

Financial Aid Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes
September 6, 2018
(Minutes Approved at December 6, 2018 Meeting)

Committee Members in Attendance	Committee Members Absent	THECB Staff	Audience
Marilyn Abedrabbo Johnathan Cereceres Zelma De Leon Diane Todd Sprague Delisa Falks Karla Flores Jeannie Gage Bridget Jans Sandi Jones Robert Merino Chris Murr (Conference Call) Alan Pixley Charles Puls Cathy Sanchez Mike Scott Terry Sheneman Samantha Stalnaker Christine Stuart-Carruthers Kara Tappendorf Peggy Watts Brent Williford		Linda Battles Renee Jones Ken Martin Lesla Moller DeCha Reid Lourdes Sanchez Leah Smalley Shebah Spears	Rissa McGuire

Agenda Item B. Consideration of Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on June 7, 2018 Zelma De Leon, Chair	Formal Decision/Action Required Minutes unanimously approved.
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Agenda Item C. Update: Prior FAAC Business Charles Puls, Deputy Assistant Commissioner	Formal Decision/Action Required Agreement by the committee that the proposed FAFSA on the Web language achieved the goals of the prior discussion.
<p>FAFSA on the Web Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following language for the FAFSA and FAFSA on the Web instructions was developed based on feedback from the June FAAC meeting. It will be submitted for the 2020-2021 FAFSA cycle: "January 15, 2020. For priority consideration, submit application by date specified. Additional forms may be required. Private and two-year institutions may have different deadlines. Check with the college's financial aid administrator." FAAC members encouraged the agency to push more information about the change out to the school districts through professional associations such as TACAC or through the regional offices. <p>Nomination Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slate of nominees for new members (see handout) has been developed to present for approval at the September Committee on Affordability, Accountability, and Planning meeting and October Coordinating Board meeting. Chris Murr, Sandy Jones, Cathy Sanchez, and Jeannie Gage were recognized for their service as they complete their terms with this meeting. <p>Administrative Code</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efforts are underway to update the Administrative Code to allow for summer grants (TEG, TEOG, TEXAS grant) now that the allocation process has changed to allow institutions to request programming funding through August 1st. The majority of the rules surrounding summer grants will likely be the same as fall and spring The state's fiscal system does not allow for "carrying back" from one fiscal year to the prior fiscal year, so the impact of this on summer awards is being addressed. 	

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- SAP will be impacted by the treatment of summer as a header or trailer (e.g. as a header, SAP would need to be calculated before awarding summer grants, since summer starts the academic year; as a trailer, the same SAP as was used for fall and spring would be utilized, since it is the end of the academic year)
- Working to improve the consistency of our language in the rules (e.g. making sure terms like “semester,” “period of enrollment,” “academic year,” and “term” are consistent.

Agenda Item D. Presentation: Mission and Goals of the Division of College Readiness and Success (CRS)	Formal Decision/Action Required
Jerel Booker, Assistant Commissioner	None
<p>The Mission of CRS is to foster access, preparation, and completion of a higher education credential of value for all students.</p> <p>The Goal of CRS is to get students “To” and “Through” in the hopes of moving the needle toward <i>60X30TX</i> goals. The Division is directly aligned with three 60X30TX goals: an educated population goal, completion goal, and student loan default goal.</p> <p>Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate a P-16 conference to connect with counselors • FAFSA campaign • Administer Apply Texas application and the Counselor Suite (K-12 tool) • Track direct-to-college rate • Recently took on financial literacy • Manage Advise TX (113 near-peer advisors in TX); <p>Preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasize the concepts of “college-ready” to middle school students, so they get themselves college-ready • Oversee Developmental Education programs to help under-prepared students become prepared. This includes implementing HB2223 (Co-Requisite –requires students to take college course and developmental education course at the same time) to help students prepare and complete their 1st year • Support parent 1-on-1 initiative – what it takes to be “college ready” and what parents should expect when their child prepares for college • Support and promote financial literacy – looking for ideas on improving efforts; pursuing additional funding from the legislature <p>Participation and Completion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Are you Ready” initiative comprised of 2 prongs: College-Ready students and Student-Ready colleges • Funding for student completion work; early alert systems; first-year seminars; bridge programs • Oversee Work-study Mentorship Program • Minority male initiatives (support initiatives for increased minority participation) <p>Outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GenTX – effort to create a college going culture through a strong social media presence • P-16 Council for discussion between school districts and higher education officials to talk about concepts like dual-credit, on-ramps, pathways, and best practices to achieve goals of <i>60X30TX</i> <p>Institutions can assist CRS in promoting and supporting these initiatives and should email Jerel directly (jerel.booker@theccb.state.tx.us) with any ideas or comments. Particular feedback that would be helpful for CRS includes ideas on implementing financial literacy and thoughts on how CRS can implement the Work-Study Mentorship Program in a way that is effective on campuses.</p>	

Agenda Item E. Update External Relations	Formal Decision/Action Required
John Wyatt, Director	None
<p>Board Policy Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Texas WORKS Program, one of the Board’s major legislative recommendations, would replace the current requirement that a certain percentage of work-study positions be offered off-campus, with a more centralized approach to off-campus employment coordinated by the THECB. The THECB would have a central repository for off-campus internship opportunities, would work directly with employers to identify what those opportunities are, and would be able to set standards for determining the percentage of funding from the state and from the employers and 	

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<p>(b) making sure that marketable skills are embedded in that internship. This program was proposed in the last legislative session through SB1467/HB3179 bills during the last session.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A challenge that arose in the last session related to the question of funding availability for undocumented students. The legislature ultimately did not choose to act on this issue through any legislative changes. • TEXAS Grant Program: Another recommendation from the last session that will be proposed again is to limit lifetime eligibility to 135 hours or 15 hours beyond degree requirements. The underlying idea is to motivate students to graduate in a timely manner and to free up funds for other students who are eligible for TEXAS Grant. • TEOG: A third recommendation from the last session is allowing students enrolled in baccalaureate programs at two-year institutions be eligible for TEOG awards, up to 135 hours. Although the Legislature allowed for expansion of BA programs at these institutions, there really is no state aid for these students. <p>Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In our base appropriation, it is recommended that any excess funding that is not needed for the B-On-Time loan program for students at private institutions be moved to the TEG program. • An Exceptional Item Request has been made for the TEXAS Grant program, recommending an additional \$107.3 million for the biennium, allowing the state to serve the same percentage of initial year students, while also increasing the TEXAS Grant Target Award by 2.5 percent each year. <p>Recommendations from the FAAC Subcommittee on legislative recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recommendations provided by the subcommittee will be a part of conversations with members of the Legislature as bills move through the process. • The hurdle with all financial aid recommendations is moving ideas forward given the legislative challenges in the last session that arose around the topic of undocumented students. • The TEXAS Grant drug offense question would require a statutory change, and it is a good example of something that can be part of the conversation with legislators as bills move through the process. The conversation would be about helping legislators understand the benefits of aligning state requirements with federal requirements. • The recommendation to allow Pell as a matching fund for TEOG is another place where External relations can look for opportunities to educate legislators on the recommendation.

Agenda Item F: Update: SB887 Student Loan Letter	Formal Decision/Action Required
Ginger Gossman, Sr. Director	None
<p>Recent Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 4th webinar focused on the logistics of the student debt letter • August 28th webinar focused how to craft language that would resonate with the students • The links to both the June 4th and August 28th webinars will be distributed • No future webinars planned at this point, but others can be planned if additional needs are identified <p>SB887 goes into effect this year, though the timing of the letter is not dictated in statute or in rule to allow institutions to determine what timing would be most powerful for its students.</p> <p>THECB crafted a template that encompasses everything that is in statute and rule, but it is designed as a guide to help institutions understand everything that must be covered. The template is not written to engage students, and institutions can use the template to create their own letters that achieve that.</p> <p>As the federal government considers implementing requirements similar to those in SB887, the agency is open to proposing changes to SB887 to reduce duplicative efforts that might be created. How private loans can best be captured in a central location for student access is also a key question to be considered in both the federal and state requirements.</p>	

Agenda Item G: Presentations: Annual TEXAS Grant Report and Financial Aid Report	Formal Decision/Action Required
Charles Puls, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Lesa Moller, Sr. Director	The "national" slide showing institutional grant aid will be researched by agency staff to determine if it includes tuition remission, as the amounts are much higher than what is shown for Texas.

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Chad presented an overview of the TEXAS Grant Report for FY 2017, highlighting the four legislatively mandated items in the report: allocations, number of awards (disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and expected family contribution), basic requirements vs priority model requirements, and student performance in terms of persistence, retention and graduation rates.

Lesa presented an overview of the annual Report on Student Financial Aid in Texas Higher Education for FY 2017, which will be presented at the September CAAPs meeting. All stakeholders (students, institutions, and the State) need to work together to overcome the shortfalls that exist after the expected family contribution and financial aid have been subtracted from education costs. While Texas has a robust financial aid program, increased investment in financial aid is needed because approximately 60% of students in the Pre-K through grade 12 pipeline are from low-income families.

Agenda Item H: Update: Data Collection Sub Committee Samantha Stalnaker, sub-committee Chair	Formal Decision/Action Required None
<p>The sub-committee reviewed the FAD FY17-18 Cycle 3 Manual at their last meeting, which was then published on August 30 with the collection cycle beginning on August 31.</p> <p>Reporting cycles for FAD FY18-19 will have new dates as follows: Cycle 1, February 11 – April 15, 2019; Cycle 2, June 10 – August 19, 2019; Cycle 3, September 30 – December 16, 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sub-committee talked about the confusion and difficulties with opening Cycle 1 in December. Some institutions were not sure if they should be reporting fall data or spring data. Moving this cycle back should ease this confusion as well as allow reporting Cycle 2 to end after spring semester, hopefully after satisfactory academic progress has been determined. <p>The auto grant payment project discussions have begun and the sub-committee will continue to advise on this project.</p> <p>The award histories for TEXAS Grant, TEOG and TEG are being redesigned due to using the FAD instead of the End of Year reports and are scheduled to be up by December 1.</p>	

Agenda Item I: Discussion: Texas Application for Student Financial Aid sub-committee Charles Puls, Deputy Assistant Commissioner	Formal Decision/Action Required A motion to establish a TASFA sub-committee passed unanimously. Robert Merino was nominated and approved as Chair of the sub-committee
<p>Critical Discussion Points</p> <p>Dr. Puls proposed creation of a standing TASFA sub-committee to review the TASFA on a regular basis and ensure that it continues to serve the needs of the students. Institutions should submit names of others wishing to serve on the sub-committee to the Chair.</p>	

Agenda Item J. Discussion: Texas Grant Pathways of Eligibility Charles Puls, Deputy Assistant Commissioner	Formal Decision/Action Required None
<p>Critical Discussion Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final handout on funding levels estimates funding levels and needs for all programs, in particular the TEXAS Grant • The coming Legislative session will be used to build on the TEXAS Grant pathways • The TEXAS Grant pathways are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enrolling within sixteen months after graduation from a high school ○ Enrolling within twelve months of completing an associate degree ○ Transferring after having received a TEOG and completing an associate’s degree or transferring after having received a TEOG an completing 24 credits with at least a 2.5 GPA ○ Military pathway has two components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Enlisted in the military within 12 months of graduating ➢ Enrolling within 12 months after being honorably discharged from military service • Estimated funding for the current biennium was about 92% of eligible students and after adding in TEOG and associate students (to the eligibility pathways for which we have information) we were able to identify, that funding dropped to 70% of eligible students • High school pathway has decreased over the years from 77.6% to 68.6% and there has been some growth in the associate degree students • TEXAS Grant pathway stats: 	

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- About 95% of recipients come through the high school pathway
 - About 4% of recipients come through Associate’s Degree pathway
- About 1% of recipients come through the TEOG pathway

Agenda Item K. Update: Office of Student Financial Aid Programs Charles Puls, Deputy Assistant Commissioner	Formal Decision/Action Required None
<p>The TASSP nomination process closed August 31.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected officials may name an alternate if their nominee does not complete the application process. SFAP staff will identify which of the 85 nominees did not complete the process by October 15 and will reach out to legislators for alternate nominees. • Beginning this year, if a current TASSP recipient fails to meet the requirements of the program (not meeting SAP, no longer enrolled in ROTC, etc.), the student loses their remaining eligibility and are not allowed back into the program. The elected official who originally nominated the student has the option to nominate a replacement nominee for the next fiscal year. The replacement student is only eligible for the portion of the award that had not yet been utilized. • This year had the lowest number of TASSP nominations (85) since the beginning of the program. There are usually between 110-115 nominations. <p>The agency received an \$850,000 State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) grant from the federal government with a recommendation for three renewal years. This program will be used in tandem with our loan repayment program for mental health professionals.</p> <p>Financial Aid Services posted program guidelines in August along with the annual memo to start the new fiscal year. The Student Financial Aid Programs link can now be found in the Institutional Resources and Program drop down menu on the THECB main website.</p> <p>SFAP has been working to establish and track more detailed customer response metrics both in terms of responses to institutions, as well as responses to borrowers. Looking at these metrics (e.g. responding to the online CRAFT system, processing borrower forms, answering phone calls, etc.) has already helped re-deploy some staffing resources.</p>	

Agenda Item L. Transition of Leadership Zelma De Leon, Chair	Formal Decision/Action Required None
Zelma De Leon’s term as Chair ends with this meeting. Diane Todd Sprague assumes the Chair role.	

Agenda Item M. Adjournment Diane Todd Sprague, Chair	Formal Decision/Action Required
Next FAAC Meeting set for December 06, 2018. Adjournment at 12:28pm	