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 Dede Gonzales-TASFAA Rep Bridgette Ingram Cecelia Jones Rachel Joseph-Student Rep Melet Leafgreen Lynda McKendree	Gaby Leon Lynda McKendree Holly Nolan Shonna Norton Sal Ramirez Thomas Ratliff Joseph Ruiz Joseph Sanchez Tevian Sides Arnold Trejo	Victoria Chen Scott Lipinski Gilbert Zavala

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 September 8, 2022	Rachelè Garrett, Chair
Handout Provided: Yes	**Formal Decision/Action Required** Yes – *minutes approved*

Summary:
- No corrections were identified.
  **See handout for agenda item 2 for more information.

Agenda Item 3. Presentation: TXWORKS	Vanessa Malo, Assistant Director, Workforce Education, THECB
Handout Provided: Yes	**Formal Decision/Action Required** No

Presentation Summary:
    **See handout for agenda item 3 for more information.

Agenda Item 4. Presentation: State of Student Aid and Higher Education in Texas (SOSA)	Jeff Webster, Director of Research, and Carla Fletcher, Sr. Research Analyst, Trellis
Handout Provided: Yes	**Formal Decision/Action Required** No

Presentation Summary:
    **See handout for agenda item 4 for more information.

Agenda Item 5. Presentation: More FAFSA Completions, with better reporting – all for free	Charlie Maynard, General Manager, Going Merry
Handout Provided: Yes	**Formal Decision/Action Required** No

Presentation Summary:
    **See handout for agenda item 5 for more information.

Agenda Item 6. Presentation: Top 10 Issues Impacting Financial Aid Offices	Karen McCarthy, Vice President of Public Policy, and Federal Regulations, NASFAA
Handout Provided: Yes	**Formal Decision/Action Required** No

Presentation Summary:
    **See handout for agenda item 6 for more information.

Agenda Item 7. Update: Prior FAAC Business	DeChà Reid, Senior Director, THECB
Handout Provided: No	**Formal Decision/Action Required** No

Standing Item
Update Summary:
- Provide an update on TXWORKS being counted as EPA for other federal programs given that it is using a needed component for eligibility.

Agenda Item 8: Update: External Relations	John Wyatt, Sr. Director, External Relations, THECB
Handout Provided: Yes	**Formal Decision/Action Required** No

Standing Item
Update Summary:
- 88th Legislature will convene in a little over a month.
- Governor Abbott and Dan Patrick won their re-election.
- Dave Fleming to return as Speaker.
- TX Legislature will have some familiar faces because of the election.
- New Chairman of House Committee
- Will not have a Senate of Higher Education Committee, Higher Education will be a subcommittee.
- Texas is in good financial health. There is a surplus of funds; there is not an exact dollar amount until the Comptroller releases their budget. There is a constitutional limitation on the amount that can be spent from surplus and a lot of good recommendations on how best to spend it (infrastructure, retirement system, property tax…)
- THECB submitted LAR and 153 million to support grant recipients and support the innovative federally-funded grants (Transfer Grants and Texas Scholar)
- Enact the Community College Commission – need the report to send out – increase in funding for TEOG to serve 70% of eligible students to align it with TEXAS Grant population; greater flexibility of serving students; new program for dual credit students and partnerships with work-based learning.
- In the pre-filing stage on bills
- The volume of higher ed bills is low at this stage.

> **See handout for agenda item 8 for more information.

Agenda Item 9. Update: THECB Financial Aid Strategic Priority	Charles Contero-Puls, Assistant Commissioner, THECB
Handout Provided: Yes	**Formal Decision/Action Required** No

Standing Item
Update Summary:
> **See handout for agenda item 9 for more information.

Agenda Item 10. 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, Assistant Director, THECB
Handout Provided: No	**Formal Decision/Action Required** No

Standing Item
Update Summary:

- The projected completion of the online TASFA development is currently the end of January.
- We are in the process of setting up institutions of higher education with access to download the TASFA files and the daily report from MOVEit, which will be tested with institutions in January – March.
- The internal team is currently testing both the application submission process and file batch process to both IHEs and the ISDs.
- We will send an updated file layout to institutions in January to prepare for file transmission testing.
- We are working with our Marketing and Communications team to develop outreach to all institutions regarding these updates.
- A dedicated TASFA webpage is being built on the agency's new website.
- As we identify the question updates for the 2024-2025 FAFSA, we will be revisiting the online TASFA to include all elements institutions will need to calculate the Student Aid Index (replacing the EFC).
- We will convene the TASFA subcommittee in the early part of February to discuss revisions to the 2024-2025 application for both paper and the online version

Committee address concerns with communication of a mid-semester launch, alignment with the new FAFSA Simplification

Agenda Item 11. Update: Data Collection Subcommittee	Dede Gonzales, Subcommittee Chair
Handout Provided: Yes	**Formal Decision/Action Required** No

Standing Item
Update Summary:
• The committee recommended staggering the FAD deadline dates for sector or volunteer for early submission.

Agenda Item 12. Update: Legislative Subcommittee	Arnold Trejo, Subcommittee Chair
Handout Provided: No	**Formal Decision/Action Required** No

Standing Item
Update Summary:
- Working with TASFAA Committee Chair – Dr. Murr – on recommendations
- Communication to legislators on the priorities on the association and committee
  - Bring the state SAP policy in alignment with federal.
  - Advocate TEOG policy in alignment with TEXAS grant (i.e., Pell Grant)
  - Eliminate the Selective Service Requirement to align with federal.

Agenda Item 13. Update: Texas Association for State Financial Aid Administrators (TASFAA)	Dede Gonzales, TASFAA President
Handout Provided: No	**Formal Decision/Action Required** No

Standing Item
Update Summary:
- Spring Regional Training has been sited: Houston, El Paso, Lubbock and Rio Grande
- Host joint SWASFAA with TASFAA
- Board meeting next week
- Will ask GoingMerry to present at February Board Meeting
- Requesting ways that TASFAA can best assist institutions

Agenda Item 14. Update: High School District	Lisa Schoenbrun, El Paso ISD; Shonna Norton, Wichita Falls ISD
Handout Provided: No	**Formal Decision/Action Required** No

Standing Item
Update Summary
- None to report

Agenda Item 15. Update: Office of Student Financial Aid Programs	DeChà Reid, Senior Director, THECB
Handout Provided: No	**Formal Decision/Action Required** No

Standing Item
Topics of Discussion:

1. THECB Redesigned Website
2. FORWARD Loan Program
3. Released and Upcoming Announcements
4. New Staff Hires

Update:
1. THECB is in the process of performing a soft launch of a newly redesigned website. The color scheme and the navigation from page to page is very different. We are still working on a few areas before we have a full launch. Home - Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
2. FORWARD Loan Program is a new loan program that is scheduled to launch on January 15, 2023. The Future Occupations & Reskilling Workforce Advancement to Reach Demand (FORWARD) Program provides alternative educational loans to Texas students who are unable to meet an institution's cost of attendance (COA).
   a. Eligibility Requirements
   The student must:
     ▪ Be classified by the institution as a Texas resident.
     ▪ Be registered with Selective Service or be exempt.
     ▪ Meet the satisfactory academic progress requirements set by the institution.
     ▪ Receive a favorable credit evaluation or provide a cosigner who has good credit standing and meets other requirements
     ▪ Be pursuing a High-Demand Credential
     ▪ Eligibility for the program ends two years from the start of the semester in which the student received the first loan through the Program.
   b. Additional enrollment requirements:

- If enrolled in a degree program, must have completed at least 50% of the required coursework prior to receiving a loan through the Program.
- If enrolled in a non-degree program, the program's duration must be less than two years.
- If enrolled in master's degree coursework, the master's degree must be part of a combined baccalaureate-master's program approved by the institution of higher education.

c. Loan Amounts:
- Annual: Cost of attendance less other financial aid and family resources
- Aggregate: Cannot exceed manageable student loan debt as determined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
- An origination fee will not be assessed for all approved FORWARD borrowers.

d. Interest Rate:
- Interest begins to accrue on the outstanding principal from the date of disbursement using simple interest.
- Loans are not eligible for interest subsidy, but the interest is not capitalized.
- Interest is currently at a fixed annual rate of 2.00%.

e. Additional Information:
- *Where can they learn more about this program?* Rules have been written for the FORWARD loan program and are in public comment period. Once Rules are finalized and approved, they will be available to schools. Also, information such as Fact Sheet, Program Comparison Chart, and Program Guidelines will be program resources for schools. More information can be found after rules are adopted: Coordinating Board Rules, Chapter 22, Subchapter C and the Texas Education Code, Chapter 52.
- *What are the eligible high-demand credentials for the launch?* Nursing/Patient Care, Teaching, Transportation/Logistics, Energy (223 separate CIP codes under these four disciplines)
- *Are CIP codes specific to certain schools? How will schools know if they exist at their school?* The CIP codes are not specific to certain schools.
- *Who at the institution is responsible for confirming eligibility?* Whoever currently certifies CAL loans would more than likely be responsible for confirming eligibility. However, we don't think we would stipulate who is responsible for confirming eligibility at the school. That should be a school decision.
- *How will they be notified when a certification is ready?* A CSV file will be uploaded to their folder in MoveIT.
- *How do schools certify?* School certification will occur in HelmNet.
- *When will training be provided?* TBD
- *Will there be resources available to help navigate through the program (i.e., eligibility, loan management, returning funds, FADs, etc.) and when will those be released?* Fact Sheet and Program Comparison Chart are currently in development. It is our understanding that FAS will be creating Program Guidelines for FORWARD. In addition, information will be on the various Agency websites. A soft launch of the program is scheduled for the Spring semester, a more robust launch later in the Spring for the Fall semester start.
- *When will additional credentials be added?* No set timeframe but assume new credentials will be added prior to the Fall 2023 semester. We would not anticipate new credentials mid-semester but it could happen.

3. Recent Memos:
   a. 12/06/22 Bilingual Education Program 2022-2023 Biennium Report Memo [PDF]
   b. 11/28/22 Texas Transfer Grant Pilot Program FY 2023 Available Spring 2023 Memo [PDF]
   c. 11/18/22: Institutional Financial Aid Calendar Spring 2023 [PDF]
4. Alert
   a. *It has been reported that the State Net Price Calculator is not working. We are looking into the issue and will report when the portal is functioning again.*
5. Upcoming Memos
   a. FY2023 FAD Manual
6. Upcoming deadlines:
   a. FY2023 TASSP Nominations from Legislators-12/31/2022
   b. FY2022 Bilingual Education Biennium report-1/1/2023
7. Past Deadlines
   a. FY 2022 State Campus Based report and TPEG Guidelines-10/28
      i. Missing 8 reports
      ii. Missing 31 TPEG Guidelines
   b. Certification Deadline date for FY22 FAD Cycle Three-12/5/2022
      i. 65 schools have not certified by the deadline.
         9 schools have not submitted a file at all-we are here to assist

Agenda Item 16. Discussion Topic: 2022 FAAC Annual Report	DeChà Reid, Senior Director, THECB
Handout Provided: Yes	**Formal Decision/Action Required** No

Discussion Summary:	
**See handout for agenda item 16 for more information. *This report will be presented at our January Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics.*	

Agenda Item 17. Discussion Topic: NASFAA's SAI Modeling	**Rachelè Garrett, Chair**
Handout Provided: No	**Formal Decision/Action Required** No

Discussion Topic Tabled until March 2023 meeting

Agenda Item 18. Discussion Topic: 2023 FAAC Meeting Dates and Location	**Rachelè Garrett, Chair**
Handout Provided: No	**Formal Decision/Action Required** Yes, motion approved

This meeting needs to present the 2023 meeting dates and locations.
- Motion: Denise Welch
- Second: Dede Gonzales
- Committee members passed the proposed dates for 2023.

Proposed dates.
- March 2 – Virtual
- June 1 – In-person (committee members departing)
- September 7 – In-person (new committee members' first meeting)
- December 7 - Virtual

Agenda Item 19. Discussion Topic: Feedback for Future Meetings	**Rachelè Garrett, Chair**
Handout Provided: No	**Formal Decision/Action Required** No

- Apply Texas

Agenda Item 20. Adjournment	**Rachelè Garrett, Chair**
Handout Provided: No	**Formal Decision/Action Required** No

Motion to Adjourn: Melet Leafgreen
Second: Cecelia Jones
Adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

Reminder. Announcement: Expense Reports	**Rachelè Garrett, Chair**