

TRAINING BRIEF

ISSUE 18

Policy Committee – Summer Vacation?

Are you curious what the *Common Manual* Policy Committee does once the last batch of policy proposals is approved for a given year? Although it would appear the Committee takes the summer off awaiting the delivery of the July update of the manual, that couldn't be farther from the truth.

This is the time the Committee takes to ready the game plan for the coming year. Using the responses to the annual survey as a basis, the Committee reflects on the production of the past year, noting what it accomplished and the areas that need improvement. It assesses what's on the regulatory and legislative horizon that might impact the language of the manual and develops plans to enact any such changes. New members are welcomed and shown the ropes; new co-chairs take the reins and share their ideas for the coming year.

This period may seem like a lull for the community, which gets a welcomed reprieve from reviewing policy proposals (even though the Committee continues researching and developing proposals on its "to do" list). It could, however, be a prime opportunity for the community to develop policy proposals it feels should be addressed by the Committee and get them submitted as the Committee is setting its work calendar. For information on how to submit a proposal, see Training Brief, Issue 14 available on the *Common Manual* web site at: http://www.commonmanual.org/pages/page.cfm?page_id=19

With the Committee's focus during the summer months on setting its goals and assigning tasks, the monthly communication with the community – namely the Policy Committee Monthly Time Line and Update – goes on hiatus. The Committee revives this communication before the first batch of the new production year is released.

As you can see, much like a behind-the-scenes crew on a production set, there's no rest for the weary. The Committee takes full advantage of the summer "break" to recharge its batteries and gear up for producing policy proposals essential to maintaining the manual's reputation as the premier resource on common student loan policy.