

Financial Aid Advisory Committee
June 1, 2023, Meeting Notes

Committee Members in Attendance (In-Person)	Committee Members in Attendance (Virtual)	Committee Members Absent
Rachelè Garrett, Chair Denise Welch, Past Chair DeChà Reid, THECB Rep Victoria Chen Dede Gonzales Bridgette Ingram Gaby Leon Scott Lapinski Lynda McKendree Joseph Ruiz Joseph Sanchez Tevian Sides	Jackie Adler Cecelia Jones Shonna Norton Thomas Ratliff Lisa Schoenbrun Gilbert Zavala	Rachel Joseph Melet Leafgreen Holly Nolan Sal Ramirez
Agenda Item 1. Welcome, Introductions and Overview of Meeting		Rachelè Garrett, Chair
Handout Provided: No		Formal Decision/Action Required No
Agenda Item 2. Consideration of Approval of Minutes from the meeting held on December 8, 2022		Rachelè Garrett, Chair
Handout Provided: Yes		Formal Decision/Action Required Yes – <i>minutes approved</i>
Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No corrections were identified. **See handout for agenda item 2 for more information. 		
Agenda Item 3. Update: Prior FAAC Business		DeChà Reid, Senior Director, THECB
Handout Provided: No		Formal Decision/Action Required No
<i>Standing Item</i> Update Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No prior business 		
Agenda Item 4. Update: External Relations		John Wyatt, External Relations, THECB
Handout Provided: No		Formal Decision/Action Required No
<i>Standing Item</i> Update Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Legislative Session concluded on May 29 • Most productive session based on the number of bills that were passed that supported higher education. • Substantial investments in higher education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriated over 1.4 billion in three grant programs • Community colleges – funded TEOG at the same service level at TEXAS Grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HB8 enacted the Community College Finance ○ Creates a new program for dual credit students called FAST; will have an emergency rules which is good for 90 days (will come out in August 2023); FAST has three components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligible Institution-Must agree to the terms of the program (this is an optional program-not mandatory); institution must treat the student based on the program; the institution will receive funding if the student enrolls and receives • Eligible Student-No cost be enrolled and educationally disadvantage (tuition, fees, and books) • Eligible Course-Has to be applicable towards an AA or Credential of Value (field of study, Foreign Language, Core,) ○ Eliminates the Pell requirement from TEOG • HB8 added new programs • HB 4434 expanded the Texas First to all public schools • A new bill that creates a new program for competency-based programs • HB4363 for Teachers First is a new program to help support teachers • Authorized THECB that TEXAS Grant will fund top 10% high school graduates 		

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer Grant and Texas Leadership will be supported in legislation; Texas Leaders is within statute and it has a research a research program for graduates • \$25 million in loan repayment programs to support healthcare workforce • Numerous programs in financial aid programs • Still in the Governors veto period which ends on June 29; can veto a line item on the budget • There are still contingencies that remain to determine which specific programs that were funded • Will produce a summary of legislation for higher education by July • There will be special sessions on specific items: property taxes and border and there will be more based on what the Governor decides is important. • Educationally disadvantaged means a student that can receive free lunch four years prior to receiving FAST (Financial Aid Swift Transfer) 	
Agenda Item 5. Update: THECB Financial Aid Strategic Priority	Charles Contero-Puls, Assistant Commissioner, THECB
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required No
<i>Standing Item</i> Update Summary: **See handout for agenda item 5 for more information.	
Agenda Item 6. Update: TASFA Subcommittee House Bill 3 (FAFSA/TASFA Graduation Requirement) and House Bill 2140 (Online TASFA)	Bridgette Ingram, Subcommittee Chair; Claudette Jenks, Director, Strategic Advising and Leah Smalley, Director, THECB
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No
<i>Standing Item</i> Update Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023-24 TASFA was delayed until summer; in regression testing for the application • Developed an Admin portal for internal staff to help support students, parents, and schools, • Over the past few months have done test files with the committee; confirmed that the test files can be released to all schools; will send out a notice in June; each school can do what they want to do with the test file and it is a good foundation for what 2024-25 will look like • Looking at training and demo for June 2023 for schools and SFTP process • Moved away from collecting a signature to an acknowledgment box similar to ApplyTX; this will change the file layout but will not change the position but will send out a new file layout • Still a lot of work to be done for 2024-25; doing a massive comparison of what changes will impact TASFA • The goal is to announce changes of the TASFA during the Sept FAAC meeting 	
Agenda Item 7. Update: Data Collection Subcommittee	Dede Gonzales, Subcommittee Chair
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required No
<i>Standing Item</i> Update Summary: **See handout for agenda item 7 for more information	
Agenda Item 8. Update: Legislative Subcommittee	Denise Welch, Past Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No
<i>Standing Item</i> Update Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TASFAA and FAAC Legislative combined the two groups • Chris Murr, the chair has sent out an update about the bills that are awaiting for signatures 	

Agenda Item 9. Update: Texas Association for State Financial Aid Administrators (TASFAA)	Dede Gonzales, TASFAA President
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No
<p><i>Standing Item</i></p> <p>Update Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed the spring regional trainings which had about 85 participants; about a 40% pass rate with the NASFAA Credential Will have a joint SWASFAA and TASFAA conference in October; registration to open in June-Theme is Uncharted Denise Welch is President-Elect Elections are coming up this summer for new TASFAA Board members and a President 	
Agenda Item 10. Update: High School District	Lisa Schoenbrun, El Paso ISD; Shonna Norton, Wichita Falls ISD
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No
<p><i>Standing Item</i></p>	
Agenda Item 11. Update: Office of Student Financial Aid Programs	DeChà Reid, Senior Director, THECB
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No
<p><i>Standing Item</i></p> <p>Topics of Discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Grant Application and Payment Portal (GAPP) New Staff Hires Released and Upcoming Announcements Upcoming and Past Deadline Dates <p>Grant Application and Payment Portal (GAPP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GAPP is a modernized platform that will integrate 14 out of 20 of the financial aid programs which consist of grants, work-study, loan repayment, exemption, and scholarships. The system will allow institutions to approve user access, upload documents (e.g., program participation), request payments, monitor program spending, send communication directly to THECB staff, and submit authority to transfer requests. The goal is to go live with a few programs in Fall 2023. The proposed programs are: Work-study programs, Educational Aide, and Bilingual Education. More information and training will be released introducing the improved payment platform. <p>Financial Aid Personnel Activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> THECB has been busy with hiring and promoting internal staff. Charles mentioned our recent reorganization; we are continuing to look at how best to structure our area to fit the needs of our customers and the agency. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Hires: 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Customer Service Representative for our Loan Repayment team 1 Program Specialist III for our Institutional Aid (Operational) team <p>Released Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 15, 2023 – Memo: 10-Day Review Data Review (Preliminary Allocations) May 15, 2023 – Memo: TEXAS Grant 10-Day Allocation Data Review May 15, 2023 – Memo: TEOG 10-Day Allocation Data Review May 15, 2023 – Memo: Texas College Work-Study Program 10-Day Allocation Data Review May 15, 2023 – Memo: EAE 10-Day Allocation Data Review May 15, 2023 – Memo: 2024-2025 – TEG OPT-IN/OPT-OUT Form May 18, 2023 – Memo: State Net Price Calculator (2021-22) May 18, 2023 – Dear Colleagues: Institutional Calendar – Summer 2023 May 22, 2023 – Memo: Good Neighbor Program FY 2024 (2023-24) – Selected Students <p>Upcoming Memos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 7, 2023 – Memo: 2023 FAD Cycle 2 Opens June 16, 2023 – Memo: 2024-25 Program Participation Agreement Announcement 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 22, 2023 – Memo: TEG 10-Day Allocation Data Review Launching GAPP <p>Upcoming deadlines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All private/independent institutions eligible to participate in the Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG) Program are required to complete the 2024-2025 Biennium (FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25) Opt-In/Opt-Out form. Notifications were sent to financial aid directors at each institution. The deadline to submit the form is today, June 1, 2023. All public institutions that enroll full-time entering first year students are required to submit the most recent version (2021-22) of the U.S. Department of Education’s (ED) Net Price Calculator template to the THECB by June 23, 2023. See memo from May 18, 2023. Institutions requesting to transfer funds between state grant and work-study programs must submit a request by July 1, 2023 using the Authority to Transfer form. Please see the memo from Mar. 6, 2023. <p>Past Deadlines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. 	
Agenda Item 12. Discussion Topic: Recognition of Members Stepping Down	Rachelè Garrett, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No
<p>Discussion Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This topic will discuss the FAAC members whose term ends on 6/30/2023. <p style="text-align: center;">Denise Welch – Panola College Victoria Chen – Texas Christian University Bridgette Ingram – Texas A&M University Holly Nolan – University of Houston Clear Lake Shonna Norton – Wichita Falls Independent School District Thomas Ratliff – Abilene Christian University Joseph Ruiz – Del Mar College Joseph Sanchez – UNT Health Science Center</p>	
Agenda Item 13. Discussion Topic: Recommendation on Proposed Nominees for 2023 FAAC	DeChà Reid, Senior Director, THECB
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required No
<p>Discussion Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This topic will discuss the proposed 2023 FAAC member recommendations. **See handout for agenda item 13 for more information. 	
Agenda Item 14. Discussion Topic: State Priority Deadline	Charles Contero-Puls, Assistant Commissioner, THECB
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No
<p>Discussion Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This topic will discuss the impact of the 2024-25 FAFSA not being available until December and to gather FAAC recommendation on whether an alternate financial aid application deadline is necessary for 2024-2025 academic year. The Jan. 15 State Priority Deadline is in administrative rule Proposed a new rule that will provide the Commissioner the flexibility to delay the rule if there is an extenuating circumstance (i.e., natural disaster); this is an annual review based on the circumstances; this will go back to 1/15 for 2025-26. The rule will go to the July Board meeting for approval and will not be official until August 2023; want to get the feedback early. Received a couple of comments back for approval of the new rule Input from FAAC on the delay of 2024-25: Agree about 3/15 is a reasonable date ASAP, check with your school (recommended submission date) 	

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Agenda Item 15. Transition of Leadership	Rachelè Garrett, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No
Agenda Item 16. Feedback for Future Meetings	Melet Leafgreen, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No
Agenda Item 17. Adjournment	Melet Leafgreen, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No
Summary: Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.	
Reminder. Announcement: Expense Reports	Rachelè Garrett, Chair