

Financial Aid Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes
(To be approved at the December 8, 2022, meeting)

Committee Members in Attendance Via <u>Virtual</u> Meeting Connection		Committee Members Absent
Rachelè Garrett, Chair Denise Welch, Past Chair DeChá Reid, THECB Rep Jackie Adler Reginald Brazzle Victoria Chen Bridgette Ingram Cecelia Jones Rachel Joseph-Student Rep Melet Leafgreen Gaby Leon Scott Lipinski Lynda McKendree Robert Merino, TASFAA Rep	Holly Nolan Shonna Norton Sal Ramirez Thomas Ratliff Joseph Ruiz Joseph Sanchez Lisa Schoenbrun Tevian Sides Gilbert Zavala	DeDe Gonzales Arnold Trejo
Agenda Item 1. Welcome, Introductions and Overview of Meeting		Rachelè Garrett, Chair
Handout Provided: Yes		Formal Decision/Action Required No
Summary: **See handout for agenda item 1 for more information		
Agenda Item 2. Consideration of Approval of Minutes from the meeting held on June 2, 2022		Rachelè Garrett, Chair
Handout Provided: Yes		Formal Decision/Action Required Minutes approved
Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No corrections were identified. **See handout for agenda item 2 for more information.		
Agenda Item 3. Presentation: When your "Business" impacts your "Business"		Lou Murray, Southwest/Rocky Mountain Regional Lead for Earnest
Handout Provided: Yes		Formal Decision/Action Required No
Update Summary: **See handout for agenda item 3 for more information.		
Agenda Item 4. Update: Prior FAAC Business		DeChá Reid, Senior Director, THECB
Handout Provided: No		Formal Decision/Action Required No
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 		
Agenda Item 5. Update: External Relations		John Wyatt, Senior Director, External Relations, THECB
Handout Provided: No		Formal Decision/Action Required No
Update Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now and the start of the Legislative session there will be more interim hearings. • Hearings with the House-Commissioner Keller will present on Affordability and Accessibility in Higher Education • Agency is looking for \$153 million dollars to support financial aid programs (three grant programs) to support the same eligible students from the current biennium (same service level); requested state general revenue funding to support new programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transfer Grants ○ Texas Leadership Scholarship Program • Texas Commission on Community College Finance 		

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The commission is to help improve the finance of community colleges; a draft from then commission is to increase funding in TEOG to support the same student percentage in TEOG as does Texas Grant; greater flexibility of TEOG; new state financial aid program to cover tuition and fees in dual credit; expanding partnerships for paid workforce programs (work-study); final report in Jan 2023. ○ Agency will not adopt a formal policy agenda for the Legislative session; we will work with institutions and other stakeholder to make the best decision possible on higher education. ○ Tough to say what will be the hot topics for the Legislative session but will know more in December when the bills start being filed. 	
Agenda Item 6. Update THECB Financial Aid Strategic Priority	Charles Conterò-Puls, Assistant Commissioner, THECB
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove barriers and enhance value • Appreciate the survey participation of the FAAC of the FA Strategic Priority • The survey revealed some areas that the agency believed would be the needs of the FA Community; still looking through survey results • More to come as the agency continues to work through the structure of expanding access; multi-years to achieve the goal. • Another area funded through GEER funds is the Transfer Grant program, looking potentially providing spring 2023 grants to recipients but will need the reimbursement rosters to make that determination since enrollment is key to making additional funds available. • Technological Infrastructure is another key are that GEER funding is supporting. One item we were hoping to go live with new technology was for the Transfer Grant. However, the agency realized that another alternative plan was necessary to start the reimbursement process, but the agency will continue to work on our project timeline for updating our technology. 	
Agenda Item 7. Update: TASFA Subcommittee: House Bill 3 (FAFSA/TASFA Graduation Requirement) and House Bill 2140 (On-line TASFA)	Bridgette Ingram, Subcommittee Chair, Claudette Jenks, Director Strategic Advising; and Leah Smalley, Assistant Director, THECB
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No
Update Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on the online TASFA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The agency sent an announcement to IHE's on August 28,2022, regarding the delay of the online tool ○ Encouraging students to complete the paper TASFA which will be available Oct 1st. ○ Test files are in the progress and the agency is committed to deliver the test files to IHE's along with providing resources and training. ○ The online TASFA will be launched this 2022-2023 academic year. ○ The 2023-2024 paper TASFA draft will be released the week of Sept 12th; the fillable version both English and Spanish will be released on Oct 1st. ○ There were some updates to the paper version: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Updates to years and dates • Annual updates to tax and income Internal Revenue Service (IRS)references. • Questions were reorganized to align with the development of the future Online TASFA. • Proof of Selective Service registration is no longer required and was removed from the Selective Service Statement of Registration Status Form • Removal of TASFA questions (refer to 2022-23 award year version) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Date of Graduation (HS or GED) #17 ○ College grade Level #19 ○ Degree/Certificate Attempting #20 ○ Number of credits/hour enrolled #22 ○ Associate degree for transfer students #23 ○ Conviction restrictions #25 ○ Previously received state aid #26 ○ Work authorization and work-study interest #27 	

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Agenda Item 8: Update: Data Collection Subcommittee	DeChà Reid, Senior Director, THECB
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required No
Update Summary: Update given by DeChà Reid on behalf of Dede Gonzales **See handout for agenda item 8 for more information.	
Agenda Item 9. Update: Legislative Subcommittee	Arnold Trejo, Subcommittee Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No
Update Summary: o No update provided	
Agenda Item 10. Update: Texas Association for State Financial Aid Administrators (TASFAA)	Robert Merino, TASFAA President
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No
Update Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email the House of Education Committee on updating the SAP Selective Service, and Felony to align with the federal requirements • Fall 2022 Conference for October <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 204 are registered for the conference and 33 to the New Aid Officer Workshop o Waive late registration fees 	
Agenda Item 11. Update: High School District	Lisa Schoenbrun, El Paso ISD; Shonna Norton, Wichita Falls ISD
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No
Update Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great disappointment that the online TASFA was delayed but excited when it will launch. 	
Agenda Item 12. Update: Office of Student Financial Aid Programs	DeChà Reid, Senior Director, THECB
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required No
** See handout for agenda item #12 for more information	
Agenda Item 13. Discussion Topic: Department of Education Fresh Start Letters- Denise Welch, Past Chair	Rachelè Garrett, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No
Discussion Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridgette: Created a form for the fresh start, happy to share with the committee; received a few letters, only have eight students in 2022-2023 and created a report to identify other students. • Rachelè: Only had one student that was impacted and plan to meet about the process. The timing was during announcement of Loan Forgiveness and was still working through those calls. • Scott: Received one student before the guidance came out and created their own form to work through the guidance. • Robert: Had about ten students and working through a report to identify more students; created a form. Notices that students are requesting more funds once they have been refreshed, require a student to request the maximum amount then plan to meet for next year. • Melet: Received two students to refresh and noticed that the messaging has not been accurate or aligned with what the Department of Education. • Thomas: Only received one letter and checked NSLDS and could not locate the student was on default. There have been some issues with NSLDS reporting that could be impacting the student. • Lynda: Experiencing students are meeting the aggregate loan limit or have little availability remaining. • Gilbert: Is there a solution to resolve the default that impacts the students that are being refreshed. 	

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Agenda Item 14. Discussion Topic: Appointing a New FAAC Vice Chair	Rachelè Garrett, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required Yes, Motion Passed
Discussion Summary	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melet Leafgreen was nominated and voted as Vice Chair. 	
Agenda Item 15. Discussion Topic: Feedback for Future Meetings	Rachelè Garrett, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No
Discussion Summary	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAI from the State perspective • 2024-2025 Academic year • Presentation on Diversity and Inclusion on Education Equity • More information on the Texas Community College Commission • Top ten FA Items-NASFAA presentation • Presentation on FAFSA and Scholarship- Sal Ramirez • Presentation on the perspective from students 	
Agenda Item 16. Adjournment	Rachelè Garrett
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required Yes
Discussion Summary	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12:20pm; Denise motion to adjourn and Victoria Second 	