

Council for the Advancement of Standards Update: Reporting on CAS Operations in 2018

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This month we take a short break from our ongoing provision of resources on enacting self-assessment and program review using CAS to update you on happenings in the world of CAS. As a reminder, AFA maintains [a resource page](#) for CAS that includes each of the articles we have written this year. If you have questions about any part of this short update, please contact [Dan](#) or [Monica](#).

Operations of CAS

- Sadly, our Executive Director, Marybeth Drechsler Sharp passed in June. It has been a difficult time for all of us within CAS. She leaves behind a devoted husband and family, including many student affairs and higher education professionals who love her. We have appointed an interim, Deborah Garrett, who was our Past President. She has served CAS as a volunteer for over 20 years. She will serve in the interim role through the end of 2019.
- We held two virtual meetings in 2018: one in April and one in July.
- Elections were held during the April meeting. Dan Bureau, AFA Liaison, was elected to the role of President-Elect beginning September 2018 and to President beginning in September 2019 through September 2021. Ann Hower (NODA) was elected for Member at Large for Standards. An additional election was held in July to elect a person to replace Dan Bureau as Member at Large for Engagement. Kristi Mindrup (NCCP) was elected to begin serving in September 2018.
- Be prepared for the release of the 10th Edition of the CAS Standards in March 2019. This will coincide with a number of other resources being developed for CAS users.

Standards Development

CAS typically has about eight committees a year appointed to develop and revise standards. This year we have 11 including our Cross-Functional Frameworks (CFF). The Standards that have been approved in 2018 include Testing, Post-Traditional and Commuter Students, Career Services, and our General Standards (which are revised every three years while preparing for the launch of the next edition of the “Blue Book”.) Our CFF, which emphasize collaborative approaches to addressing broad issues in Higher Education, are in the process of being finalized for purchase. The first two will focus on First-Year Experiences and High Risk Behaviors.

There are a number of standards development and revision committees working, most were charged in 2018 though some have been in place since as far back as 2016. They are:

- Auxiliary Services
- Behavioral Intervention Teams (Cross-Functional Framework)

- Campus Activities Programs
- Case Management (new standards)
- College Unions
- International Student Programs
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Programs and Services
- Parent and Family Programs
- Student Leadership
- Sustainability (new standards)
- TRiO Programs
- Veterans and Military Student Services

A reminder: AFA members have access to the [Standards for Fraternity/Sorority Advising Programs \(FSAP\)](#) free of charge. These were last revised in 2010 will be revised sometime before 2020.

CAS Strategic Priorities

There are a number of initiatives that emphasize some of our strategic priorities. They include:

- Resources to help CAS users more effectively implement CAS Self-Assessment and Program Review in their distinctive functional areas through providing cases of how they have been used. These Functional Area Resource Papers (FARPS) will emphasize practical strategies for implementation.
- White papers, including those developed by graduate preparation program faculty, on how to effectively use CAS.
- Revisions to our Frameworks for Assessing Learning Development Outcomes (FALDOs) resource
- The development of two CAS User Groups (on Facebook): one for [four-year](#) institutions and one for [two-year](#).
- The sound management of our resources, including developing and approving a conservative budget for 2018-2019.
- Development of processes and practices related to the development and revision of Standards within our Standards Management Committee.
- The implementation of our volunteer program, which has placed 72 people in roles who had previously not served on the Council.
- Presentations at NASPA and ACPA, among many other functional area association conferences (proposals submitted for our Annual Meeting).
- Implementation of our Advisory Board, which consists of a number of well-known Higher Education professionals.

- Enhancing partnerships with key organizations within higher education that focus on assessment to ensure a quality experience for students, including [CampusLabs](#), [IDEA](#), [The Lumina Foundation](#), and [NILOA](#).
- Continued enactment of our plan to address the position of CAS within higher education (part of our market research conducted in 2015).

CAS as a consortium exists of up to two appointees from 41 higher education and student affairs associations. By the end of 2019, we will have 50 sets of standards cutting across diverse functional areas. If you have any questions about the work we are doing for CAS on behalf of AFA, please contact [Dan](#) or [Monica](#).