

Date of Meeting: September 14, 2023

Time of Meeting: 9:30am

Location: Barbara Jordan State Office Building, Room 2.013

## AGENDA

09-14-2023

- I. Welcome, Introductions and Overview of Meeting Etiquette – Melet Leafgreen, Chair
- II. Consideration of Approval of Minutes from June 1, 2023, FAAC meeting –Melet Leafgreen, Chair
- III. Update: Prior FAAC Business – DeChà Reid, Director III, THECB
- IV. Update: External Relations – John Wyatt, Senior Director, THECB
- V. Update: THECB Financial Aid Strategic Priority – Charles Contéro-Puls, Assistant Commissioner, THECB
- VI. Update: TASFA Subcommittee – Claudette Jenks, Director and Leah Smalley, Senior Policy Director, THECB
- VII. Update: Data Collection Subcommittee – Dede Gonzales, Subcommittee Chair
- VIII. Update: Legislative Subcommittee – Melet Leafgreen, Subcommittee Chair
- IX. Update: Texas Association for State Financial Aid Administrators (TASFAA) – Dede Gonzales, TASFAA President
- X. Update: High School District – Lisa Schoenbrun, El Paso ISD, Sal Ramirez, El Paso ISD, and Erica Ramos, Pharr-San Juan -Alamo ISD
- XI. Update: Office of Student Financial Aid Programs – DeChà Reid, Director III, THECB
- XII. **Discussion Topic** Selection of Vice-Chair and Subcommittee Chairs – Melet Leafgreen, Chair
  - A. This topic will discuss and vote on the next FAAC Vice-Chair, Legislative Subcommittee Chair, and TASFA Subcommittee Chair.
- XIII. **Discussion Topic** Overview of the FAST Program – Charles Contéro-Puls, Assistant Commissioner, THECB
  - A. This topic will discuss the Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) program which provides funding to participating public institutions of higher education, as defined under [Texas Education Code \(TEC\)](#)

[61.003\(8\)](#) so they can offer dual credit courses to educationally disadvantaged students at no cost to these students.

- XIV. **Discussion Topic:** Proposed Rules for Transfer Grant Program – Charles Contéro-Puls, Assistant Commissioner, THECB
  - A. This topic will discuss the proposed rules for the Transfer Grant program that will be posted to the Texas Register.
- XV. Feedback for Future Meetings – Melet Leafgreen, Chair
- XVI. Adjournment – Melet Leafgreen, Chair

Financial Aid Advisory Committee  
 June 1, 2023, Meeting Notes  
 (To be approved at the September 14, 2023, meeting)

Committee Members in Attendance (In-Person)	Committee Members in Attendance (Virtual)	Committee Members Absent
Rachelè Garrett, Chair Denise Welch, Past Chair DeChà Reid, THECB Rep Victoria Chen Dede Gonzales Bridgette Ingram Gaby Leon Scott Lapinski Lynda McKendree Joseph Ruiz Joseph Sanchez Tevian Sides	Jackie Adler Cecelia Jones Shonna Norton Thomas Ratliff Lisa Schoenbrun Gilbert Zavala	Rachel Joseph Melet Leafgreen Holly Nolan Sal Ramirez
<b>Agenda Item 1. Welcome, Introductions and Overview of Meeting</b>		<b>Rachelè Garrett, Chair</b>
Handout Provided: No		Formal Decision/Action Required No
<b>Agenda Item 2. Consideration of Approval of Minutes from the meeting held on December 8, 2022</b>		<b>Rachelè Garrett, Chair</b>
Handout Provided: Yes		Formal Decision/Action Required Yes – <i>minutes approved</i>
<b>Summary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No corrections were identified.</li> <li>**See handout for agenda item 2 for more information.</li> </ul>		
<b>Agenda Item 3. Update: Prior FAAC Business</b>		<b>DeChà Reid, Senior Director, THECB</b>
Handout Provided: No		Formal Decision/Action Required No
<i>Standing Item</i> <b>Update Summary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No prior business</li> </ul>		
<b>Agenda Item 4. Update: External Relations</b>		<b>John Wyatt, External Relations, THECB</b>
Handout Provided: No		Formal Decision/Action Required No
<i>Standing Item</i> <b>Update Summary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Legislative Session concluded on May 29</li> <li>• Most productive session based on the number of bills that were passed that supported higher education.</li> <li>• Substantial investments in higher education:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriated over 1.4 billion in three grant programs</li> <li>• Community colleges – funded TEOG at the same service level at TEXAS Grant                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ HB8 enacted the Community College Finance</li> <li>○ Creates a new program for dual credit students called FAST; will have an emergency rules which is good for 90 days (will come out in August 2023); FAST has three components:                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible Institution-Must agree to the terms of the program (this is an optional program-not mandatory); institution must treat the student based on the program; the institution will receive funding if the student enrolls and receives</li> <li>• Eligible Student-No cost be enrolled and educationally disadvantage (tuition, fees, and books)</li> <li>• Eligible Course-Has to be applicable towards an AA or Credential of Value (field of study, Foreign Language, Core, )</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Eliminates the Pell requirement from TEOG</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• HB8 added new programs</li> <li>• HB 4434 expanded the Texas First to all public schools</li> <li>• A new bill that creates a new program for competency-based programs</li> <li>• HB4363 for Teachers First is a new program to help support teachers</li> <li>• Authorized THECB that TEXAS Grant will fund top 10% high school graduates</li> </ul>		

Financial Aid Advisory Committee  
June 1, 2023, Meeting Notes

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transfer Grant and Texas Leadership will be supported in legislation; Texas Leaders is within statute and it has a research a research program for graduates</li> <li>• \$25 million in loan repayment programs to support healthcare workforce</li> <li>• Numerous programs in financial aid programs</li> <li>• Still in the Governors veto period which ends on June 29; can veto a line item on the budget</li> <li>• There are still contingencies that remain to determine which specific programs that were funded</li> <li>• Will produce a summary of legislation for higher education by July</li> <li>• There will be special sessions on specific items: property taxes and border and there will be more based on what the Governor decides is important.</li> <li>• Educationally disadvantaged means a student that can receive free lunch four years prior to receiving FAST (Financial Aid Swift Transfer)</li> </ul>	
<b>Agenda Item 5. Update: THECB Financial Aid Strategic Priority</b>	<b>Charles Contero-Puls, Assistant Commissioner, THECB</b>
<b>Handout Provided: Yes</b>	<b>Formal Decision/Action Required</b> No
<i>Standing Item</i> <b>Update Summary:</b> **See handout for agenda item 5 for more information.	
<b>Agenda Item 6. Update: TASFA Subcommittee House Bill 3 (FAFSA/TASFA Graduation Requirement) and House Bill 2140 (Online TASFA)</b>	<b>Bridgette Ingram, Subcommittee Chair; Claudette Jenks, Director, Strategic Advising and Leah Smalley, Director, THECB</b>
<b>Handout Provided: No</b>	<b>Formal Decision/Action Required</b> No
<i>Standing Item</i> <b>Update Summary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2023-24 TASFA was delayed until summer; in regression testing for the application</li> <li>• Developed an Admin portal for internal staff to help support students, parents, and schools,</li> <li>• Over the past few months have done test files with the committee; confirmed that the test files can be released to all schools; will send out a notice in June; each school can do what they want to do with the test file and it is a good foundation for what 2024-25 will look like</li> <li>• Looking at training and demo for June 2023 for schools and SFTP process</li> <li>• Moved away from collecting a signature to an acknowledgment box similar to ApplyTX; this will change the file layout but will not change the position but will send out a new file layout</li> <li>• Still a lot of work to be done for 2024-25; doing a massive comparison of what changes will impact TASFA</li> <li>• The goal is to announce changes of the TASFA during the Sept FAAC meeting</li> </ul>	
<b>Agenda Item 7. Update: Data Collection Subcommittee</b>	<b>Dede Gonzales, Subcommittee Chair</b>
<b>Handout Provided: Yes</b>	<b>Formal Decision/Action Required</b> No
<i>Standing Item</i> <b>Update Summary:</b> **See handout for agenda item 7 for more information	
<b>Agenda Item 8. Update: Legislative Subcommittee</b>	<b>Denise Welch, Past Chair</b>
<b>Handout Provided: No</b>	<b>Formal Decision/Action Required</b> No
<i>Standing Item</i> <b>Update Summary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The TASFAA and FAAC Legislative combined the two groups</li> <li>• Chris Murr, the chair has sent out an update about the bills that are awaiting for signatures</li> </ul>	
<b>Agenda Item 9. Update: Texas Association for State Financial Aid Administrators (TASFAA)</b>	<b>Dede Gonzales, TASFAA President</b>

<b>Handout Provided: No</b>	<b>Formal Decision/Action Required</b> No
<p><i>Standing Item</i></p> <p><b>Update Summary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed the spring regional trainings which had about 85 participants; about a 40% pass rate with the NASFAA Credential</li> <li>Will have a joint SWASFAA and TASFAA conference in October; registration to open in June-Theme is Uncharted</li> <li>Denise Welch is President-Elect</li> <li>Elections are coming up this summer for new TASFAA Board members and a President</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Agenda Item 10. Update: High School District</b></p>	
<p><b>Lisa Schoenbrun, El Paso ISD; Shonna Norton, Wichita Falls ISD</b></p>	
<b>Handout Provided: No</b>	<b>Formal Decision/Action Required</b> No
<p><i>Standing Item</i></p>	
<p><b>Agenda Item 11. Update: Office of Student Financial Aid Programs</b></p>	
<p><b>DeChà Reid, Senior Director, THECB</b></p>	
<b>Handout Provided: No</b>	<b>Formal Decision/Action Required</b> No
<p><i>Standing Item</i></p> <p><b>Topics of Discussion:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grant Application and Payment Portal (GAPP)</li> <li>New Staff Hires</li> <li>Released and Upcoming Announcements</li> <li>Upcoming and Past Deadline Dates</li> </ol> <p><b>Grant Application and Payment Portal (GAPP)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GAPP is a modernized platform that will integrate 14 out of 20 of the financial aid programs which consist of grants, work-study, loan repayment, exemption, and scholarships.</li> <li>The system will allow institutions to approve user access, upload documents (e.g., program participation), request payments, monitor program spending, send communication directly to THECB staff, and submit authority to transfer requests.</li> <li>The goal is to go live with a few programs in Fall 2023. The proposed programs are: Work-study programs, Educational Aide, and Bilingual Education.</li> <li>More information and training will be released introducing the improved payment platform.</li> </ul> <p><b>Financial Aid Personnel Activity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>THECB has been busy with hiring and promoting internal staff. Charles mentioned our recent reorganization; we are continuing to look at how best to structure our area to fit the needs of our customers and the agency. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Hires: 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Customer Service Representative for our Loan Repayment team</li> <li>1 Program Specialist III for our Institutional Aid (Operational) team</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Released Announcements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May 15, 2023 - Memo: 10-Day Review Data Review (Preliminary Allocations)</li> <li>May 15, 2023 - Memo: TEXAS Grant 10-Day Allocation Data Review</li> <li>May 15, 2023 - Memo: TEOG 10-Day Allocation Data Review</li> <li>May 15, 2023 - Memo: Texas College Work-Study Program 10-Day Allocation Data Review</li> <li>May 15, 2023 - Memo: EAE 10-Day Allocation Data Review</li> <li>May 15, 2023 - Memo: 2024-2025 - TEG OPT-IN/OPT-OUT Form</li> <li>May 18, 2023 - <a href="#">Memo: State Net Price Calculator (2021-22)</a></li> <li>May 18, 2023 - Dear Colleagues: Institutional Calendar - Summer 2023</li> <li>May 22, 2023 - <a href="#">Memo: Good Neighbor Program FY 2024 (2023-24) - Selected Students</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Upcoming Memos</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>June 7, 2023 - <a href="#">Memo: 2023 FAD Cycle 2 Opens</a></li> <li>June 16, 2023 - <a href="#">Memo: 2024-25 Program Participation Agreement Announcement</a></li> <li>June 22, 2023 - Memo: TEG 10-Day Allocation Data Review</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launching GAPP</li> </ul> <p><b>Upcoming deadlines</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All private/independent institutions eligible to participate in the Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG) Program are <b>required</b> to complete the 2024-2025 Biennium (FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25) Opt-In/Opt-Out form. Notifications were sent to financial aid directors at each institution. The deadline to submit the form is today, <b>June 1, 2023</b>.</li> <li>• All public institutions that enroll full-time entering first year students are required to submit the most recent version (2021-22) of the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) Net Price Calculator template to the THECB by <b>June 23, 2023</b>. See <a href="#">memo from May 18, 2023</a>.</li> <li>• Institutions requesting to transfer funds between state grant and work-study programs must submit a request by <b>July 1, 2023</b> using the <a href="#">Authority to Transfer form</a>. Please see the <a href="#">memo from Mar. 6, 2023</a>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Past Deadlines</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None.</li> </ul>	
<b>Agenda Item 12. Discussion Topic: Recognition of Members Stepping Down</b>	<b>Rachelè Garrett, Chair</b>
<b>Handout Provided: No</b>	<b>Formal Decision/Action Required</b> No
<p><b>Discussion Summary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This topic will discuss the FAAC members whose term ends on 6/30/2023.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">Denise Welch – Panola College Victoria Chen – Texas Christian University Bridgette Ingram – Texas A&amp;M University Holly Nolan – University of Houston Clear Lake Shonna Norton – Wichita Falls Independent School District Thomas Ratliff – Abilene Christian University Joseph Ruiz – Del Mar College Joseph Sanchez – UNT Health Science Center</p>	
<b>Agenda Item 13. Discussion Topic: Recommendation on Proposed Nominees for 2023 FAAC</b>	<b>DeChà Reid, Senior Director, THECB</b>
<b>Handout Provided: Yes</b>	<b>Formal Decision/Action Required</b> No
<p><b>Discussion Summary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This topic will discuss the proposed 2023 FAAC member recommendations. **See handout for agenda item 13 for more information.</li> </ul>	
<b>Agenda Item 14. Discussion Topic: State Priority Deadline</b>	<b>Charles Contero-Puls, Assistant Commissioner, THECB</b>
<b>Handout Provided: No</b>	<b>Formal Decision/Action Required</b> No
<p><b>Discussion Summary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This topic will discuss the impact of the 2024-25 FAFSA not being available until December and to gather FAAC recommendation on whether an alternate financial aid application deadline is necessary for 2024-2025 academic year.</li> <li>• The Jan. 15 State Priority Deadline is in administrative rule</li> <li>• Proposed a new rule that will provide the Commissioner the flexibility to delay the rule if there is an extenuating circumstance (i.e., natural disaster); this is an annual review based on the circumstances; this will go back to 1/15 for 2025-26.</li> <li>• The rule will go to the July Board meeting for approval and will not be official until August 2023; want to get the feedback early.</li> <li>• Received a couple of comments back for approval of the new rule</li> <li>• Input from FAAC on the delay of 2024-25:</li> <li>• Agree about 3/15 is a reasonable date</li> <li>• ASAP, check with your school (recommended submission date)</li> </ul>	
<b>Agenda Item 15. Transition of Leadership</b>	<b>Rachelè Garrett, Chair</b>

Financial Aid Advisory Committee  
 June 1, 2023, Meeting Notes

Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No
Agenda Item 16. Feedback for Future Meetings	Melet Leafgreen, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No
Agenda Item 17. Adjournment	Melet Leafgreen, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No
<b>Summary:</b> Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.	
Reminder. Announcement: Expense Reports	Rachelè Garrett, Chair

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## AGENDA

### FAAC Data Collection Sub-Committee Meeting

July 27, 2023: 9:30-11:30am

**Location:** Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 737-222-7309](#) United States, Austin

**Phone Conference ID:** 212 410 823#

<p><b>Update on Online TASFA</b></p> <p>This topic will provide an update on the progress of the online TASFA.</p> <p><b>Update Online TASFA:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ We are continuing to refine the Online TASFA and will be launching soon.</li><li>○ For 2023-24, we suspect that many students have already applied so the number of students may be small which will help with the refinement.</li><li>○ For 2024-25, starting the process to see how FAFSA will impact the online and paper TASFA. Will be comparing the ISIR and FAFSA layout to determine what changes need to be done with the TASFA. The paper application will continue to be released in October.</li></ul> <p><b>Committee Comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ No comments</li></ul>	Leah S.
<p><b>Update on FAD Data Submission Portal</b></p> <p>This topic will provide an update on the FAD process for cycle 2 using the Data Submission portal.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ We opened the new Financial Aid Database (FAD) - Data Submission Portal for Cycle Two on June 7. I would say it was a</li></ul>	DeCha R. and Tanya T.

smooth transition, but as we all know getting access caused the most growing pains. I am happy to report that all schools have submitted a FAD file and we have at least 45 schools that have certified to date.

- For security purposes, Financial Aid Directors, or the person who we have access to FAD Data Certification will be given access to the Data Submission application.
- With the success of starting the first submission in June, THECB will eliminate cycle one starting with the 2023-24 FAD year.
- Below are the proposed cycle dates:

### 2023-2024 Reporting Cycle Dates

Reporting Cycle	First Day to Submit	Deadline to Submit Initial FAD File*	Deadline to Validate or Certify FAD File	Submission Requirements
<b>First</b>	June 12, 2024	June 26, 2024	Aug. 7, 2024	Deadline to validate student data.
<b>Second</b>	Sept. 25, 2024	Oct. 9, 2024	Nov. 13, 2024	Deadline to reconcile state program totals and certify student data.

### Committee Comments:

- Need to have access for more than one person.
- Nice to get the file back more quickly than having to wait.
- Being able to have excel was helpful.
- Hard time to sort by error number.
- Feedback from the person who submits...I really like it. I get the responses a lot faster, it's super easy to use and they let you download the output files in multiple formats. It also tells you right away if you messed up your flat file and they won't accept it - so you don't have to wait two hours, only to find out you're a digit off in the header record.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dollar value for the maximum Pell Grant is off by \$1; need to look at edit.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Update on Office of SFAP:</b></p> <p>This topic will provide an update on the activities happening in the Office of Student Financial Aid Programs.</p> <p><b>Topics of Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>FY 2024 &amp; FY 2025 Allocations</b></li> <li>○ <b>2023-24 Program Guidelines</b></li> <li>○ <b>Update on Grant Application and Payment Portal (GAPP)</b></li> <li>○ <b>Update on recent and upcoming memos</b></li> <li>○ <b>Update on Personnel</b></li> <li>○ <b>Deadlines and Reminders</b></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Allocations for 2023-24 &amp; 2024-25</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The last allocation announcement is for TEG. We received some comments on this program which required institutions to recertify their FAD file for the respective FAD year, which is why the final allocation has not been announced. Our goal is to have final allocations for TEG released soon.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>2023-24 Program Guidelines:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ All program guidelines were published as of 7/21/23. Each announcement included the updated changes to the programs. For a quick summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ TEXAS Grant-Updated priority EFC</li> <li>▪ TEOG- Updated priority EFC, added an alert box on the Pell changes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To clarify on the removal of Pell, the bill removed the text that restricts an institution from using Pell grant funds, to cover any difference in the amount of TEOG and actual tuition and required fees being charged at the institution, While the amendment is effective as of Sept. 1, 2023,</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>DeCha R.</p>

<p>the change in law applies beginning with TEOG awards for the fall 2024 semester.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ TEG-Added an alert box about Exceptional Need <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To clarify, beginning 2023-24, exceptional need will apply to undergraduate students that have an EFC less than or equal to 50% of the federal Pell Grant eligibility cap that aligns with the year the institution is packaging (i.e., institutions will use 50% of the 2023-24 Pell grant cap to determine which students can receive a TEG award in 2023-24).</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ TASSP-Updated annual award amount from \$10k to \$15k, added a section explaining the Alternate process for a Texas Legislator</li> <li>▪ CAL-Added an alert box about the new manageable debt calculation</li> <li>▪ FORWARD-No program changes</li> <li>▪ EAE- updated the critical shortage list.</li> <li>▪ Bilingual Education-Updated the participation list to include five more schools, align definition of financial need to THECB rules, removed the State Board Proficiency test as an eligibility requirement.</li> <li>▪ Work-Study-The Texas College Work-Study (TCWS) and the Work-Study Student Mentorship Program (WSMP) guidelines were combined to align with the Texas Education Code and Texas Administrative Code, added an alert box on the new process for allocations and disbursement.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Update on the progress of the Grant Application and Payment Portal (GAPP)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ GAPP is a modernized platform that will integrate 14 out of 20 of the financial aid programs which consist of grants, work-study, loan repayment, exemption, and scholarships.</li> <li>○ The system will allow institutions to approve user access, upload documents (e.g., program participation), request payments, monitor program spending, send communication directly to THECB staff, and submit authority to transfer requests.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We are on target to go live with a few programs in Fall 2023. The programs are: Work-study programs, Educational Aide, and Bilingual Education.</li> <li>○ The new process will begin for 2023-24 will allow for schools to get reimbursed for TCWS &amp; WSMP expenditures.</li> <li>○ More information and training will be released introducing the improved payment platform in August.</li> <li>○ <b>Update Texas First and Transfer Grant</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Texas First:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The first 51 state credit certificates were emailed on 7/14/23.</li> <li>▪ Rosters were updated to the 10 eligible schools in the Grant_Output folder.</li> <li>▪ Effective 9/1 all public IHE's will be eligible to be a part of the Texas First Scholarship program.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Transfer Grant           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Transfer Grant received state appropriation during the 88th Legislative session.</li> <li>▪ Rules are being drafted for this program, so the design of the program may change for 2023-24.</li> <li>▪ At this current time, rosters are not being uploaded.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>○ More information will be made available on both programs in the coming months.</li> <li>○ <b>Personnel Activity, we have been busy with hiring and promoting internal staff:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● New Hires/Promotion: 4           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SFAP has undergone several organizational changes. Effective June 1 Leah Smalley was promoted to be our first Director of Policy. A key focus of her role will be on tuition policy, including exemptions and waivers, as well as on our grant and scholarship policies, so she will no longer be working within my area. She will continue to collaborate with my team on different policies that impact the financial aid programs. We made an announcement at the June 1 FAAC meeting on her promotion along with my promotion to Director III. I was promoted to Director III where I will lead SFAP's</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
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operational strategy to provide efficient and effective support to our core customer groups: institutions, professionals working in shortage fields, and our borrowers. We are both looking forward to continuing to work with you in our new roles.

- 1 Manager II, Anna Shaw will oversee Institutional Support which was formerly led by Leah Smalley
- 1 Deputy Assistant Commissioner will start Aug. 1. This is a new position based on the organizational changes. This position will oversee Quality Compliance, Innovation, and Data Reporting.

- **Released Memos:**

- [07/21/23 Educational Aide Exemption \(EAE\) FY 2024 Program Guidelines Memo \[PDF\]](#)
- [07/21/23 State Work-Study Programs FY 2024 Guidelines Memo \[PDF\]](#)
- [07/19/23 Bilingual Education Program FY 2024 Program Guidelines Memo \[PDF\]](#)
- [07/19/23 Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program \(TASSP\) FY 2024 Program Guidelines Memo \[PDF\]](#)
- [07/19/23 State Financial Aid Reminders and Process Updates Memo \[PDF\]](#)
- [07/17/23 College Access Loan \(CAL\) and Future Occupations & Reskilling Workforce Advancement to Reach Demand \(FORWARD\) Loan FY 2024 Program Guidelines Memo \[PDF\]](#)
- [07/14/23 Update: MOVEit DMZ- Disbursement Roster Uploads Memo \[PDF\]](#)
- [06/29/23 FY 2024 \(2023-24\) Bilingual Education Program Final Allocations Memo \[PDF\]](#)
- [06/29/23 ALERT: MOVEit DMZ Service Interruption – Impact on State Loan Programs Memo \[PDF\]](#)
- [06/29/23 FY 2024 \(2023-24\) Toward EXcellence, Access, and Success \(TEXAS\) Grant Final Allocations Memo \[PDF\]](#)
- [06/29/23 FY 2024 and FY 2025 State Work-Study Programs – Final Allocations Memo \[PDF\]](#)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Upcoming Memos</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ FY 2024 and FY 2025 TEG final allocation</li> <li>○ Annual User Access for Web Portals</li> <li>○ 2023 FAD Cycle 3-Opens</li> <li>○ Fall 2023 Institutional Calendar</li> </ul> </li>   <li>○ <b>Upcoming deadlines:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Deadline to submit 2021-22 Net Price Calculator-7/28/2023</li> <li>○ Last day to request FY2023 Funds-8/1/2023.</li> <li>○ Deadline to validate 2023 FAD Cycle 2-8/14/2023.</li> <li>○ Last day to expend or return TCWS funds-8/31/2023.</li> </ul> </li>   <li>○ <b>Past Deadlines</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Program Participation Agreements-due by 7/21/23</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Committee Comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ None</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Discussion Topic: FAST Program</b></p> <p>This topic will discuss the administration of the new Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) program. The FAST program provides funding to colleges and other public institutions so they can offer dual credit courses to educationally disadvantaged students at no cost to these students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Websites for more information: <a href="#">FAST - Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board</a></li> <li>○ During the 88th Legislative session, HB 8 included new support for dual credit students through the Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) program. The FAST program will enable educationally disadvantaged high school students – those eligible for free and reduced-price lunch – to enroll in dual credit academic or workforce education courses at participating institutions at no cost to the student. Colleges participating in the program agree to limit tuition for these courses to a rate established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB).</li> <li>○ Students are “eligible students” under the FAST program if they (1) are enrolled in an eligible dual credit course at a public school district or charter school and (2) were qualified for free/reduced-price lunch in any of the four school years before enrolling in the dual credit course.</li> </ul>	<p>Leah S.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ By statute, the FAST program requires that eligible students at participating institutions incur no cost for their dual credit coursework. An eligible student will not pay tuition and fees for an eligible dual credit course. Books, supplies, and other course materials must also be provided at no cost to an eligible student.</li> </ul> <p><b>Committee Comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ None</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Discussion Topic: MOVEit and other THECB Systems</b></p> <p>This topic will discuss the current and future of the MOVEit system, along with security updates that will impact access to CBPASS and HELMnet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The agency is pursuing the restructuring of login access to the MOVEit system. Currently working with our Information Solutions Support (ISS (team to identify the resources and timeline for this project. The goal is to move away from an institutional login to a single person login.</li> <li>○ To confirm there the agency did not experience a data breach during the shutdown of MOVEit. We were able to upload all the disbursement rosters and related loan files to each school. If there are files that you or your staff believe are still missing, please send us an online inquiry so we can research with our ISS team.</li> <li>○ On July 19, we announced that we will deactivate any HELMnet accounts that have not been active in the last 90 days starting on 9/1. This is another way to ensure that we keep up with user access.</li> <li>○ In addition, we will be adding two new roles to HELMnet: Viewer and Certifier. We will be limiting the number of users that can certify on HELMnet. We have not made any final decisions on what that number will be but will work with the committee on the most reasonable limit.</li> <li>○ We are upgrading our CBPASS platform to a new platform called User Management Portal (UMP). The current GAPP is using UMP so schools will have some familiarity with it. More details will be</li> </ul>	DeCha R.

<p>shared once we finalize the timeline for a full conversion of all applications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Expect in the fall 2023, the annual User Access Review for all THECB systems. Now is the time to make sure that you do some clean up at the institutional level if you have any employees transition off your team or new hires that need access.</li> </ul> <p><b>Committee Comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ None</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Discussion Topic: Webcast and Training</b></p> <p>This topic will gather feedback from the committee to collect ideas to cover for future webcasts and trainings.</p> <p><b>Committee Comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Will pass along information to other staff members on needed training ideas.</li> </ul>	Committee
<p><b>Discussion Topic: Future Topics</b></p> <p>This topic will engage the committee in discussion on what topics to cover for future meetings.</p> <p><b>Committee Comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Will pass along information to other staff members on needed topics</li> </ul>	Committee