

TO: Secretary Paige
FROM: COO Greg Woods
RE: FSA Weekly Report
DATE: May 28, 2002

THE WEEK AHEAD

Business Cases: This week the whole ED team working on business cases for the OMB budget process will hold a two-day meeting to review summary information and recommendations. An initial review was conducted last week.

NAFSA: This week, FSA staff are exhibiting at the National Association of Foreign Student Advisors meeting in San Antonio. Staff will be distributing the newly *Foreign School Handbook*, designed to help them administer Federal student aid to Americans studying abroad and strengthen program integrity.

KEY NEWS

FAFSA on the Web: Within the next week or so, FAFSA on the Web will hit the 3,000,000 mark-three million Free Applications for Federal Student Aid via the Internet. The three million mark wasn't reached till October 9 last year. At this point in the 2002-2003 process, we are receiving half of our applications from the Web.

eLoan Initiative: On May 17, ED submitted a work plan to OMB to finalize the scope of the eGov eLoans initiative. ED is heading the initiative for OMB. CIO has forwarded to OMB a draft questionnaire to be distributed to partner agencies. The questionnaire is designed to validate agencies' loan program data, identify commonalities between agencies' interactions with citizens and business partners, and identify opportunities for adding value to those interactions.

RESOLUTION OF KEY ISSUES

Nothing to report.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS ACTIVITIES

Technical Assistance: At the request of the Australian Embassy's Australian Education Office, FSA staff held technical assistance sessions in Australia from May 1-10. The sessions were structured around the new *Foreign School Handbook*. Seventy-one representatives from Australian and New Zealand universities and the Australian government participated.

REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

Nothing to report.

POLICY DOCUMENTS

Nothing to report.

GRANT ACTIVITIES

Nothing to report.

ON THE HORIZON

eCampus-Based System To Go Live: On June 1, eCampus-Based System Release 2 will go live. We conducted a successful Production Readiness Review (PRR) on May 15. This is the final release of the system, which replatforms a 20-year old legacy system. The launch will mark the completion of an action item in ED's Strategic Plan.

Perkins Loan Service Cancellation Reimbursements: In June, schools will receive electronic fund transfer reimbursements for 2000-2001 Perkins Loan Service Cancellations. A Dear Partner Letter announcing the reimbursements was posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site on May 20. About 1,688 schools are eligible for Perkins Service Cancellations. Payment letters and worksheets are being delivered to them via the Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG). Insufficient funds in the FY 2002 Perkins Loan Service Cancellation appropriation means schools will receive about 60% of the reimbursement due them under Section 465 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

National Default Prevention Day: FSA's second annual National Default Prevention Day will be held on August 1. Already, 367 people have registered. July 1 is the deadline to sign up. The one-day program, held in FSA's regional offices, Washington, and Puerto Rico, trains financial aid administrators and other partners in the variety of tools available to help them manage and prevent defaults.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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