Committee Members in Attendance Via <u>Virtual</u> Meeting Connection		Committee Members Absent
Ed Kerestly (Chair) Denise Welch (Vice Chair) Robert Merino (Past Chair) Charles Contéro-Puls Taryn Anderson Dr. Ben Bholan Johanna Boley Victoria Chen Rachele Garrett Dede Gonzales Heidi Granger Bridgette Ingram	Tam Nguyen Holly Nolan Shonna Norton Steven Peterson Thomas Ratliff Kelly Steelman Joy Thomas Arnold Trejo Jase Kugiya (Student Rep)	Dr. Formon Thompson

Agenda Item 1. Welcome and Overview of Meeting	Ed Kerestly, Chair
Handout Provided: No	**Formal Decision/Action Required** N/A

Presentation Summary:
- Due to nature of virtual meetings, roll call of members ensured a quorum of committee members.

Agenda Item 2. Consideration of Approval of Minutes from the meeting held on March 4. 2021	Ed Kerestly
Handout Provided: Yes	**Formal Decision/Action Required** Minutes approved

Presentation Summary:
- No corrections were identified.

Agenda Item 3. Update: Prior FAAC Business	Charles Contéro-Puls, Assistant Commissioner
Handout Provided: No	**Formal Decision/Action Required** Recommended slate of nominations will be developed for Board approval

Update Summary:
- Financial Aid Advisory Committee nomination cycle --The nomination period has ended. As a result of the new press release language, a broader range of representation across the board has been received.

Agenda Item 4. Update: External Relations	John Wyatt, Senior Director, External Relations
Handout Provided: No	**Formal Decision/Action Required** N/A

Update Summary:
- $16 billion appropriated for higher education.
- THECB budget increased from $1.6 billion to $1.8 billion.
- Legislature restored the 5% funding reductions required in agency's Legislative Appropriations Request (approved $57 billion across grant programs TEXAS Grant, TEOG, TEG) bringing funding back up to the FY 2020 funding levels.
- Legislature approved THECB's exceptional item request - an additional $110 million for the same above-mentioned grant programs.
- SB 1 moves funding and FTEs for Texas OnCourse program to Coordinating Board from UT-Austin.
- SB 1 includes rider language that gives flexibility around employees that support College Access Loan Program.
- SB 1860 extends previous deadline for implementation of an electronic TASFA.
- SB 1888 allows higher performing students to graduate early from high school, attend public universities and receive scholarships regarding the same.
- SB 1019 directs the Coordinating Board to provide data on student borrowers disaggregated by categories: sex, ethnicity, etc. and data to be made available in the Student Financial Aid Report.
- There will be a special session of the legislature to address issues that were not able to be addressed during the regular session, including the allocation of federal stimulus funding.

Agenda Item 5. Update: TASFA Subcommittee	Robert Moreno
Handout Provided: Yes	**Formal Decision/Action Required** N/A

Update Summary:
The TASFA Subcommittee met on May 10, 2021 to make final changes to the current printable TASFA. Recommended changes were based on feedback collected from financial aid representatives via a prior survey, as well as from a series of meetings in April during which the FAAC's TASFA subcommittee met jointly with the agency's Electronic TASFA Advisory Committee.

See handout for agenda item 5 for more information.

Agenda Item 6. Update: Data Collection Subcommittee	Dede Gonzales
Handout Provided: Yes	**Formal Decision/Action Required** N/A

Update Summary:
The Data Collection Subcommittee met on April 22, 2021. Meeting topics included updates on:
- FAD Cycle 1
- Net Price Calculator
- FY22 Program Guidelines
- FAD Modernization Project
- Selective Service Guidance

See handout for agenda item 6 for more information.

Agenda Item 7. Update: Legislative Subcommittee	Arnold Trejo
Handout Provided: No	**Formal Decision/Action Required** N/A

Update Summary:
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- Focus has been on the alignment of federal vs state policies as it relates to selective services, etc.
- Committee will focus on the implementation and integration of data for reporting from the electronic TASFA.

Agenda Item 8. Discussion: TASFAA Recommendations and Feedback	Taryn Anderson, TASFAA President
Handout Provided: No	**Formal Decision/Action Required** N/A

Update Summary:
- Cycle of training completed for new financial aid officers.
- TASFAA planning for in-person conference at the Sheraton in Georgetown October 6-8th.
- TASFAA election cycle for new president and future board members has started.
- TASFAA President-elect is no longer eligible to serve as no longer working with a university. TASFAA Board to determine the next step in addressing president-elect position.
- Taryn will be switching institutions and will continue to serve as TASFAA President.

Agenda Item 9. Discussion: School District Insights Recommendations and Feedback	Ben Bholan and Shonna Norton
Handout Provided: No	**Formal Decision/Action Required** Chad will share Apply Texas suggestions with the Apply Texas Advisory Committee

Update Summary:
- Recommendation to make FASFA to be a part of the college application process to better support the FAFSA graduation requirement
- Recommendation for colleges to share Financial Aid packets with high schools to better support counselor's ability to assist students
- Observation of a decrease in high school students interested in pursuing higher education and pursuing work instead
- Recommendations for enhancements to the Apply Texas platform:
    - Add language explaining the FAFSA graduation requirement
    - Provide students an opportunity to give institutions permission to share financial aid packages with the high school counselors

Agenda Item 10. Presentation: TEXAS Grant Report	Charles Contéro-Puls
Handout Provided: No	**Formal Decision/Action Required** N/A

Update Summary:
- Item tabled until September 2, 2021 meeting

Agenda Item 11. Discussion: Emergency Aid at the Institutional Level	Denise Welch
Handout Provided: No	**Formal Decision/Action Required** N/A

Update Summary:
Discussion of best practices for Emergency Aid (EA) funding and how to spend, market, and get funding to students needing EA, while complying with the federal requirements attached to the latest round of Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) funding. FAAC members expressed the following ideas:

- Communication to students: website, postcards, e-mail, automated voice mail
- To address requirement that funding not be used to "entice" students to attend, applications for summer and fall are not made available until the semester begins.
- Task force created to strategize, plan, and implement emergency aid; regular meetings, task lists, etc.
- Adapting applications already in use for other emergency aid programs
- Videos about professional judgement to put on the website to inform students
- Financial aid advisor dedicated to emergency aid
- Tracked in "Banner" software system how much emergency aid given
- One time disbursement to Pell eligible students
- Focus on targeting and segmenting populations for Emergency Aid funding
- Would be helpful to collect ideas and samples as to what institutions are doing regarding EA and place them on the TASFAA website.
- Presenting business plans for hiring additional staff to help administer EA and HEERF
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- Add a counseling/advising element for students
- Create an amnesty program for students with COVID related issues to have a fresh start
- Write-off balances with institutional funds and then reimburse with HEERF

Agenda Item 12. Discussion: Virtual Environment on FAAC Meetings	Ed Kerestly
Handout Provided: No	**Formal Decision/Action Required** N/A

Discussion Summary: The committee recommends continuing virtual FAAC meetings or having the option to have a hybrid form of meetings (offering option for individuals to participate remotely, possibly having certain meetings during the year that are in-person).

- Members with further distances to travel have benefited from virtual meetings as well as savings to institutions' travel expense.

Agenda Item 13. Update: Office of Student Financial Aid Programs	Charles Contéro-Puls
Handout Provided: Yes	**Formal Decision/Action Required** N/A

Update Summary:
Brief background provided on the four proposed rules recently posted in the Texas Register:

1. Financial Aid Advisory Committee rules – rule amendments to make membership adjustments and extend abolishment date.
2. College Access Loan (CAL) rules – rule amendment deletes restrictive language regarding repayment plans
3. TEOG rules – repealing duplicated language
4. Kenneth H. Ashford – repealed subchapter as no rules are required (funded through private funding)

Upcoming deadlines were reviewed.

Charles will be transitioning out of his role as the THECB Representative for FAAC and handing over this responsibility to DeCha Reid. He will continue to work in the background assisting DeCha in her new role.

**See handout for agenda item 13 for more information.

Agenda Item 14. Discussion: Topics for Future Meetings	Ed Kerestly
Handout Provided: No	**Formal Decision/Action Required** N/A

Presentation Summary:
- No future meeting topics suggested at this time.

Agenda Item 15. Adjournment	Ed Kerestly
Handout Provided: No	**Formal Decision/Action Required** Meeting Adjourned 11:08 p.m.

Presentation Summary:
- Next meeting September 2, 2021