offered over 2 years (2 terms per year)	2 terms	6 terms of study
Undergraduate Degree	4-year program offered over 4 years (2 terms per year)	2 terms	10 terms of study

    - Student who takes f/w/s each year of study would hit max in less than 4 years
    - **OASFAA Decision:**
      - academic progress needs to be monitored but not in so many different ways.
      - Can this be raised at CASFAA to get a pulse nationally
      - If it's a federal rule, why do some provinces not have this policy?
      - It used to say that 'when institutions became aware' but now they are saying it is a policy – will institutions be flagged?
      - MCU did not ask for OASFAA input for this policy
      - Policy is ineffective
      - Ask for a Working Group – refer to MCU

- o **Acknowledgement of Academic Probation**
    - o **Request:** Can we add clearer language regarding the transcript requirement? Students often assume when selecting "Yes" that the FAA has access to the transcript information and by selecting "Yes" they are providing authorization for us to access this information.
        - Students under impression that if they select 'yes' on the form, the schools have access to those transcripts.
        - Some students select wrong statements
        - Form should be simplified. Should state 'you must upload transcript if you have attended another institution'
        - Checklist: If returning to same school, complete form. If attending a new school, provide transcripts– refer to MCU

- o **Extenuating Parent Circumstances**
    - o No real improvement in issues with this review. Suggestion to have something more robust on the app when the selection of "I cannot provide parent information" is made. A pop-up dialogue box that asks specific questions to determine the relevance of the review.
        - This will catch at application stage. Current pop-up – need to make it more dynamic so students read the information
        - There are still a lot of inaccurate applications coming in; no improvements
        - Need an actual signature &, if a sibling writing letter, proof of their DOB (as they must be over 16) – refer to MCU

- o **Proof of Marriage**
    - o **Student View:** Provide a copy of your marriage certificate. For marriages that are registered in Canada, an acceptable document would be a registered marriage certificate (wallet, file, or long form sized). Documents that are not acceptable include a Record of Solemnization of marriage, or non-registered marriage licenses. If you are not able to provide this document, you may submit an affidavit signed by you and your spouse. The affidavit must attest to the date and location of your marriage and explain the reason you cannot provide a marriage certificate**.**
    - o **This is leading students to believe they can submit affidavits in lieu of marriage certificates for arbitrary reasons. Recommendation to update language for clarity. Suggestions?**
        - Need exact wording & what improvement might look like – Melanie to provide within next 2 weeks – refer to MCU
        - EX: Provide a copy of your marriage certificate. For marriages that are registered in Canada, an acceptable document would be a registered marriage certificate (wallet, file, or long form sized). Documents that are not

acceptable include a Record of Solemnization of marriage, or non-registered marriage licenses. If you are not able to provide this document <mark>due to non-arbitrary reasons</mark>, you may submit an affidavit signed by you and your spouse. The affidavit must attest to the date and location of your marriage and explain the reason you cannot provide a marriage certificate. <mark>Being unable to provide your marriage certificate due to not having ordered your marriage certificate or a replacement is not grounds for submitting an affidavit.</mark>

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- **Regional Reports:**
  - **Eastern Region**
  - **Central Region**
  - **Western Region**
  - **Northern Region**
    - Nothing to report