

Financial Aid Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes
June 6, 2019
(Minutes Approved at September 5, 2019 FAAC Meeting)

Committee Members in Attendance	Committee Members Absent	THECB Staff	Audience
Diane Sprague (Chair) Jose Merino (Vice Chair) Shannon Crossland Christine Stuart Carruthers - Teleconferenced Zelma De Leon Delisa Falks Karla Flores Paul Galyean - Teleconferenced Heidi Granger - Teleconferenced Briget Jans Ed Kerestly Minh-Tam Nguyen Alan Pixley Charles Puls Terry Sheneman Samantha Stalnaker Kelly Steelman Kara Tappendorf Denise Welch Brent Williford Marilyn Abedrabbo (Student Rep.) Johnathan Cereceres (Student Rep.) – Teleconferenced		Wanda Carr Lizette Montiel DeChá Reid Lourdes Sanchez Leah Smalley	Brian Ashton Scott Born Rissa McGuire

Agenda Item B. Consideration of Approval of Minutes from meetings held March 6, 2018	Formal Decision/Action Required
Diane Todd Sprague, Chair Critical Discussion Points Minutes Approved	

Agenda Item C. Update: Prior FAAC Business	Formal Decision/Action Required
Charles Puls, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Critical Discussion Points Prior Minutes – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update received a big pool of nominations for FAAC this year that covered the geographic area. Great feedback in reaching school districts for the nominations. Shannon Crossland has filled one of the current vacancies in the board. 	

Agenda Item D. Presentation: Ethical Dilemmas in Determining Cost of Attendance	Formal Decision/Action Required
Pamela Fowler, University of Michigan; Mary Sommers, University of Nebraska Kearney Critical Discussion Points NASFAA has been advocating for the development of best practices with regard to this topic. The slides presented at the meeting had been presented at the 2018 NASFAA annual conference. Slide 10 refers to an article that appeared in the March 9, 2017, Journal of Higher Education: "The Cost of College Attendance: Examining Variation and Consistency in Institution Living Cost Allowances." This has started a national discussion about this subject. For example, the researchers found that nearly half of all colleges provide living-cost allowances at least 20% above or below estimated county-level living expenses. Some of the statements in the article stirred controversy and created concerns among financial aid administrators that their offices were perceived as not doing a good job in this area. NASFAA's working group to discuss cost of attendance made the following general recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COA should not be used as a vehicle to achieve institutional goals Institutions should separate the COA components that are combined in practice and statute Institutions should clearly indicate exactly what expenses are included in each COA component 	

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Comments/questions from the Committee

- It is extremely difficult to come up with a one-size-fits-all solution to the determination of cost issues.
- Question for the presenters: what is the frequency of their student surveys and are there any incentives for students to complete surveys? Answer: the surveys are done in the fall every other year and the institutions provide small gift cards as incentives for completion.
- Question from Chad: Is there anything the THECB should be focusing on to help institutions make sure that the cost of attendance is accurate? Responses: One member uses the data posted on College for all Texans (CFAT) to make sure its institutional costs are in line. Another member noted that the guidance provided on CFAT is helpful.

Agenda Item E. Update: External Relations

John Wyatt, Director

Formal Decision/Action Required

Critical Discussion Points

The 86th Texas Legislature

- Regular session ended May 27
- Governor Abbott has until June 16 to:
 - Sign or veto bills
 - Line item veto budget items
- Special session **not** expected

Higher Education Budget Outcomes

- **TEXAS Grant**
 - Increased by \$80M
 - FY 2020-21 Biennium: \$866.4M
 - Expect to maintain target awards of \$5K to 70% of newly eligible students
 - Not Funded: Request for 2.5% increase in target awards
- **TEOG**
 - No change in funding (FY 2020-21 Biennium: \$88.47M)
- **TEG**
 - Increased by \$6.8M
 - FY 2020-21 Biennium: 178.6M (Reflects shift of funds from BOT Private)
- **TCWS**
 - No change in funding (FY 2020-21 Biennium: \$18.81M)
- **TASSP**
 - Increased by \$4.17M
 - FY 2020-21 Biennium: \$6.84M
 - Annual awards increased from \$4k to \$10k
- **BOT Public**
 - Decreased by -\$17.16M
 - FY 2020-21 Biennium: 1M (Estimate for renewals only)
 - Awards ending FY 2020
- **BOT Private**
 - Decreased by -\$7.08M
 - FY 2020-21 Biennium: \$200K (Estimate for renewals only)
 - Awards ending FY 2020
- **Texas WORKS Internship Program – HB 3808**
 - Creates a centralized paid internship program at the THECB
 - Removes the current off-campus requirements under TCWS
 - No "new" funding: \$1M/year (FY 2020-21 Biennium) of TCWS funding will be used for Texas WORKS
 - Preliminary allocations sent to institutions by FAS, already accounted for the \$1M usage for Texas WORKS
 - Final allocations expected to go out June 18
 - Allows the THECB to work with employers across the state to offer paid internship opportunities to students
- **Efficient Student Transfer – SB 25:** includes changes intended to safeguard student course transfer process
 - New reporting requirement – institutions must submit a report to the THECB identifying transferred courses that **do not** apply and include an explanation of such
 - The THECB will use the reports to identify where student transfer challenges are and report them to the legislators; first report due **March 1, 2021**
 - Co-Admission – this would allow students to give consent, on the Apply Texas Application, to share their application with another institution, if denied admission for a specific program by the first institution of choice

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- **Degree Plan (DP) Filing – SB 1324:** recently signed by the Governor
 - University students must file a DP after 30hrs (previously 45hrs)
 - Added Provision: Dual credit students must file a DP after 15hrs
- **Recommended Course Sequences** – institutions required to develop at least one recommended course sequence of lower division courses for each certificate and degree program offered
 - Institutions must include in course catalog and online
 - Institutions required to report information to the THECB
- **Articulation Agreements**
 - Institutions can enter into articulation agreements and extend the existing agreements to other institutions
- **Study on Core Curriculum and Meta Majors**
 - The THECB to create and Advisory Committee consisting of two-year and four-year institution representatives to study the viability of splitting the core curriculum between general core and meta major
 - Committee to present outcome/recommendations to legislatures
- **Graduation Supplement**
 - SB 1504 was introduced since the THECB's initial recommendation (allocating portion of formula funding on basis of undergraduate completers) did not receive enough support. With SB 1504, proceeds from BOT will be used on a variety of initiatives, such as:
 - Intrusive advising
 - Academic support
 - Various methods aimed at increasing at-risk student degree completers
 - Account abolishment extended from 2020 to 2024 (funds were not appropriated during 86th legislative session)
- **Student Loan – SB 1474**
 - \$200M annual cap per bond issuance
 - Existing statute amendment allows the THECB to continue to meet the demands of the student loan program
- **Student Debt Letter – SB 499**
 - Amendment to SB 241
 - Institutions are **not** required to provide information on private loans
 - Effective: September 1, 2019
- **Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA) – HB 2140**
 - The THECB must establish an electronic submission portal for the TASFA through the Apply Texas website
 - Effective 2022-23 academic year
 - THECB's College Readiness department will lead on creation
 - The THECB must appoint an advisory committee of financial aid and student representatives to assist with implementation
 - Committee established **only** for the period of creation
 - Report on recommendations due to legislators no later than **January 1, 2021**
- **FAFSA/TASFA for HS Graduation – HB 3**
 - Requires HS students to complete and submit a FAFSA/TASFA prior to graduation
 - Effective 2021-22 school year
 - No consequences outlined in legislation for those not fulfilling the requirement
 - Members discussed challenges school districts may face in tracking this data
 - Requirement Waiver
 - Student's parent/guardian can sign a form to decline
 - Student's over 18 can sign a form to decline
 - School counselor can authorize a student to decline
 - School districts must adopt a form to be used
 - ✓ Must be approved by Texas Education Agency (TEA)
 - ✓ Must be available in English and Spanish
- **Disabled Peace Officers – HB 766**
 - Adds disabled fire fighters as eligible recipients
 - Makes the exemption **mandatory** for institutions, but includes a cap
 - May not provide to more than 20% of the maximum number of students allowed to be enrolled in a specific course (as designated by the institution)

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Agenda Item F. Presentation: TEXAS Grant report Charles Puls, Deputy Assistant Commissioner	
Critical Discussion Points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The report was streamlined this year to include only the statutorily required elements, but there are plans to highlight additional information in other forums, such as "two-pagers". Chad asked members to let us know if there were particular items that had been in previous TEXAS Grant reports that they are interested in. <p>The following will be highlighted for the presentation of the report to the Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The \$80 million increase in funding for the upcoming biennium, which should allow the agency to continue to fund approximately 70% of students who are eligible for an initial award. The enrollment pathways section - not only the percentage of students who are eligible via a particular pathway, but also the percentage of those students who receive awards through each pathway. Staff plan to examine any discrepancy between eligibility and receipt of awards to determine if there are opportunities/recommendations for closing those gaps. Most notable is the TEOG pathway, where the percentage of students qualifying for TEXAS Grant through this pathway is increasing, while only .4% of the eligible students are receiving the funds. Due to the changes to the FAD Report, for the first time the agency is able to see the extent to which students are receiving TEXAS Grants through the military pathway. We still don't know how many students are eligible through this pathway, but we can at least identify how many are funded through that pathway (fewer than 5 students for FY2018). The Urban Institute has identified Texas as one of two states where Sandy Baum and Kristin Blagg are going to be conducting a study to identify opportunities for improvement to the state grant programs using the THECB data. For example, are there elements that achieve the goals of the programs or are they just rationing devices? The funding for this study ends in 2020, so there will be time to benefit from what is learned before the next legislative session. <p>Regarding the TEXAS Grant Program, Chad noted that there have been some inquiries about how the four different priorities for TEXAS Grant relate to one another: (1) the priority deadline, (2) the priority EFC, (3) the Priority Model, and (4) the priority for renewal students. Staff are researching this matter and working on additional guidance, likely to be available this fall.</p>	
Agenda Item G. Update: Data Collection Sub-Committee Samantha Stalnaker, sub-committee Chair	Formal Decision/Action Required
Critical Discussion Points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sub-committee met March 27. Summer guidance for the grant programs was discussed. The sub-committee will meet on June 12 to get a demonstration of the new auto grant application. The FAD Report Manual was reviewed, and the group is still making recommendations based on FY18-19. DeCha Reid gave a preview of what the new Auto Grant Payment application looks like from the institution side. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new application will allow institutions to see the total allocation that has been approved, the available remaining amount and a running total of the student count. It will allow institutions to see which transactions are pending approval by the Coordinating Board. It will allow institutions to see when refunds have been received by the Coordinating Board. It will allow institutions to query for all transactions statuses including cancelled transactions. When institutions receive their final allocations, a message will be included, stating that the ability to start requesting funds for FY19-20 will begin on August 1 through the new application. 	
Agenda Item H. Update: TASFA Sub-Committee Robert Merino, sub-committee Chair	Formal Decision/Action Required
Critical Discussion Points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sub-committee met March 27 and May 7. The sub-committee conducted an informal email poll of primary institution contacts, but the response rate was inconsistent. An electronic survey using Qualtrax was conducted. The survey was distributed through the TASFAA list serve and 47 respondents answered at least one question on the survey. Based on the survey results and discussions with the sub-committee, four recommendations have been proposed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate the selective service statement within the TASFA application. Remove the "not registered" option to the selective service statement. This should reduce the likelihood that student will need to make a correction to an already submitted application. Remove the question that asks non-tax filers to explain how they financially support themselves. (Question #79). This requirement has been removed from the verification groups. 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Add "money received or paid on your behalf" under the student's untaxed income. This is to align untaxed income with the FAFSA. • Other observations from the data include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A show of general support of the creation of the online TAFSA which will be accomplished by HB 2140. ○ The opening of the TASFA on October 1 is accepted by a large majority of the schools but the schools would like to receive have the application a month earlier to allow for system modifications. • Leah Smalley, Assistant Director of Financial Aid Services, informed the sub-committee that the selective service statement will be reviewed with the next FAAC Data Collection sub-committee meeting.
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Agenda Item I. Discussion: Proposed updates to Texas Administrative Code Chapter 22 – General Provisions and Tuition Equalization Grant Charles Puls, Deputy Assistant Commissioner	Formal Decision/Action Required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charles to review rules further regarding THECB's definition of Period of Enrollment vs. Academic Year • After proposed updates are posted in the Texas Register for 30-day comment period, a notification will be sent out through the SFAP and TASFAA Listservs.
Critical Discussion Points Handout provided for committee to review. General Provisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are dual credit courses considered in the calculation of total attempted hours? Currently, nothing in statute excludes dual credit courses in the calculation of attempted hours. • Period of Enrollment vs. Academic Year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It appears that institutions are not relying on the THECB's definition between the two. TEG No concerns addressed.	

Agenda Item J. Discussion: School District Recommendations Terry Sheneman, Fort Bend ISD	Formal Decision/Action Required
Critical Discussion Points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Coordinator for Fort Bend ISD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eight largest school districts ○ 80 schools ○ Largest employer ○ 37% economically disadvantage ○ Offered Dual Credit through Houston Comm College • Three early college High Schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One ECHS (Early College High School) and two P-TECH schools is basically <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ P-Tech is basically an associate degree or level II which focus on health care & computer science ○ Statistics of Diverse student population ○ All statistics of dual credit spiked way up • Career & Technical Center (CTE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Financial Aid and College Education ○ Welders - we do not have welders welding in a booth, Firefighters- backup a firetruck near a ravine, Law Enforcement- 360-degree interactive screen, Culinary Arts, and Cosmetology • National Student Clearinghouse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Founded 1993 by higher ed community ○ 12,200 participating high schools ○ Measure postsecondary education • DATA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Percentage of students enrolled in college in the summer or fall immediately after high school about average 72% go up ○ The majority go to a public instead of a private institution 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2014 decrease in 4yr to 2yr because of the change in _____ ○ Most FBISD stay close to home for college ○ Percentage of student enrolling after they wait a year to enroll in college avg 3% ○ Average of about 50% (of what _____) ○ Student through the data show kids graduating after seven years ○ Some students may take as much as 8 years (or longer) to finish college ○ Two years out about 81% of student show enrolling in college after high school ○ About 90% retention rate return the second year the first semester is tough ○ Percent of high school class that complete a degree in five years about 50% • Best practices for ISDs and IHEs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ College visits to high schools ○ College application boot camps ○ College presentations by reps ○ College fairs ○ Alumni visits- contacting college representatives

Agenda Item K. Discussion: TASFAA Recommendations Delisa Falks, TASFAA President	Formal Decision/Action Required
Critical Discussion Points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate bill 499 TASFAA to support the bill the confusion among some institutions about loans. Submit a letter Zelma and Allen went to the capital to support. • SB 249 no intent of alternative loans what you can provide or easy access too for loans. • Past spring provide NASFAA credentialing- Subject Satisfactory Academic Progress. • TASFAA early awareness to try to increase the number of high schools' counselors. Tailor presentation two ways make it shorter, sometimes do long workshops that are tailored certificates something out in the list serv Workshops for counselors to provide thru the year. Fall conference -request for presentations Oct 9-11th in Fort Worth TX - theme "denim dollars and decreasing debt." • Aspiring Directors track provide some training increasing the skills, knowledge. 	

Agenda Item L. Update: Office of Student Financial Aid Programs Charles Puls, Deputy Assistant Commissioner	Formal Decision/Action Required
Critical Discussion Points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Net Price Calculator is now available. • The credit card processing fee went into effect May 17. • CAL loans that are certified on or after May 1 will have an interest rate of 5.2% instead of 5.3%. • Ken Martin worked with the bonding authority to ensure there is enough authority to meet demand for the foreseeable future as well as adjusted the timing of the bond issuance which will save about four million dollars a year in interest payments. • The Coordinating Board is assessing the current process of placing academic holds on delinquent students. • Due to new legislation, occupational license holds will be removed effective September 1. • Future topics for the FAAC meeting will include the chatbot that is being launched at the CB and dual credit. 	

Agenda Item M. Adjournment Diane Todd Sprague, Chair	Formal Decision/Action Required
Critical Discussion Points <p>Diane Todd Sprague, Chair Adjourned; next meeting at September 5, 2019.</p>	