CAS Update
Dan Bureau & Monica Lee Miranda, AFA Representatives to CAS

Last year, we provided an overview of how to use the CAS Standards for Fraternity/Sorority Advising Programs (FSAP) for self-assessment and program review. Those resources are found here under Guides and Updates. Additionally, there were a number of workshops hosted at the AFA Annual Meeting that showcased how to use CAS.

This first update of 2019 focuses on the recent CAS meeting held in Alexandria, Virginia last November. There are 41 associations who send one or two representatives to these annual in-person meetings. To make sure AFA members are informed about how we are doing the work of CAS, we are providing this update.

First, we did the work of Standards review and revision. Six sets were approved after completing an exhaustive review: Campus Activities Programs, International Student Programs and Services, LGBTQ+ Programs and Services, Parent and Family Programs and Services, TRIO and College Access Programs, and Veterans and Military-Connected Students Programs.

Look for closure on some currently assigned sets of revisions: College Unions, Student Leadership, and the new set of Case Management standards. These may be available sometime in 2019, but will not be in the new edition of the CAS Book of Standards (see launch date below).

There were also a number of sets of standards set for revisions in 2019, including Fraternity and Sorority Advising Programs. Others set to be reviewed and revised: Campus Police, Counseling Services, Indigenous Students (new!), Master’s Level of Student Affairs Preparation Programs, and Registrar. These will likely take one year to accomplish a complete review and revision.

We have launched an effort to promote cross-functional collaborations. In 2019, we will publish two sets of cross-functional frameworks (CFF): one for First-Year Experiences and one for Advancing Health and Well-being. Work on a Behavioral Intervention CFF is underway.

The 10th Edition of the CAS Book of Standards will be released this spring (likely March 1). It will include significant revisions to the General Standards as well as 16 new sets of standards approved since the last publication in 2015.
Second, we determined a plan for the future of CAS. Some of you may know that our Executive Director passed away in June. We have appointed Past President Deb Garrett in the role of interim Executive Director until December 2019. The CAS Governing Board has reviewed a number of potential options and the Council decided to move forward with soliciting interest from an association management company (AMC). An RFP will go out to potential AMC’s in March/April 2019.

Third, the Council participated in a discussion about the strategic priorities of CAS. By reviewing this presentation, you can see what it has kept CAS busy over the last two years. You can see there are a number of collaborations CAS has made in order to promote the use of Standards within higher education. Additionally, resource development has been a focal point for CAS.

Another aspect of our meeting are reports from three appointed Public Directors who provided important information to our Council members on issues such as mental health on college campuses and implementing assessment practices.

Processes such as approving minutes, budgets, and affirming the work of the Governing Board (our officers), also occurred. CAS is doing well financially and the Governing Board is quite busy working on a number of projects. Please note that Dan Bureau, currently on the Governing Board, will assume the role of CAS President in September 2019.

Finally, the Council participated in a professional development portion of the meeting with Keith Edwards, PhD, who facilitated a program on social justice. CAS aims to engage people from diverse backgrounds in addressing the issues of higher education so that we can most successfully implement our functional area standards. This training helped us to identify ways to better infuse social justice into the work we do in CAS.

It was a busy two days in November. A lot of the work of CAS occurs outside of that meeting as well so as your representatives, we are both working hard to ensure the work of CAS is done! If AFA members have any questions or ideas about the use of CAS Standards, then please feel free to contact Dan or Monica.