

TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
LEARNING TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Academic Quality and Workforce Division
1200 E. Anderson Lane, Austin, Texas 78752

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Division of Academic Quality and Workforce
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Learning Technology Advisory Committee

June 26, 2020

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

This meeting was held via video conference.

Members present: Justin Louder- Chair, Patrick Pluscht- Co-chair, Ruth Chisum, Vicki Freeman, Rolando Garcia, Mary Gentry, Michelle Giles, Daniel Gonzalez, Robert Greene, Joyce Langenegger, Jacqueline Mok, Carlos Morales, Pamela Morgan, Lynda Murphy, Elizabeth Rodriguez, Tim Snyder, Charlene Stubblefield, Yun Wan, Erin Warham

Members absent: Jose Aguilar, Ken Craver, Julie Delello, Glynnis Gains, Mark Garcia, Tim Snyder

Staff present: Andrew Lofters, Jessica Acton, Christina Kelley, Kylah Torre, James Goeman, Stacey Silverman

Guests: Matthew Capps (Midwestern State University), Kathryn Zuckweiler (Midwestern State University)

Summary Notes

1. Welcome, introductions, and call to order – Dr. Justin Louder, LTAC Chair

Dr. Louder called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

2. Consideration of summary notes from the May 22, 2020 meeting – Dr. Louder

A motion was made to accept the summary notes from the May 22, 2020 meeting by Dr. Pamela Morgan and was seconded by Dr. Vicki Freeman. The motion was approved unanimously and the minutes for the May 22 meeting were accepted as submitted.

3. Discussion of Midwestern State University's adherence to THECB distance education policy in the proposed delivery of a new Doctor of Education (EDD) degree with a program in Educational Leadership – Doctoral Proposal Subcommittee Members/Institutional Representatives – Dr. Louder

Dr. Jacqueline Mok provided a brief description of the request from Midwestern State University (MSU) to offer the proposed EdD in Educational Leadership online. Dr. Mok then invited MSU program representatives to comment on the proposal.

Dr. Matthew Capps provided an overview of the proposed program. He explained that the proposed EdD began as a joint program with the University of North Texas and outlined MSU's rationale for requesting a stand-alone program.

Dr. Louder then opened the discussion to full LTAC.

Mr. Patrick Pluscht noted an error regarding CIP codes on page 17 in MSU's proposal. Dr. Capps acknowledged the error and offered to correct the proposal. Dr. Kylah Torre suggested amending the table.

Dr. Louder inquired about increased support services for doctoral students. Dr. Capps explained that faculty workload for master's courses will shift to doctoral courses and that new faculty members would be hired. He noted funding is available for the new hire.

Dr. Louder asked MSU to explain the superintendent course listed in the proposal. Dr. Capps explained that the superintendent course is an optional addition to the EdD program.

Dr. Louder asked if MSU joining the Texas Tech University System would change the proposed EdD program. Dr. Capps and Dr. Zuckweiler confirmed that Texas Tech University has no issue with MSU pursuing the EdD degree program.

Dr. Morgan offered her support of the program.

Dr. Mok then recommended approval on behalf of the subcommittee with the amendment to update the CIP information on page 17 of MSU's proposal.

4. Consideration of recommendation regarding Midwestern State University's adherence to THECB distance education policy, subject to THECB review and analysis, in the proposed delivery of a new Doctor of Education (EDD) degree with a program in Educational Leadership – Dr. Louder

There were no comments or questions from the LTAC.

Dr. Morgan recused herself from the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

5. THECB Updates - Dr. Andrew Lofters

1. COVID-19 Distance Education Accommodations

Dr. Lofters shared the THECB webpage and showed the LTAC where to find COVID-19 updates. He explained that institutions did not have to notify the THECB when moving existing programs online for the spring and summer semesters and that THECB leadership is discussing how to accommodate institutions for the fall semester.

Dr. Louder asked if the THECB has discussed funding international students during the pandemic. There was some discussion among Dr. Lofters and the LTAC regarding funding of international students and the impacts of COVID-19. There was also some discussion about formula funding of non-resident domestic students who were forced to return to their home states due to the pandemic. Dr. Lofters offered to check with the THECB leadership and follow-up with the LTAC.

Dr. Mok inquired about the timeline for the THECB decision regarding notification to offer existing programs online for the upcoming fall semester. Dr. James Goeman suggested the issue will likely be forwarded to the governor's office.

2. State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA)

Ms. Jessica Acton provided the LTAC with updates regarding recent SARA policy changes.

3. Open Educational Resources (OER) Grant Program

Dr. Torre provided an update on the OER grant program and repository.

Ms. Charlene Stubblefield asked if there would be a limit on the number of faculty receiving OER grant awards at a university. Dr. Torre explained that multiple faculty members at one university could receive a grant award but noted the same faculty member cannot receive multiple grant awards.

Dr. Torre provided an update on TXLOR, noting she is continuing her efforts to track it down.

Dr. Carlos Morales asked if the OER grant program is focused on specific courses. Dr. Torre stated high transfer core curriculum courses receive priority. Dr. Morales then inquired about the level of participation or response from faculty. Dr. Torre indicated there was a high level of faculty interest in the OER grant.

Mr. Pluscht asked about strategies to encourage people to use and maintain the OER resources. Dr. Torre explained that the THECB is starting to have conversations with the hope to build a community to keep things up-to-date and useful.

4. Community College Baccalaureate Degrees

Dr. Lofters described current proposals and approved programs. Dr. Louder asked if the BSN from Weatherford College is a post licensure program. Dr. Stacey Silverman clarified that the program is a RN-BSN completion degree, meaning the program is for licensed nurses. Dr. Louder suggested noting the program is a RN-BSN to avoid confusion. Dr. Lofters agreed to share the suggestion with Dr. Sheri Ranis.

6. Discussion of LTAC support of the Commissioner's Priorities

Dr. Louder and Mr. Pluscht described their conversation with Commissioner Keller regarding the LTAC. It was agreed that future meetings of the LTAC would address Commissioner Keller's charge.

7. Discussion on HyFlex Practices – LTAC Members

Members of the LTAC shared institutional practices and strategies for HyFlex, helping faculty and students adapt to remote teaching and learning, and other challenges resulting from the pandemic.

8. Workgroup Sessions and Lunch

The LTAC recessed until 1:34 pm.

9. Workgroup Session Reports

The workgroups reported back to the LTAC.

Mr. Pluscht provided an update on the survey workgroup. He noted the survey would likely launch in August and that some questions would change to address current circumstances surrounding COVID-19.

Mr. Daniel Gonzalez was nominated to chair the inclusive access workgroup and Dr. Rolando Garza was nominated as co-chair. The workgroup reported being in the exploratory phase.

10. Discussion of future agenda items and meeting dates – Dr. Louder

Future Agenda Items:

- doctoral programs
- THECB updates
- Workgroup breakouts, reports
- COVID responses from campuses
- Commissioner Keller (update on initiatives)

Next Meetings:

Early September (regular LTAC meeting)

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:57 pm.