

Financial Aid Advisory Committee  
Meeting Notes  
September 3, 2020  
(Approved at the December 10, 2020, FAAC Meeting)

<b>Committee Members in Attendance Via <u>Virtual</u> Meeting Connection</b>		<b>Committee Members Absent</b>
Robert Merino (Chair) Ed Kerestly (Vice Chair) Diane Todd Sprague (Past Chair) Charles Contéro-Puls Tacey Anderson Dr. Ben Bholan Shannon Crossland Karla Flores Paul Galyean Rachele Garrett Heidi Granger Lyn Kinyon	Tam Nguyen Shonna Norton Thomas Ratliff Samantha Stalnaker Kelly Steelman Christine Stuart-Carruthers Joy Thomas Formon Thompson Denise Welch Brent Williford Jase Kugiyu (Student Rep)	None

<b>Agenda Item 1. Welcome and Overview of Meeting</b>	<b>Robert Merino, Chair</b>
<b>Handout Provided: No</b>	<b>Formal Decision/Action Required</b> N/A
<b>Action Summary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided instructions and guidelines for the members to ensure the meeting runs smoothly</li> <li>• Due to nature of virtual meetings, roll call of members ensured a quorum of committee members</li> </ul>	

<b>Agenda Item 2. Introductions: New Student Representative</b>	<b>Robert Merino, Chair</b>
<b>Handout Provided: No</b>	<b>Formal Decision/Action Required</b> N/A
<b>Presentation Summary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UT at Austin doctoral student Jase Kugiyu joins the committee for a two-year term.</li> </ul>	

<b>Agenda Item 3. Acknowledgment: Members finishing their terms</b>	<b>Robert Merino, Chair</b>
<b>Handout Provided: No</b>	<b>Formal Decision/Action Required</b> Committee members will receive certificate of appreciation
<b>Presentation Summary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The committee recognized the nine members with terms ending – Tacey Anderson, Shannon Crossland, Karla Flores, Lyn Kinyon (as TASFAA Representative), Shonna Norton, Diane Todd Sprague (completing term as Past Chair), Samantha Stalnaker, Christine Stuart-Carruthers, and Brent Williford)</li> <li>• FAAC Member Shonna Norton is on the proposed slate of nominees for next term</li> </ul>	

<b>Agenda Item 4. Consideration of Approval of Minutes from the meeting held on March 5, 2020</b>	<b>Robert Merino, Chair</b>
<b>Handout Provided: Yes</b>	<b>Formal Decision/Action Required</b> Minutes approved
<b>Action Summary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No corrections were identified</li> <li>• Motion to approve minutes by Denise Welch, motion was seconded by Heidi Granger</li> <li>• All members voted in favor</li> <li>• Adopted / approved minutes for the March 5, 2020, FAAC meeting will be uploaded to the FAAC website</li> </ul>	

<b>Agenda Item 5. Update: Prior Business</b>	<b>Charles Contéro-Puls, Deputy Assistant Commissioner</b>
<b>Handout Provided: Yes</b>	<b>Formal Decision/Action Required</b> N/A
<b>Presentation Summary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional details are provided regarding the timing of FAFSA filing across the student population. Previous charts provided details for students who had received funding through the TEXAS Grant, TEOG, and TEG programs. Today's charts provide details on students who were eligible for those programs. The patterns are relatively the same between the prior and current charts.</li> </ul>	

Financial Aid Advisory Committee  
Meeting Notes  
September 3, 2020  
(Approved at the December 10, 2020, FAAC Meeting)

<b>Agenda Item 6. Update: External Relations</b>	<b>John Wyatt Senior Director, External Relations</b>
<b>Handout Provided: Yes</b>	<b>Formal Decision/Action Required</b> Collect data on enrollment – current and future projections
<p><b>Presentation Summary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided detailed highlights for the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funding - a one-time investment of \$175 million as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Need-based Financial Aid (State grant programs) \$57M</li> <li>○ Direct student support (Emergency Education Aid) \$93M</li> <li>○ Online learning support (Open education, learning analytics, quality improvement) \$10M</li> <li>○ Data infrastructure (student advising, dashboards, modernization) \$15M</li> </ul> </li> <li>• THECB is working on our legislative appropriations request for the next biennium (FY 2022-23) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Next biennium's budget needs to account for the 5% reduction from this biennium</li> </ul> </li> <li>• THECB's response to legislative inquiries on how agencies are responding to COVID highlight the work of the Texas Higher Education Foundation, in partnership with Greater Texas Foundation and Trelis Foundation, to launch the Texas Emergency Aid Grant Program early on during the pandemic to raise funds through philanthropy to provide emergency grants to students.</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerns regarding the deadlines for spending GEER funding were raised</li> </ul>	

<b>Agenda Item 7. Joint Update: HB3 and on-line TASFA Progress and TASFA Sub-committee</b>	<b>Claudette Jenks, Director, College Readiness and Success and Robert Merino, Sub-Committee Chair</b>
<b>Handout Provided: Yes</b>	<b>Formal Decision/Action Required</b> N/A
<p><b>Presentation Summary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Claudette Jenks provided an overview of the activities that are occurring at TEA and THECB regarding the FAFSA/TASFA high school graduation requirement in HB 3 and the online TASFA requirement in HB 2140</li> <li>• HB3 going into effect for Class of 2022; still in development phase</li> <li>• Dr. Jenks provided an update from the TEA FAFSA advisory committee, which has been meeting monthly until the fall at least <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Currently discussing student opt-out form – can be signed by student over 18 or by a parent or counselor for minors</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Dr. Jenks' THECB TASFA advisory committee is meeting frequently as the committee is on an expedited timeline to discuss development of the eTASFA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discussing procedure, development, cost</li> <li>○ System considerations – how to upload additional documents (tax docs, selective service, etc) to tie to TASFA electronically</li> <li>○ Security considerations are a big concern</li> <li>○ Meeting with institutions using an existing eTASFA</li> <li>○ Organized the committee into two panels (one focusing on higher education side and student focused, looking at student experience, how they can use hardcopy and online TASFA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Institutions panel: UT Austin (vendor for ApplyTexas platform), Texas A&amp;M, Texas A&amp;M San Antonio, UNT, Univ of Houston (have not attended), institutions that have an existing eTASFA or are developing/implementing a system</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Other states with an electronic form will provide insight at next meeting</li> <li>○ Where will funding come from? Looking at funding options for developing as well as maintenance of system</li> <li>○ Results due to Legislature January 1, 2021</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Committee Question – is the intent of this form to have a common way for all students to complete the same form, then we are going to collect the information, then upload it into our system to calculate the federal methodology EFC or will you be calculating the federal methodology into this process so that you're calculating the EFC just as the federal processor does with the FAFSA?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good question – has come up before during discussions – this will depend on the vendor, with a homegrown system building from scratch, all of those mechanisms will have to be installed from scratch, from conversations with the committee and stakeholders, most want very similar structure to the FAFSA - data obtained, transmittal, etc. Basically – homegrown vs vendor. More discussion and decisions to come</li> </ul> <p>Question: what about linking the selective service website? This limits the undocumented population since it needs an SSN to register.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This was only a suggestion, not set in stone. Institutions are looking at something similar to the FAFSA.</li> </ul> <p>Question: is there a virtual or video assistance available?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very good suggestion, the panel has raised this issue, and support is moving in that direction.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action Summary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Another TASFAC advisory committee meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2020</li> <li>• Focus is on information gathering</li> </ul>	

Financial Aid Advisory Committee  
Meeting Notes  
September 3, 2020  
(Approved at the December 10, 2020, FAAC Meeting)

<b>Agenda Item 8. Discussion: TASFAA Recommendations</b>	<b>Lyn Kinyon, TASFAA President</b>
<b>Handout Provided: Yes</b>	<b>Formal Decision/Action Required</b> N/A
<p><b>Presentation Summary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lyn Kinyon provided update on TASFAA's latest activity</li> <li>• All in person workshops and training are cancelled due to COVID-19</li> <li>• TASFAA Annual Business Meeting scheduled for October 9 – 100% electronic/virtual/online –</li> </ul> <p><b>Action Summary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Contéro-Puls said he would pass along the TASFAA members request encouraging THECB to have a speedy development of the application for the electronic TASFA</li> </ul>	

<b>Agenda Item 9. Discussion: School District Recommendations</b>	<b>Shonna Norton and Ben Bholan</b>
<b>Handout Provided: No</b>	<b>Formal Decision/Action Required</b> Additional requests for feedback on this issue will be forthcoming.
<p><b>Presentation Summary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shonna Norton has collected some data from some northern school districts regarding the new FAFSA requirement, passed along the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A lot of support for moving the priority deadline back to March 15; Schools are wondering if the priority deadline can be moved so that it can also serve as the deadline for the FAFSA graduation requirement – ideally in the March 15-April 15 time range</li> <li>○ Schools are concerned about getting parents to complete the FAFSA; how will this affect accountability if a student completes the form, but the parent hasn't completed it.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ben Bholan reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Schools are concerned about waning enrollment numbers;</li> <li>○ Shifting students to online classes is a huge challenge</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Contéro-Puls asked the committee whether moving the priority deadline is an item the agency should be more actively reviewing; responses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Need to have something to encourage students to complete the application to meeting graduation requirements</li> <li>○ Priority deadline doesn't make a difference at community colleges</li> <li>○ Four-year schools are providing award notifications much earlier, as early as December</li> <li>○ Reconciling the interests that have been expressed from the higher education community to make the deadline earlier or to make it go away entirely with the interests expressed by the school district community to make the deadline later to support the FAFSA completion requirement is a challenge.</li> <li>○ Changing the priority dates can create confusion with students and challenges with publication timelines.</li> <li>○ The challenge of inconsistent deadlines is occurring even with the current priority deadline requirement since some institutions have earlier deadlines and the deadline doesn't apply to all institutions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

<b>Agenda Item 10. Update: Data Collection Subcommittee</b>	<b>Samantha Stalnaker, Sub-Committee Chair</b>
<b>Handout Provided: Yes</b>	<b>Formal Decision/Action Required</b> N/A
<p><b>Presentation Summary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In person meetings scheduled for March and May were cancelled and handled via e-mail discussions over the summer – provided feedback on improving SFAP webpages and improving the system authorization process.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action Summary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next meeting planned for late October/early November</li> <li>• Current sub-committee chair's FAAC term is ending – a new chair needs to be elected</li> </ul>	

Financial Aid Advisory Committee  
Meeting Notes  
September 3, 2020  
(Approved at the December 10, 2020, FAAC Meeting)

<b>Agenda Item 11. Selection of Data Collection Subcommittee Chair</b>	<b>Samantha Stalnaker, Sub-Committee Chair</b>
<b>Handout Provided: No</b>	<b>Formal Decision/Action Required</b> Postponed to December meeting
<b>Presentation Summary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	

<b>Agenda Item 12. Update: Legislative Recommendation Subcommittee</b>	<b>Shannon Crossland, Sub-Committee Chair</b>
<b>Handout Provided: Yes</b>	<b>Formal Decision/Action Required</b> N/A
<b>Presentation Summary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendations included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Federal/State Alignment (state debt letter, selective service, and SAP)</li> <li>○ State alignment of Pell treatment in TEOG and TEXAS Grant</li> <li>○ Improve the alignment between the Texas College Work-Study and Work-Study Student Mentorship programs</li> <li>○ Eliminating the priority deadline date</li> <li>○ Increasing the TEXAS Grant target award only if additional appropriations are provided to fund the increase</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <b>Discussion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Contéro-Puls responded to a few items on the subcommittee's report to verify the committee's views: Regarding the priority deadline – ultimately, students need to apply as early as possible and not wait for deadline, but also, if they miss the deadline, they should still apply ;members agreed with the statements regarding the priority deadline</li> <li>• Regarding removing roadblock for hold on academic transcripts; institutions still would like a report for this information – THECB is working on this</li> <li>• Regarding the net price calculator (NPC) – the agency is investigating the model that is the wraparound of the federal Dept of Ed's net price calculator to ensure we are in line with federal requirements ; feedback from the committee included: improving the product so that the output was more useful (not such broad ranges); including specific information in Pell and state grants, if possible; providing as much advanced notice as possible so that institutions don't pursue alternate products unnecessarily; consider using FAD data to populate the NPC</li> <li>• THECB has a renewed focus on the population that has some college but did not complete to a degree or certificate</li> </ul>	

<b>Agenda Item 13. Update: Slate of FAAC nominees</b>	<b>Charles Contéro-Puls Deputy Assistant Commissioner</b>
<b>Handout Provided: Yes</b>	<b>Formal Decision/Action Required</b> Board members will consider the slate of nominees at the October Board meeting
<b>Presentation Summary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reminded the committee that the agency wants to ensure the FAAC will have an array of members from all various areas -- university systems, geographic regions, size of the institution -- to have different perspectives</li> <li>• New FAAC members will begin term in November.</li> </ul>	

<b>Agenda Item 14. Discussion: Student Representative from 2-year sector</b>	<b>Charles Contéro-Puls Deputy Assistant Commissioner</b>
<b>Handout Provided: Yes</b>	<b>Formal Decision/Action Required</b> Look at amending rule regarding FAAC two-year sector student representatives
<b>Presentation Summary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We did not receive student representative nominations from the 2-year sector in any of the past three nomination cycles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Does the committee want to continue holding one of the 24 committee slots for a student representative from the two-year sector?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <b>Discussion Summary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggestion to give extra weight to a student from a four-year institution who had transferred from a two-year institution.</li> <li>• Recommendation from members to eliminate the two-year student representative requirement to allow for an additional member of the financial aid community.</li> <li>• Can a tweak to the statute be "tweaked" to change the requirements? Probably have to select a new rep each year but will have representation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dr. Contéro-Puls will take this suggestion to THECB's External Relations area; acknowledged that statute is often slow to change</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

Financial Aid Advisory Committee  
Meeting Notes  
September 3, 2020  
(Approved at the December 10, 2020, FAAC Meeting)

<b>Agenda Item 15. Update: Office of SFAP</b>	<b>Charles Contéro-Puls Deputy Assistant Commissioner</b>
<b>Handout Provided: Yes</b>	<b>Formal Decision/Action Required N/A</b>
<b>Presentation Summary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rules activity – currently proposed and adopted in April</li> <li>• Announcements: CAL interest rate; institutional calendar; user access form</li> <li>• Deadlines: Net Price Calculator; Financial aid Database</li> <li>• Accomplishments since last FAAC meeting: online loan reporting; SFAP webpage updates; HelmNet improvements; launch of the Peace Officer Loan Repayment Program</li> <li>• GEER funding contracts are being processed and funds distributed to institutions</li> </ul>	

<b>Agenda Item 16. Transition of Leadership</b>	<b>Robert Merino, Chair</b>
<b>Handout Provided: No</b>	<b>Formal Decision/Action Required N/A</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robert Merino handed the chair duties to Ed Kerestly, he now becomes the past chair</li> <li>• A vice-chair will be nominated and elected at the December FAAC meeting</li> </ul>	

<b>Agenda Item 17. Adjournment</b>	<b>Ed Kerestly, Chair</b>
<b>Handout Provided: No</b>	<b>Formal Decision/Action Required Meeting Adjourned</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next meeting December 10, 2020</li> <li>• Shannon Crossland moved to adjourn; Thomas Ratliff seconded the motion.</li> </ul>	