



State of New Jersey

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PO Box 001

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0001

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

September 17, 2010

Via Electronic Mail and UPS Overnight Mail

E. Michael Angulo, Executive Director
Higher Education Student Assistance Authority
4 Quakerbridge Plaza
P.O. Box 540
Trenton, NJ 08625-0540

RE: Minutes of the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority
September 8, 2010 Meeting

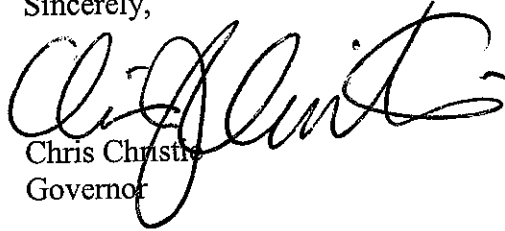
Dear Mr. Angulo:

I have reviewed the minutes of the September 8, 2010 meeting of the Board of the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority ("HESAA"). In accordance with the authorization contained in N.J.S.A. 18A:71A-6b, I hereby return the minutes with a veto of the Board's approval of Resolution 12:10, which ratified the engagement of Pashman Stein, P.C., ratified payment of costs incurred, and authorized payment of future costs to review HESAA operations in light of the report issued by the Office of the Inspector General regarding HESAA. The engagement ratified by the Board set Justice Stein's hourly rate at \$525 per hour and set other attorneys' rates at between \$247.50 per hour and \$495 per hour.

This engagement was entered into without soliciting proposals and bids from other firms. Instead, Pashman Stein, P.C., was handpicked by HESAA staff, and the unilateral decision to engage the firm was only presented to the Board for approval over three months after the engagement, and after \$32,374 had been paid for services rendered. Going forward, professional services contracts such as this should be competitively bid.

No veto power is exercised as to any other action taken by the Board at its meeting of September 8, 2010.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Christie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "C" at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Chris Christie
Governor

c: Richard Garcia, Chairperson
Deborah L. Gramiccioni, Director, Authorities Unit