

Policy Proposal Development

The Policy Committee currently has four policy proposal batches in various stages of development. These will update the July 2009 edition.

- **Batch 164:** This batch of four policy proposals was distributed for comment on October 30th with comments due on November 20th. The Governing Board will consider the proposals from Batch 164 during its meeting on January 21st.
- **Batch 165:** This batch of five policy proposals was distributed for comment on November 20th with comments due on December 11th. The Governing Board will consider the proposals from Batch 165 during its meeting on February 18th.
- **Batch 166:** This batch of seven policy proposals was distributed for comment on December 18th with comments due on January 8th. However, due to what appears to have been a technical issue with the Common Manual list serves, not all of the Governing Board members received the Batch 166 transmittal on time. Therefore, the Policy Committee has extended the comment due date from January 8 to Friday, January 22, 2010.
- **Batch 167:** The Committee is currently working to populate this batch, which will contain approximately 7 policy proposals. Batch 167 will be distributed for comment on January 8th. Comments will be due on January 29, 2010.

Although the Committee originally planned to end its production year with Batch 168 (to be distributed on January 29th), we have determined that it is necessary to add one more batch of proposals to our "to do" list. The reason is two-fold. First, adding another batch will allow the Committee to keep the batches at a manageable size, a recurring request from respondents to our annual survey. In addition, another batch will allow the Committee to ensure all the Final Rule changes that were published in late October are incorporated into the July 2010 version of the Manual, making it the most up-to-date resource possible.

In light of the addition of Batch 169, the Committee has made another adjustment to the schedule by which the Committee will refer policy proposal batches to the Governing Board during the later stage of this production year. Batch 167, which was previously scheduled for Governing Board consideration in April, will now be referred to the Board for consideration during its March meeting. The Committee believes this adjustment will more equitably distribute policy proposals available for Governing Board consideration between the remaining opportunities in March and April. With this adjustment, the Governing Board can now expect to receive Batches 166 and 167 for consideration during its March meeting, and Batches 168 and 169 for consideration during its April meeting.

Policy Committee Membership Update

It is with great regret that the Committee says farewell to Shari Mecca of the Connecticut Student Loan Program. Shari served multiple terms on the Committee and served as its Chair during the 99-00 production year. Shari was a very productive member of the Committee and understood what was needed to get the job done. We all wish Shari the very best in her new endeavors wherever they shall lead. With Shari's resignation effective on December 31, 2009, that leaves the Committee with 10 voting members, two short of full capacity.

We would like to remind guarantors that being a Policy Committee member is a skill-building opportunity. The additional information gained from the examination of issues during policy development and the opportunity for networking with other Policy Committee members benefits the individual, as well as the member's agency. Should your agency be in a position to nominate someone for either of the vacancies, please contact *Common Manual* Governing Board Chair Mary Heid by e-mail at mheid@ogslp.org, or by phone at (405) 234-4489. Questions about the responsibilities of Committee members can be addressed by one of the Committee's co-chairs, whose contact information is listed below.

Policy Committee Communications

All correspondence related to the Policy Committee's activities should be sent by e-mail to Carol Egan or Carolyn Small, Co-Chairs, at cegan@aessuccess.org or carolyn.small@iowa.gov. If you have questions about the Committee's activities, you may contact either Carol or Carolyn at the e-mail addresses provided, or by phone at (717) 720-3663 (Carol Egan), or (515) 725-3413 (Carolyn Small).

Information regarding the *Common Manual*, including the current and historic versions of the Manual, may be accessed on the *Common Manual* website at www.commonmanual.org.