



## FINANCIAL AID ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FAAC)

### Handouts for the June 3, 2021:

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## Financial Aid Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

Name of Committee: **Financial Aid Advisory** Committee  
Date of Meeting: June 3, 2021  
Time of Meeting: 9:00 a.m.  
Location: **Virtual Meeting**

### Agenda

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Overview of Meeting
2. Consideration of Approval of Minutes from the meeting held on March 4, 2021
3. Update: Prior FAAC Business
4. Update: External Relations
5. Update: TASFA Subcommittee
6. Update: Data Collection Subcommittee
7. Update: Legislative Subcommittee
8. Update: TASFAA Recommendations and Feedback
9. Update: School District Recommendations and Feedback
10. Presentation: TEXAS Grant Report
11. Discussion: Emergency Aid at the Institutional Level
12. Discussion: Impact of Virtual Environment on FAAC Meetings
13. Update: Office of Student Financial Aid Programs
14. Discussion: Topics for Future Meetings
15. Adjournment

## AGENDA ITEM 2

Financial Aid Advisory Committee Meeting Notes March 4, 2021 (To be approved at the June 3, 2021, FAAC Meeting)	
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 Dr. Formon Thompson Arnold Trejo Jase Kugiya (Student Rep)
<b>Agenda Item 1. Welcome and Overview of Meeting</b>	<b>Ed Kerestly, 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>Due to nature of virtual meetings, roll call of members ensured a quorum of committee members.</li> <li>Paul Galyean has resigned from committee.</li> </ul>	
<b>Agenda Item 2. Consideration of Approval of Minutes from the meeting held on December 10, 2020</b>	<b>Ed Kerestly</b>
<b>Handout Provided: Yes</b>	<b>Formal Decision/Action Required</b> Minutes approved
<b>Presentation Summary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No corrections were identified.</li> </ul>	
<b>Agenda Item 3. Update: Prior FAAC Business</b>	<b>Charles Contéro-Puls, Assistant Commissioner</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>Texas Work-study Program (TXWSP) – mechanism for implementing the funds request process has not yet been established. Proposed amendments to the timely distribution of funds rule, aligning TXWSP distribution of funds with other programs, will be delayed until the funds request process can be implemented.</li> </ul>	
<b>Agenda Item 4. Joint Update House Bill 3 (Financial Aid Application Graduation Requirement); House Bill 2140 (On-line TASFAA); and TASFA Subcommittee</b>	<b>Claudette Jenks, Director, College Readiness and Success; and Robert Merino, TASFA subcommittee Chair</b>
<b>Handout Provided: No</b>	<b>Formal Decision/Action Required</b> Expansion of TASFA Subcommittee/Submit nominations
<b>Presentation Summary:</b> Claudette Jenks provided the following updates: <b>H.B. 3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TEA has established a financial aid graduation requirement webpage, accessible through TEA's Counseling, Advising, &amp; Students (CASS) website.</li> <li>TEA's advisory committee provided the following recommendations to assist agency in adopting rules related to graduations requirements submitted Jan. 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>establish a distribution timeline for TASFA and FAFSA applications as well as a form for students to opt-out of completing a financial aid application. (Opt-out form will be available on CASS webpage)</li> <li>school districts are required to report the number of completed and submitted application, as well as student exceptions received.</li> <li>requirement of compliance with federal laws concerning confidentiality.</li> </ul> </li> <li>TEA has established a contract with Texas OnCourse; staff will be housed at THECB.</li> </ul> <b>H.B. 2140</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>E-TASFA funding still being determined. Also identifying internal and external funding streams.</li> <li>The Texas Application for State Financial Aid Advisory Committee met with California Student Aid Commission who has already developed their own state's student financial aid application similar to FAFSA, and we will be working with THECB to get an MOU in place to assist in developing our own similar application.</li> </ul>	

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- A request for extension of time to make available e-TASFA online application was sent to the legislator, doing so would avoid significant work that would be completed within a year in efforts to align the implementation of the new simplification bill (expected availability of online application: October 1, 2022 for the 2023-2024 academic year).
- Other areas of development considered by THECB not included in other convening of the committee:
  - What it means to integrate e-TASFA into the Apply Texas system.
  - Institutions of Higher Education renewal process.
  - Consideration of expansion of the FAAC's TASFAC sub-committee to expand feedback opportunities to assist in the E-TASFA scope of work as well as the paper TASFA.

**Discussion:**

- Robert Merino - TASFAC sub-committee should include more private school representation, as well as representation from the Rio Grande Valley.
- Committee members agreed with the expansion of the TASFA sub-committee role.

**Agenda Item 5. Update: External Relations**

**John Wyatt, Senior Director,  
External Relations**

**Handout Provided: Yes**

**Formal Decision/Action Required  
N/A**

**Presentation Summary:**

Budget: Commissioner Keller has testified before the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committee on the importance of investing adequately in higher education.

- Both the Senate and House General Appropriations Act have introduced bills in both chambers that include a 5% reduction of the major financial aid programs.
- THECB's budget proposal for the next biennium include the following two exceptional items:
  - Restoration of the 5% base cut, which is approximately \$57 million dollars across the 3 major financial aid programs – requesting to return budget back to the level set for the current biennium.
  - Requested additional \$110 million funding to maintain funding for the service level for the major financial aid programs for next biennium.

Policy:

- As it relates to policy aspect of Higher Education, Charles has shared with the committee bills filed by legislators, (e.g., Promise Grant Programs, and new exemption bills). Deadline for filing bills is March 12, 2021; however, it is unclear as to what bills will advance during this session.
- John does not foresee major groundbreaking Higher Ed. legislation being advanced this session. Health and safety protocols have limited legislators' ability to maintain workflow while having to address COVID19, budget deficient, a re-districting year, and the recent power outages.
- The legislature is also aware of the misalignment issues with the FAFSA Simplification Act (FSA) and the new required e-TASFA implementation.

Q&A:

- **Committee asked if there are ways to assist the legislation to rectify issues surrounding the timing and misalignment challenges facing the FSA and electronic TASFA?** Institutions and various leadership should increase awareness of these issues and reach out to legislators about these challenges as it always good for legislators to hear from more than one entity within the higher education industry.
- **Committee asked if consideration was given to the loss of income for families when determining the additional \$110 million budget request?** Numbers were based on last summer's growth factors for the financial aid programs; however unusual growth due to the pandemic was not factored in; however, budget information provided to the legislature are normally estimates.
- **Committee asked how would additional COVID19 relief funds received (CRSSA Act) flow down to universities?** Federal funds going directly to institutions have already gone out through the CARES Act – GEER funds. \$175 million went to Coordinating Board to support financial aid programs through CARES ACT GEER funding. The additional GEER funding (CRSSA Act) received by the Governor's office who will determine how those additional funding will be allocated to support primary, secondary, and higher education. Committee was directed to review meeting handouts that contain information regarding the initial GEER funds received and impact of the EEG's (Emergency Educational Grants) as well as demographic information regarding recipients. Feedback received from institutions was tracked by CB on best practices and helpful insights.

**Agenda Item 6. Update: Legislative Recommendation Subcommittee**

**Arnold Trejo**

**Handout Provided: No**

**Formal Decision/Action Required  
N/A**

**Presentation Summary:**

- Discussion:

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- FAFSA Simplification Act (FSA) implementation - identify opportunities to align state programs with federal requirements) as it relate to selective service and prior drug convictions certification
- compliance issues surrounding the net price calculator (NPC) being down--- workaround is being considered by using the Federal NPC.
- cost implication involved with building the e-TASFA and possible future modifications to be compatible with the FSA
- E-TASFA solution for returning college students
- more cross-representation for sub-committee including private entities needed
- possible legislation may be required if unable to meet implementation deadline; requesting time extension for building the e-TASFA to align with FSA requirements
- requested information as to what previous legislation issues addressed by past sub-committee

**Points of interest for sub-committee:**

- impact of FSA on Student-aid-index (SAI) and state grant programs
- advertising and marketing communications that inform students and families of the e-TASFA application process
- Promise programs bills – new monies for programs vs institutions using TEOG and TEXAS Grant monies
- identify barrier issues that can be addressed through amendments to TAC and/or guidelines
- develop rules that reference following federal regulations rather than developing new rules as it relates to e-TASFA
- continued use of the term expected family contribution (EFC) in rules vs changing term to SAI will not affect the statute; the new need analysis (SAI) is valid and will still support state grant programs, however still working to determine what exactly is changing about the SAI in determining highest need students.
- additional areas of alignment include SAP -- policies not aligning does pose an hinderance when counseling students and for graduating students (alignment of terminology timeframe and time of review is needed).

**Q&A**

**Has there been any research of the retention and graduation rates of low-income student losing the TEXAS Grant aid going into the third year?** Currently not aware of a review done at the agency level of statewide aid and whether SAP policies have a negative impact on lower income students.

**(Note of clarification: SAP first renewal year is aligned however, second renewal year and beyond is when SAP misalignment occurs).**

**Agenda Item 7. Update: Data Collection Subcommittee**

**DeDe Gonzales and DeChà Reid,  
Director, Financial Aid Services,  
THECB**

**Handout Provided: Yes**

**Formal Decision/Action Required  
N/A**

**Presentation Summary:**

- February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting discussion and updates:
  - 2021 FAD cycle is now open with a new format of state reconciliation reports
  - changes needed for 2022 FADs instruction manual
  - cycle dates for the 2022 FADs
  - 2021-22 program guidelines planned for the end of April
  - Update to Student Financial Aid program:
    - Currently involved in the legislative session
    - Refinement of 60x30TX goals
    - Modernization project - redesigning the agency website
    - 2021-2022 award amounts have been released
    - Loan delinquency reporting – notice sent to institutions informing that the CB reinstated the cumulative loan delinquency report, and institutions should not place academic holds on students relating to THECB student loan delinquency
    - FAFSA simplification, net price calculation
    - Availability of Pell grant for incarcerated students
    - Memos released by THECB are mentioned in handouts
    - Future meeting dates determined
- Net price calculator (NPC) application in November was disabled as it was no longer functioning. Interim solution is to require public institutions to create template by using the Department of Education net price calculator. The Federal NPC webpage can be assessed through College for All Texans website.

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- FAS will provide training for the process for delivering the files to THECB. Training will be offered during the March 9<sup>th</sup> webcast at 1:30 pm.
- College Student budget will be supplied to schools.

<b>Agenda Item 8. Discussion: TASFAA Insights and Recommendations</b>	<b>Taryn Anderson, TASFAA President</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>• Recommend Student Debt letter (SDL) and annual loan acknowledge notice to be aligned through modification of the SDL, and to create a process for students to view state and private loan debt through a state database or state system modeled after the current federal system. <i>(Dr. Murr with Texas State University has submitted a draft regarding the SDL. Taryn will look into providing FAAC a copy).</i></li> <li>• Training for TASFAA members and new financial aid administrators are being coordinated with THECB.</li> <li>• TASFAA is now accepting nominations for new members</li> </ul>	
<b>Agenda Item 9. Discussion: School District Insights and Recommendations</b>	<b>Ben Bholan and Shonna Norton</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>• Districts are focusing on implementing plans for students to recover credits</li> <li>• Through CANVAS, financial aid process is being made simpler for students to pursue higher education.</li> <li>• Identified specific cohorts that are most impacted by remote learning (e.g., Lower income families, ninth grade students (remote learning), and older students opting to work rather than attend courses)</li> <li>• WSIFD currently seeing more in home-schooled students failing; district is now requiring failing students to returned to school rather than remote learning.</li> <li>• Counselors/Administrators are struggling with students completing FAFSA this year and are concerned about the possible impact of new modifications on next year's FAFSA graduation requirements.</li> </ul>	
<b>Agenda Item 10. Update FAAC Nomination Process</b>	<b>Charles Contéro-Puls</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>• FAAC nomination process is starting soon (Notices will be sent in April)</li> <li>• Members with term ending are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Taryn Anderson</li> <li>○ Paul Galyean</li> <li>○ Heidi Granger</li> <li>○ Robert Merino – TASFA sub-committee Chair will be vacant</li> <li>○ Tam Nguyen</li> <li>○ Kelly Steelman</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Timeline for the nomination process can be found in meeting handouts.</li> </ul>	
<b>Agenda Item 11. Discussion: TAC, Chapter 1, Subchapter J, Related to the Financial Aid Advisory Committee</b>	<b>Charles Contéro-Puls</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>• Proposed amendments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ extend abolishment date of FAAC advisory committee</li> <li>○ amend language concerning student representative <i>(change from two to one student representative)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ FAAC suggested amendment language requiring Texas residency</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ amend language to include representation from the non-profit sector</li> <li>○ change the nomination cycle to allow new members to start in September rather than December <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ FAAC recommends amendments to start terms in September</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Concerning 1.151 and reaching the non-profit sector – will coordinate with TASFAA to access their current mailing list to develop communications specifically for the non-profit sector as well as clearer communication on the nomination form to include non-profit sector representation.</p>	
<b>Agenda Item 12. Discussion Impact of FAFSA Simplification Act on Institutional Aid Offices</b>	<b>Charles Contéro-Puls</b>

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<b>Handout Provided: No</b>	<b>Formal Decision/Action Required</b> N/A
<b>Discussion Summary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes and/or concerns institutions are expecting? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Timing of change relating to Pell Grant recipients (<i>How the SAI will be calculated differently?</i>)</li> <li>○ State program eligibility for renewal year (<i>need may diminish below eligibility for a TEXAS Grant recipient</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No EFC cutoff for upperclassmen year</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Compatibility of systems and explaining to students how things will work</li> <li>○ Added burden on students related to selective service certification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Possible development of guidelines in the TAC to support institutions with this issue</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Custodial parent vs contributing non-custodial parent and student losing Pell grant eligibility</li> <li>○ Can THECB provide institutions information as to whether students are registered with selective service</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Agenda Item 13. Update: Office of Student Financial Aid Programs</b>	<b>Charles Contéro-Puls</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>• DeChà Reid has been promoted to Sr. Director of Financial Aid Services. In her new role, the THECB representative position on the FAAC will transition from Chad to DeChà beginning with the September 2021 meeting.</li> <li>• Reviewed recent and upcoming rule activity, announcements, deadlines, and accomplishments since last FAAC meeting.</li> </ul>	
<b>Agenda Item 14. Discussion: Topics for Future Meetings</b>	<b>Ed Kerestly</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>• Committee seeking opportunities to bring in presenters providing insight and information that will assist THECB on state financial aid and/or broader financial aid topics.</li> </ul>	
<b>Agenda Item 15. Adjournment</b>	<b>Ed Kerestly</b>
<b>Handout Provided: No</b>	<b>Formal Decision/Action Required</b> Meeting Adjourned
<b>Presentation Summary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next meeting June 3, 2021</li> <li>• Format TBD</li> </ul>	

## **AGENDA ITEM 5**

### **FAAC TASFA Sub-committee Report June 3, 2021**

**Meeting Date:** May 10, 2021

**Meeting Time:** 10:00 am to 12:00 PM

**Attendance:** Leah Smalley (THECB), Robert Merino (San Jacinto), Joseph Sanchez (UNT Health Science), Ana Chavez (Collin), Erin Porter (TAMU), Chandra Gonzalez (UH), Tammy Mitchum (SFA), Laura DeGrush (THECB), and Claudette Jenks (THECB)

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#### **Actions:**

- Reviewed recommendations received from survey for 2022-23 TASFA.

<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Sub-committee Feedback</b>
In the Selective Service Statement of Registration, can you add a field under the "I am Exempt" column to make it more clear that a Female student would not have to register?	1. Red is too bright and will change it 2. Instructions about not leaving anything blank 3. Add a female option independently 4. Add "Male Student's Only" above the section
In question 69-spouse add "N/A" as an option for students who do not have a spouse.	Add N/A
In question 70-Parent 2 add "N/A" as an option for students who live with only 1 parent.	Add N/A
TASFA format suggestions: The Selective Service options look a little disconnected, like they aren't multiple choice. The main suggested update is to make the application a smarter document - not being able to submit without completing the whole document through online submission like the FAFSA.	The online version doesn't allow multiple sections to be completed.
19. What will your college grade level be when you begin the 2021-22school year? Students who have recent High School graduated with dual credit courses should be the first option. This group of students will not know what to answer.	Remove from the section... IHE have batch process that looks at admissions and override process to fix it.
questions 49 and 56 need to have elementary school as an option.	"Other" option should cover this request and already aligns with the FAFSA

Recommendations	Sub-committee Feedback
<p>It would be beneficial for us on the processing side if the TASFA application was ordered similarly to the FAFSA application. This meaning that the sections were layed out just as it is in the FAFSA. For example, the student's biographic information is first, then school information, then the parent income info, then student income info, then other miscellaneous questions. This would be helpful for students, because the TASFA application jumps around a lot. Students have to jump from parent information to student information and back again. This causes them confusion when they complete the form.</p>	<p>Layout will be reviewed and better aligned with FAFSA, where possible</p>

- Minor update to this year's TASFA.
  - Update to selective service to allow female students the option to mark N/A and to tone down the red
- Other changes for 2022-23 TASFA
- Changes to align the TASFA with the FAFSA simplification updates
- Removal of various questions based on feedback from the Online TASFA version review sessions (April 8, April 13, April 15, April 20, April 22):
  - College grade level section (this information is not used by institutions to determine eligibility and students often mark things incorrectly)
  - Conviction of drug offense question (institutions reported that they do not use this box to award state aid; they have their own internal process/form that is more elaborate)
  - Date of Graduation (HS or GED) (not used)
  - At the start of the 2021-22 school year, how many credits/hours will you be enrolled in? (not used)
  - If you are transferring schools, have you earned an Associate Degree? (not used)
  - Have you previously received state Financial Aid? (not used)

**FAAC Data Collection Sub-Committee Meeting**

**April 22, 2021**

**9:30–11:30am**

<b>Attendees:</b>	FAAC Data Sub-Committee Members and THECB staff																																																						
	<p><b>Update on FY 2021 FAD cycles</b>-Tanya Trevino/DeCha Reid</p> <p>This topic will provide a quick summary on cycle one submissions.</p> <p><b>Update:</b> As of 4/22 only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>76 out of 144 schools have validated their files.</li> <li>69 schools still need to validate.</li> <li>10 institutions did not submit file</li> </ul> <p><b>Challenges:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools got off to a late start given the multiple priorities occurring at the opening of the cycle.</li> <li>Reporting GEER funding for the three state grant programs. There is duplicated student count reported for GEER funds.</li> <li>Mis interrupt the eligibility requirements for state GEER funds; exceeding the award amounts.</li> </ul>					Virtual Meeting																																																	
	<p><b>Update on Net Price Calculator</b>-Leah Smalley</p> <p>This topic will provide a quick update on new NPC process and upcoming deadlines for 2019-2020 data.</p> <p><b>Update:</b> As of 4/19/2021, here are the following stats for NPC</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="248 1444 1349 1904"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="248 1444 565 1528"><b>NPC Submission Statistics</b></th> <th data-bbox="565 1444 821 1528"></th> <th data-bbox="821 1444 927 1528"></th> <th data-bbox="927 1444 1040 1528"></th> <th data-bbox="1040 1444 1154 1528"></th> <th data-bbox="1154 1444 1268 1528"></th> <th data-bbox="1268 1444 1349 1528"></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="248 1528 565 1577"><i>Required</i></td> <td data-bbox="565 1528 821 1577"></td> <td data-bbox="821 1528 927 1577"></td> <td data-bbox="927 1528 1040 1577"></td> <td data-bbox="1040 1528 1154 1577"></td> <td data-bbox="1154 1528 1268 1577"></td> <td data-bbox="1268 1528 1349 1577"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="248 1577 565 1625"></td> <td data-bbox="565 1577 821 1625">Universities:</td> <td data-bbox="821 1577 927 1625">22</td> <td data-bbox="927 1577 1040 1625">out of</td> <td data-bbox="1040 1577 1154 1625">36</td> <td data-bbox="1154 1577 1268 1625">61%</td> <td data-bbox="1268 1577 1349 1625"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="248 1625 565 1709"></td> <td data-bbox="565 1625 821 1709">Community Colleges:</td> <td data-bbox="821 1625 927 1709">27</td> <td data-bbox="927 1625 1040 1709">out of</td> <td data-bbox="1040 1625 1154 1709">61</td> <td data-bbox="1154 1625 1268 1709">44%</td> <td data-bbox="1268 1625 1349 1709"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="248 1709 565 1757"></td> <td data-bbox="565 1709 821 1757">Lamars/Tech:</td> <td data-bbox="821 1709 927 1757">4</td> <td data-bbox="927 1709 1040 1757">out of</td> <td data-bbox="1040 1709 1154 1757">4</td> <td data-bbox="1154 1709 1268 1757">100%</td> <td data-bbox="1268 1709 1349 1757"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="248 1757 565 1806"></td> <td data-bbox="565 1757 821 1806"><b>Total:</b></td> <td data-bbox="821 1757 927 1806"><b>53</b></td> <td data-bbox="927 1757 1040 1806"><b>out of</b></td> <td data-bbox="1040 1757 1154 1806"><b>101</b></td> <td data-bbox="1154 1757 1268 1806"><b>52%</b></td> <td data-bbox="1268 1757 1349 1806"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="248 1806 565 1904"><i>Exempt</i></td> <td data-bbox="565 1806 821 1904"></td> <td data-bbox="821 1806 927 1904"></td> <td data-bbox="927 1806 1040 1904"></td> <td data-bbox="1040 1806 1154 1904"></td> <td data-bbox="1154 1806 1268 1904"></td> <td data-bbox="1268 1806 1349 1904"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					<b>NPC Submission Statistics</b>							<i>Required</i>								Universities:	22	out of	36	61%			Community Colleges:	27	out of	61	44%			Lamars/Tech:	4	out of	4	100%			<b>Total:</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>out of</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>52%</b>		<i>Exempt</i>							Virtual Meeting
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	Privates:	1	out of	41	2%	
	HRI's:	0	out of	10	0%	

- 2019-2020 NPC Data will be required in the fall 2021 (in Sept) to get caught up with staying in compliance.
- Will continue to provide the THECB budgets to the schools for consistency.
- Need to update the school link to point to the updated NPC webpage.
- A reminder notice will be sent to schools that are missing data.

**Committee Feedback on the process:**

- Timeline of Sept is a good and timely for the next school year
- All the data can be found in the FAD report for the grants and scholarship section in NPC.
- Provide guidance on the "Living with Parents" column and how to report that data.
- Collect feedback from the FA community to modify NPC instructions.
- Look at the Federal Department of Education link <https://collegecost.ed.gov/net-price> because none of the Texas schools are loaded on the ED NPC site.

**Update: FY 2022 Program Guidelines-** Leah Smalley/Sophia Rodriguez

This topic will discuss a quick summary on minimal changes to the published guidelines.

**Update: See Attachment**

The following enhancements have been made to all the guidelines being published this year.

- Links to TAC Rules in each of the relevant section headings were added back.
- PDF copies of the statutes and rules used to create these guidelines were published and archived for future reference. Located in the "Quick Resource" page.
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Appendix was added and will updated annually.
- Removal of proration requirement from TEXAS Grant, TEG and TEOG based on rule changes
- Updated Alert, Stop, and made reference to the rule changes throughout the guidelines.
- Updated Resource page to be more specific to program guideline

**Committee Feedback on the guidelines:**

- Like the alerts on the removal of administrative rules
- Like the flow of the guidelines and the addition of the FAQ's

Virtual Meeting

	<p><b>Discussion Topic: FAD Modernization Project</b>-DeCha Reid</p> <p>This topic will discuss a new project to modernize importing FAD data to THECB.</p> <p><b>Update:</b> An opportunity for FAD to be part of the data modernization project, as the modernization moves from proof of concept to development. The data modernization project consists of a data load, data analysis and data reporting. There are two phases of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phase One: Modernize the internal data to a cloud base platform</li> <li>• Phase Two: Modernize the FAD application to web-base</li> </ul> <p>The first phase would likely be a six-month project, launching soon. While the second phase may take longer, however both phases will be in parallel.</p> <p>Some of the key benefits of modernizing FAD are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The rules for errors and warnings would be separated from the programming that loads data into our system. This allows the standardization of the data load framework for all the data institutions submit to the THECB.</li> <li>• Rules will be individually defined and retained in a library. When data is loaded by an institution, the rules unique to that type of data load will fire. This provides two primary benefits. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ First, institutions will receive feedback on their submission within minutes, if not seconds.</li> <li>○ Second, the rules will be maintained by the business unit.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The possibility of removing flat file structure, so that institutions can do their work in Excel, allowing easier resolution of errors and warnings.</li> </ul> <p>Institutions benefit from an easier, timelier, and more responsive data load process. And Student Financial Aid Programs benefits from greater control of errors and warning rules and, ideally, earlier certification of institutional data and a reduction in the volume of inquiries received from institutions trying to get their data through the system.</p> <p><b>Committee Feedback</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give a timeline because institutions have to dedicated resources for new programming.</li> <li>• When launching the new platform for FAD, start in the first cycle of academic year as opposed to the second or third cycle to lessen confusion</li> <li>• Will appreciate the real-time error messages</li> <li>• No flat file; delimited tab would be better</li> <li>• Keep in mind of the timing of the project along with the FAFSA Simplification</li> </ul>	Virtual Meeting
	<p><b>Discussion Topic: Selective Service Guidance</b>-Leah Smalley</p>	Virtual Meeting

This topic will discuss a what changes the agency could pursue to its rules and guidelines that would best support institutions in fulfilling Sec. 51.9095 once selective service is no longer collected on the FAFSA.

**Update:** Seeking feedback from the FAAC Data Collection subcommittee on what changes the agency could pursue to its rules and guidelines that would best support institutions in fulfilling Sec. 51.9095 once selective service is no longer collected on the FAFSA?

One of the challenges is Sec. 51.9095 of the statute cannot be easily repealed without modifying other language in the statute which could cause an impact on other state financial aid programs.

To make changes to rules, below is the agency timeline:

Effective Date	Proposed Rule due to General Counsel
August	April 1
November	July 1
February	October 1
May	January 1

Some agency thoughts on the topic:

- TASFA students are built into the application so this will be an impact on students who complete the FAFSA.
- Have ability to modify the administrative rules but not the statute
  - One recommendation: remove section B from the administrative rules however it would mean that every student would need a selective service statement
  - Second recommendation: modify a rule so the schools can go online directly to bypass collecting a selective service statement.
  - Third recommendation: Modify a rule to allow the school to have a student sign a selective service statement and bypass the SS website.

#### Committee Feedback

- Make the student upload something from the SSA website rather than the schools, since there are way too many students and a huge burden on the schools.
- Schools have already built into their system that students have to sign an electronic statement and still have those students that cannot upload a document from SSA.
- Can selective service be added to the ApplyTX?
  - Not all students will use ApplyTX like transfer students
- Schools that have a large portion of exemptions/waivers that are handled by other areas on the schools and can be complexed on handling the administration of selective service.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modify a rule that gives the school the flexibility on how to collect selective service at their institution.</li> </ul> <p>Action Item: Provide additional feedback by April 30.</p>	
	<p><b>Discussion Topic: SFAP Updates-</b> DeCha Reid</p> <p>This topic will discuss any updates within the Student Financial Aid Programs (SFAP) division.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>New Redesigned Agency website</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the progress of redesigning and refining the content on the main agency website along with the txhighereddata.org site</li> <li>Launching of both sites will be in July</li> <li>Will send out notifications to make customers aware of the new look and feel of the agency site.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Data Modernization Visualization</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Going Cloud base for our data</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>New reporting portal for WSMP</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Starting June 5</li> <li>Will show a demonstration on May 11 during the monthly webcast</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Update on TASFA/eTASFA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two committees existed (paper and eTASFA) and now have been combined into a workgroup</li> <li>The goal of the workgroup was to look over the TASFA questions line-by-line <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wanted to align the TASFA to mirror the FAFSA</li> </ul> </li> <li>Will look into the Data Collection Sub-committee for feedback on the technical aspect of the eTASFA and how to get the data to the schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will need testers once the eTASFA is developed</li> </ul> </li> <li>There are two bills to extend the release of the eTASFA based on the FAFSA Simplification</li> <li>The paper TASFA will continue to be published <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any recommendations on the paper TASFA are due by April 30 through the CONTACT US link</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Virtual Meeting

**Update: Office of SFAP**

**Rules Activity**

No rules related to financial aid were **adopted** since the March 4, 2021, FAAC meeting.

The following rules related to financial aid were **proposed** since the March 4, 2021, FAAC meeting:

**Chapter 1. Agency Administration**

**Subchapter J. Financial Aid Advisory Committee**

**Section(s): 1.151 & 1.152 (Amendment)**

Texas Register Publication Date: May 14, 2021

Comment Deadline: June 13, 2021

**Chapter 22. Student Financial Aid Programs**

**Subchapter C. Hinson-Hazlewood College Student Loan Program**

**Section(s): 22.53 (Amendment)**

Texas Register Publication Date: May 14, 2021

Comment Deadline: June 13, 2021

**Chapter 22. Student Financial Aid Programs**

**Subchapter M. Texas Educational Opportunity Grant**

**Section(s): 22.265 (Repeal)**

Texas Register Publication Date: May 14, 2021

Comment Deadline: June 13, 2021

**Chapter 22. Student Financial Aid Programs**

**Subchapter AA. The Kenneth H. Ashworth Fellowship Program**

**Section(s): 122.729 – 22.736 (Repealed)**

Texas Register Publication Date: May 14, 2021

Comment Deadline: June 13, 2021

**Announcements**

- Preliminary Allocations: Targeted release shortly after the FAAC meeting.
- Cycle Two FAD will open on June 23.

**Deadlines**

- June 11 is the deadline to submit Work-Study Student Mentorship Program (WSMP) Program Financial Reports through the new WSMP portal.
- July 1 is the last day to submit an authority to transfer request.
- Aug 2 is the **last day to submit a 2020-2021** funds request for the TEXAS Grant, TEOG, TEG, Bilingual Scholarship, and Educational Aide Exemption.
- Aug 2 is the **first day to submit a 2021-2022** funds request for the TEXAS Grant, TEOG, TEG, Bilingual Scholarship, and Educational Aide Exemption.

- Aug 31 is the last day to return unexpended Texas College Work-Study funds.

### **Additional Items of Interest**

- The College Access Loan (CAL) interest rate will be adjusted effective July 1. A borrower's interest rate is based on the date the school certifies the CAL application. The current bond market suggests that the CAL interest rate will drop on July 1.
- The Texas Armed Services Scholarship nomination process launched on April 15 for the 2021-2022 academic year.
- This summer, the agency will issue a Request for Offers for a Student Loan Management and Origination System in preparation for the end of our current loan management system contract in 2023.
- The agency's representation on the FAAC will transition at the end of the June meeting. Charles Contéro-Puls will wrap up his time on the FAAC, having spent the past six years as the agency's representative. In September, DeChà Reid will assume the role of agency representative on the FAAC.