



FINANCIAL AID ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FAAC)

Handouts for the December 10, 2020, meeting:

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Financial Aid Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

Name of Committee: Financial Aid Advisory
Committee Date of Meeting: **December 10, 2020**
Time and duration of Meeting: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Virtual Meeting
[Click for Meeting Materials](#)

Agenda

1. Welcome and Overview of Meeting – Ed Kerestly, Chair
2. Discussion: Membership Expectations - Ed Kerestly
3. Consideration of Approval of Minutes from the meeting held on September 3, 2020 – Ed Kerestly
4. Discussion and Consideration: 2021 Meeting Dates - Ed Kerestly
5. Update: Prior Business – Charles Contéro-Puls, Assistant Commissioner I
6. Joint Updates: HB3 FAFSA/TASFA Graduation Requirement, on-line TASFA, and FAAC TASFA Sub-committee – Alexis Bauserman, Texas Education Agency, Director of Beyond Grad; Claudette Jenks, Director, College Readiness and Success; and Robert Merino, TASFA sub-committee Chair
7. Presentation: Impact of Elections - Megan Coval, Vice President of Policy and Federal Relations for the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
8. Update: External Relations – John Wyatt, Senior Director, External Relations
9. Presentation: FAAC Annual Report - Robert Merino, Past Chair
10. Discussion: TASFAA Insights and Recommendations - Taryn Anderson, TASFAA President
11. Discussion: School District Insights and Recommendations - Ben Bholan and Shonna Norton
12. Update: Data Collection Subcommittee - DeChà Reid, Director, Financial Aid Services
13. Election of Vice Chair - Charles Contéro-Puls
14. Discussion and Consideration: Data Collection Subcommittee Chair – Ed Kerestly
15. Discussion and Consideration: Legislative Recommendations Subcommittee Chair - Ed Kerestly
16. Discussion: FAFSA State Deadline Language - Charles Contéro-Puls
17. Discussion: Proposed Texas Administrative Code Subchapter on Exemptions and Waivers - Charles Contéro-Puls
18. Update: Office of SFAP - Charles Contéro-Puls
19. Discussion: Topics for Future Meetings - Ed Kerestly
20. Adjournment - Ed Kerestly

Governor Abbott's office approved a request by the Office of the Attorney General to temporarily suspend a limited number of open meeting laws in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) disaster. This action will allow governmental bodies to conduct meetings by telephone or video conference to advance the public health goal of limiting face-to-face meetings (also called "social distancing") to slow the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). All persons requesting to address the Committee regarding an item on the agenda should do so in writing at least 24 hours before the start of the meeting at Michelle.Soto@HigherEd.Texas.gov. A toll-free telephone number, free-of-charge video conference link, or other means will be provided by which to do so.

FAAC Member Expectations

December 10, 2020

1

- Review the agenda and all materials sent in advance of the meeting
- Be prepared with your questions, comments and concerns
- The meeting is your opportunity to bring issues forward – I will be actively seeking input for agenda items – but if you have any issues please let me know so I can ensure they are on the agenda
- Contribute your perspective and resources to the issues, concerns, topics of conversation.

2

- Don't be shy!
- Members are tasked to consider a "statewide perspective."
- Keep in mind that you are a representative of your sector and not just you or your institution.
- Communication with institutional leadership and peers
- Communication with like type institutions
- Communication with fellow association members
- Fill out the FAAC Member Report Form

3

Logistics in a COVID-19 world

- Meeting Guidelines
 - Meeting is being live streamed via YouTube
 - Mute microphone when not speaking
 - A quorum will be established through a roll call
 - Motions will be voted on by voice vote. A roll call vote will only be used if result of voice vote is unclear.
 - Each member should identify himself or herself prior to speaking for the record
 - Wait for one person to finish before speaking; otherwise, comments may be muddled or unclear
 - Be sure to use the "Raise Hand" feature to be recognized by the Chair
- Handouts will not be displayed during this meeting but are available on the agency's website at the address displayed at the bottom of the current slide. This address will be displayed at the start of each agenda item.

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Logistics in a normal world

- Sign-in upon arrival at guard station.
- Breakroom, restrooms, and exits.
- Lunch break around noon, for 30 minutes to one hour, pending workload.
- Catered lunch onsite in Tejas Room (please bring cash).
- Turn on microphone when speaking; please turn off, if not.
- Members calling in, please mute telephone if you are not speaking. Say your name when you are speaking.
- Submit meeting expense survey (even if you attend via teleconference).
- Provide updated contact information to CB staff.

Committee Members in Attendance Via <u>Virtual</u> Meeting Connection		Committee Members Absent
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 Kugiya (Student Rep)	None

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

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

Agenda Item 3. Acknowledgment: Members finishing their terms	Robert Merino, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required Committee members will receive certificate of appreciation
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) • FAAC Member Shonna Norton is on the proposed slate of nominees for next term 	

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

Agenda Item 5. Update: Prior Business	Charles Contéro-Puls, Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	

Agenda Item 6. Update: External Relations	John Wyatt Senior Director, External Relations
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required Collect data on enrollment – current and future projections
<p>Presentation Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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"> ◦ Need-based Financial Aid (State grant programs) \$57M ◦ Direct student support (Emergency Education Aid) \$93M ◦ Online learning support (Open education, learning analytics, quality improvement) \$10M ◦ Data infrastructure (student advising, dashboards, modernization) \$15M • THECB is working on our legislative appropriations request for the next biennium (FY 2022-23) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Next biennium's budget needs to account for the 5% reduction from this biennium • 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 Trellis 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. <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns regarding the deadlines for spending GEER funding were raised 	
Agenda Item 7. Joint Update: HB3 and on-line TASFA Progress and TASFA Sub-committee	Claudette Jenks, Director, College Readiness and Success and Robert Merino, Sub-Committee Chair
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
<p>Presentation Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Jenks works closely with TEA FAFSA advisory committee and also coordinates THECB's eTASFA advisory committee • Some of the most challenging questions are how development and maintenance of the system will be funded and how to have a system in place for the 2022-2023 application cycle. • The eTASFA advisory committee's report is due to the Legislature by January 1, 2021 • Robert Merino provided an update on the TASFA updates that have occurred for the TASFA that was released to institutions on September 1 and will be available to students on October 1. <p>Action Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another TASFAC advisory committee meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2020 	
Agenda Item 8. Discussion: TASFAA Recommendations	Lyn Kinyon, TASFAA President
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
<p>Presentation Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lyn Kinyon provided update on TASFAA's latest activity • All in person workshops and training are cancelled due to COVID-19 • TASFAA Annual Business Meeting scheduled for October 9 – 100% electronic/virtual/online – <p>Action Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	

Agenda Item 9. Discussion: School District Recommendations	Shonna Norton and Ben Bholan
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required Additional requests for feedback on this issue will be forthcoming.
<p>Presentation Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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"> 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 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. Ben Bholan reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools are concerned about waning enrollment numbers; Shifting students to online classes is a huge challenge <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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"> Need to have something to encourage students to complete the application to meeting graduation requirements Priority deadline doesn't make a difference at community colleges Four-year schools are providing award notifications much earlier, as early as December 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. Changing the priority dates can create confusion with students and challenges with publication timelines. 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. 	

Agenda Item 10. Update: Data Collection Subcommittee	Samantha Stalnaker, Sub-Committee Chair
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
<p>Presentation Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>Action Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next meeting planned for late October/early November Current sub-committee chair's FAAC term is ending – a new chair needs to be elected 	

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

Agenda Item 12. Update: Legislative Recommendation Subcommittee	Shannon Crossland, Sub-Committee Chair
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal/State Alignment (state debt letter, selective service, and SAP) State alignment of Pell treatment in TEOG and TEXAS Grant Improve the alignment between the Texas College Work-Study and Work-Study Student Mentorship programs Eliminating the priority deadline date Increasing the TEXAS Grant target award only if additional appropriations are provided to fund the increase Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Regarding removing roadblock for hold on academic transcripts; institutions still would like a report for this information – THECB is working on this 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 THECB has a renewed focus on the population that has some college but did not complete to a degree or certificate 	
Agenda Item 13. Update: Slate of FAAC nominees	Charles Contéro-Puls Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required Board members will consider the slate of nominees at the October Board meeting
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 New FAAC members will begin term in November. 	
Agenda Item 14. Discussion: Student Representative from 2-year sector	Charles Contéro-Puls Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required Look at amending rule regarding FAAC two-year sector student representatives
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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"> Does the committee want to continue holding one of the 24 committee slots for a student representative from the two-year sector? Discussion Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggestion to give extra weight to a student from a four-year institution who had transferred from a two-year institution. Recommendation from members to eliminate the two-year student representative requirement to allow for an additional member of the financial aid community. 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"> Dr. Contéro-Puls will take this suggestion to THECB's External Relations area; acknowledged that statute is often slow to change 	
Agenda Item 15. Update: Office of SFAP	Charles Contéro-Puls Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A

Presentation Summary:

- Rules activity – currently proposed and adopted in April
- Announcements: CAL interest rate; institutional calendar; user access form
- Deadlines: Net Price Calculator; Financial aid Database
- Accomplishments since last FAAC meeting: online loan reporting; SFAP webpage updates; HelmNet improvements; launch of the Peace Officer Loan Repayment Program
- GEER funding contracts are being processed and funds distributed to institutions

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

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



FINANCIAL AID ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FAAC)

Proposed Meeting Dates for 2021:

- March 4, 2021
- June 3, 2021
- September 2, 2021
- December 9, 2021

Financial Aid Application Graduation Requirement

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1

Financial Aid Application Graduation Requirement

Actions Taken

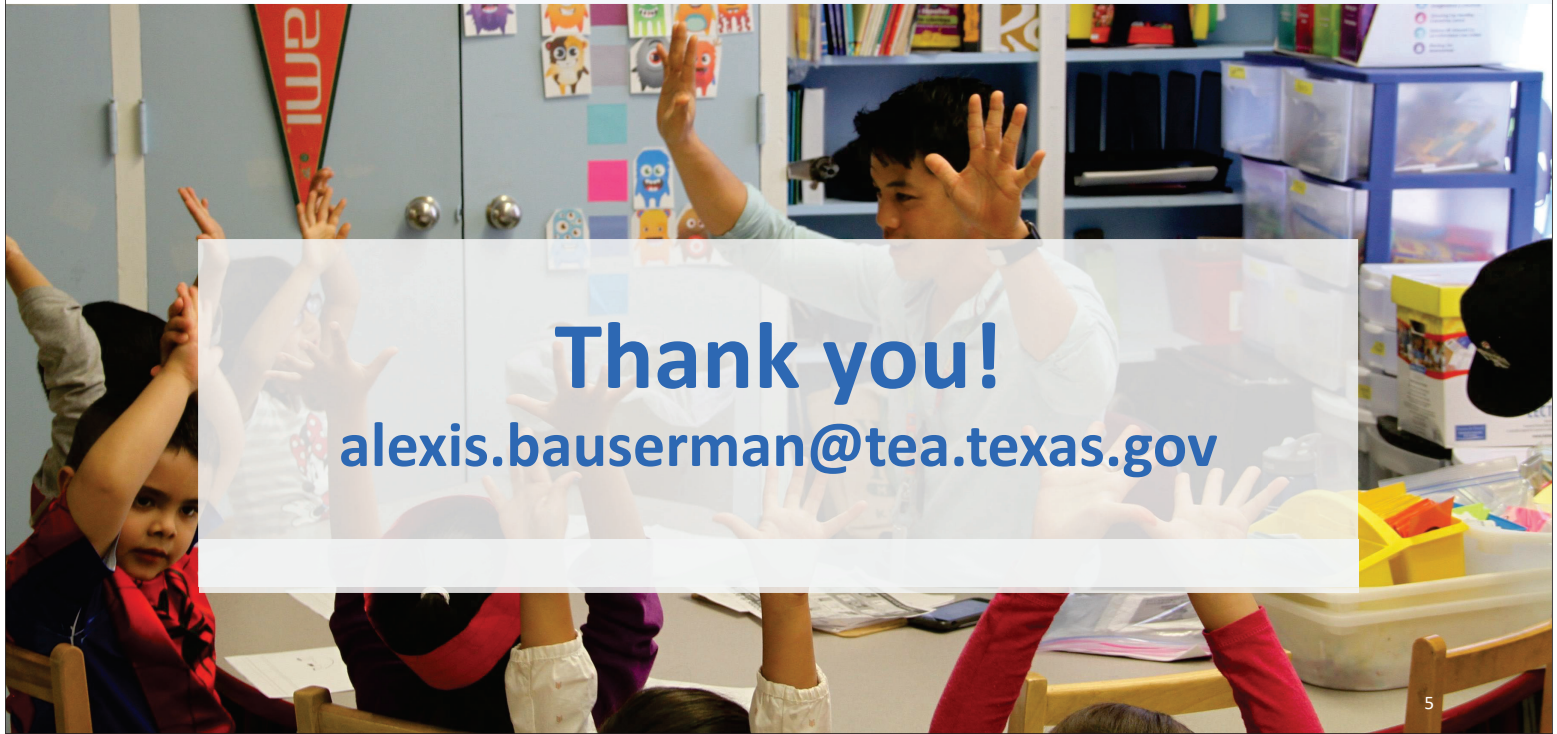
- ✓ **Approved data elements for reporting requirement in TSDS PEIMS**
- ✓ **Drafted opt-out form**
 - Single form for student, parent or counselor opt-out
 - All opt-out options require student signature
 - Counselor's "good cause" not recorded but guidance provided separately
- ✓ **Drafted SBOE rules**
 - Proposed amendment to Chapter 74, Subchapter B, Graduation Requirements, was approved for first reading at November 2020 meeting
- ✓ **Drafted Commissioner's rules**

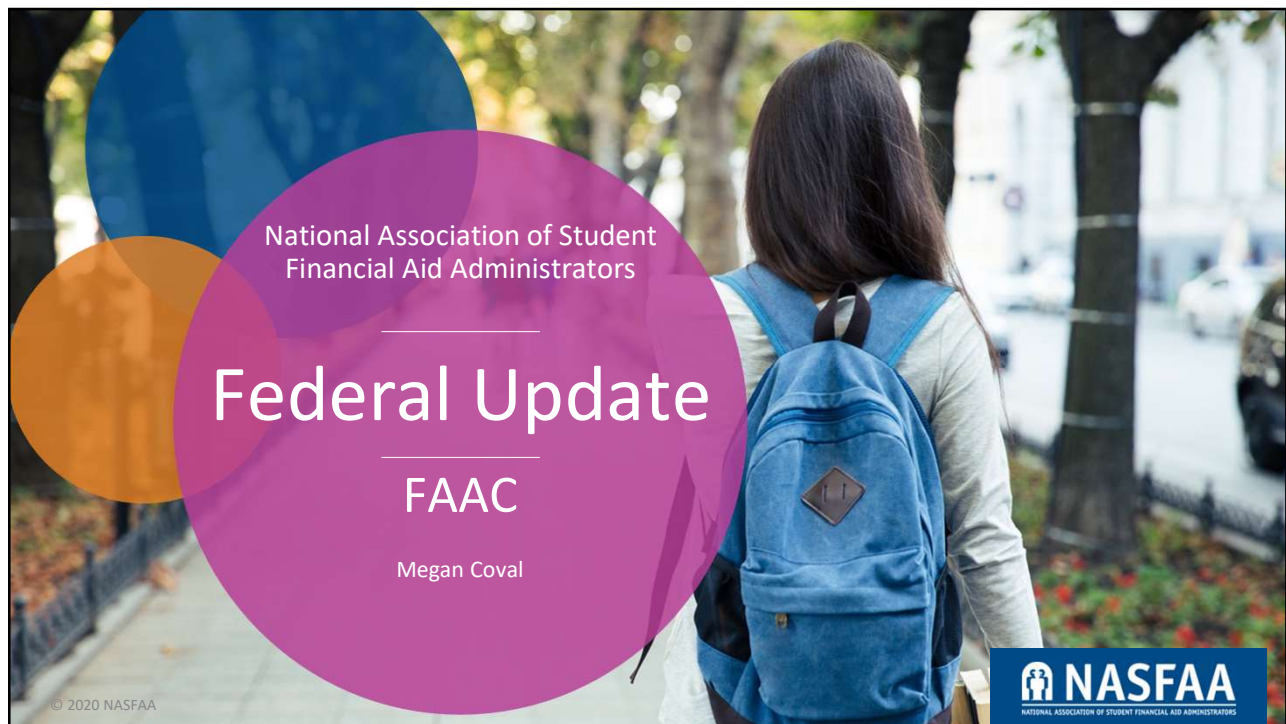
Actions Taken

- ✓ **Convened Advisory Committee July - October**
 - 22 stakeholders representing districts, IHEs, CBOs
 - Identified resources needed to support implementation
 - Identified needs for additional guidance in key areas
 - How to define "good cause" for counselors to authorize student opt-out
 - How to communicate the value of applying for financial aid
 - Guidance for what types of information a counselor may/may not disclose to the district
 - Guidance to align the statutory language "completed and submitted" to explicit steps in the application processes for FAFSA and TASFA respectively.
 - Reviewed proposed opt-out form
 - Reviewed proposed Commissioner's rules
 - Data sub-committee advised on data collection processes
- ✓ **Drafted legislative report for January 1 submission**

Next Steps

- **Initial Resource Dissemination**
 - Commissioner's Rules
 - Opt-out form
 - Supplemental Guidance
- **Procurement**
 - Single web-based hub for stakeholder "toolkits"
 - Mechanism for TASFA data collection and dissemination
- **Continuous Improvement**
 - Data collection, dissemination, integration






1

Slide 2 © 2020 NASFAA

Agenda

- Inside The Beltway
- Covid-19
- Higher Education Act Reauthorization
- Federal Budget & Funding
- Department Of Education Update
- NASFAA Update
- Opportunities For Advocacy



2

Inside the Beltway



3

Dynamics in Washington

- A Divided Congress:
 - Democrats took control of House after 2018 midterms
 - Republicans maintained control of the Senate
- Impeachment
 - House Democrats voted to impeach the president in December 2019
 - Normal legislative activity was suspended in the Senate during the trial, which concluded in early February
- The COVID-19 Pandemic
 - The pandemic created a very narrow field of vision for lawmakers on the Hill as all conversation has turned to relief bills
- 2020 Election
 - Legislative action is always slow and challenging during an election year



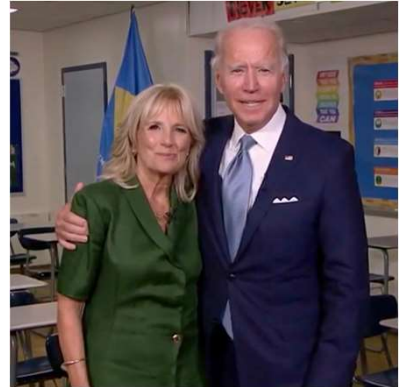
4

President-Elect Joe Biden

- Former Vice President Joe Biden won 306 electoral votes, surpassing the 270 needed to win the presidency.
- President-Elect Biden's transition team will soon begin work on preparing to take office on January 20, 2021.
- With incoming First Lady Jill Biden as a long-time community college professor, the Biden administration is expected to be active in higher education policy issues.

President-Elect Joe Biden's Higher Education Proposals

- Make community college free
- Ensure PSLF is "fixed, simplified, and actually helps teachers."
- Federal student loan borrowers should not have to make payments until they are earning at least \$25,000
- Federal student loans should not accumulate interest before borrowers are earning at least \$25,000
- Reduce the percentage of income that borrowers repay in income-driven repayment plans from 10% to 5%
- Double the maximum Pell Grant award
- Automatically enroll borrowers into income-driven repayment plans
- Restructure PSLF to allow for borrowers to receive \$10,000 in debt relief "for every year of national or community service, up to five years"
- Forgive all student debt accrued at public colleges and universities, private HBCUs and private, underfunded minority-serving institutions for borrowers who make less than \$125,000



(photo from newyorkmagazine.com)

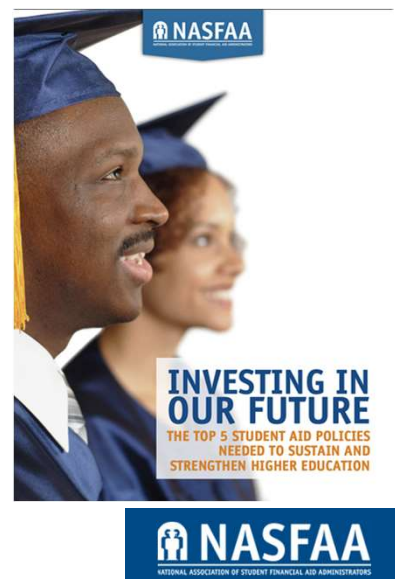


5

Priorities for Biden Administration

Following the 2020 election, NASFAA released a document detailing 5 key student aid priorities for the incoming Biden administration and 117th Congress:

- Deliver additional COVID-19 relief to students and institutions
- Strengthen the Federal Pell Grant program
- Simplify the federal financial aid application process
- Curb student indebtedness and simplify repayment
- Enhance student aid delivery



6

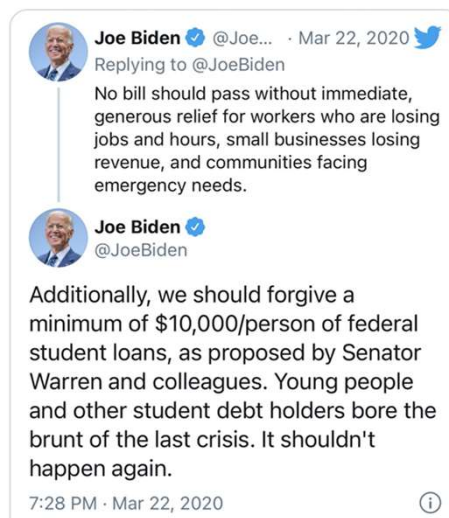
Lame Duck Session: Outstanding Issues

- **FY21 Spending Bill**
 - With the current continuing resolution (CR) set to expire on Friday, December 11, Congress must pass either a FY21 omnibus spending bill or another CR to avoid a government shutdown.
 - Both sides have expressed support for finalizing FY21 spending before the end of the year, but a short-term CR extending funding into next year may be needed.
- **COVID-19 Relief Bill**
 - Already existing gridlock in Congress now more intensified
 - Negotiations made progress the first week in December, and it's possible we could see a supplement included in a FY21 omnibus.
- **FAFSA Simplification**
 - Last effort by HELP Committee Chairman Sen. Alexander to get a FAFSA simplification bill signed into law.
 - A FY21 omnibus could be a potential vehicle.



7

Debt Cancellation Takes Center Stage



8

117th Congress: Senate

- The 116th Senate currently has 53 Republicans, 45 Democrats and 2 Independents that tend to vote alongside Democrats.

116th U.S. Senate



51 to majority

- With Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris, who will act as the President of the Senate, Democrats can gain control of the chamber if they gain 3 seats in the 2020 election. Currently:
 - Democrats have flipped 2 seats and Republicans have flipped 1, resulting in a gain of 1 seat for Democrats.
 - Both Georgia Senate races will go to a runoff election in January. If Democrats win both, they will take control of the chamber.



9

117th Congress: House

- The 116th House currently has 232 democrats, 198 republicans, 1 libertarian, and 4 vacant seats.

116th U.S. House of Representatives



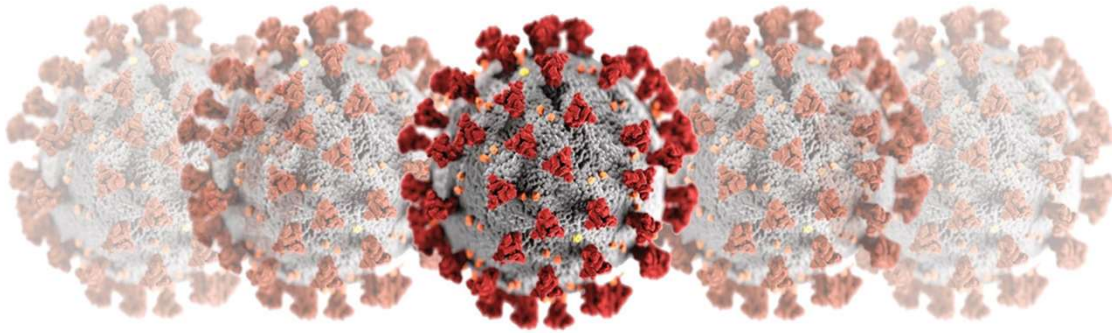
218 to majority

- Currently, Democrats have won 222 seats meaning they'll remain in control. Republicans have won 209 seats, and 4 seats remain uncalled.
- Democrats will have a smaller margin of control for the 117th congress.



10

COVID-19



11

Movement in Congress

- Negotiations between the White House and democratic leadership around the next coronavirus relief package have been stalled for months.
- The biggest disagreement is over the next bill's price tag.
 - House Democrats' starting point is around \$3 trillion, while Senate Republicans and the White House starting point was around \$1 trillion.
 - Democrats' offer to meet in the middle at \$2 trillion was not accepted by White House negotiators, and it's been reported that a significant number of Senate Republicans are not supportive of any additional pandemic relief legislation.
 - The status of negotiations changes daily!
- In the aftermath of a contentious election and a presidential transition process underway, it's entirely possible that we may not see another pandemic relief package passed this year.



12

CARES Act Interim Final Rule

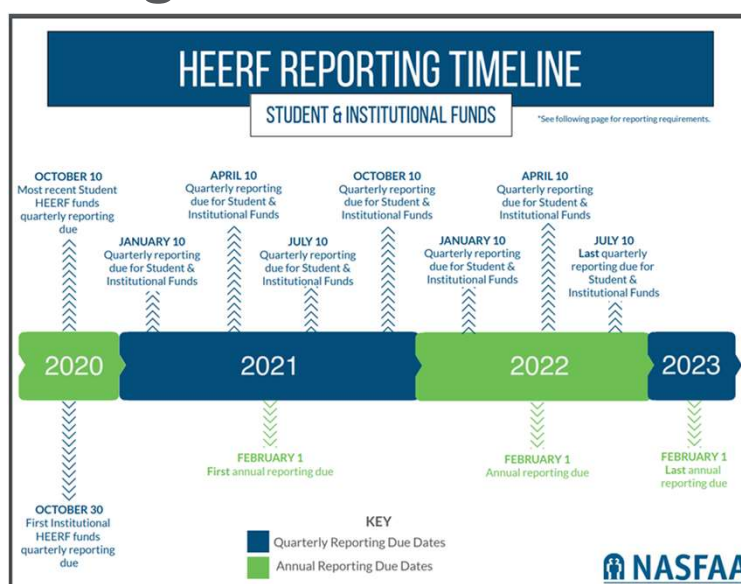
- On June 17, ED released an interim final rule (IFR) on the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) student emergency grants
 - There are two main eligibility restrictions in the rule:
 - students must be (or could be) Title IV-eligible
 - international students, those in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, and those living in the country illegally are not eligible.
- The rule has faced several legal challenges and heavy criticism
- On August 21, a court filing made by the Trump administration showed that ED was considering making changes to its IFR



13

CARES Act Reporting

- NASFAA created a timeline for keeping track of reporting due dates as well as the requirements for reporting each fund
- Find it and more CARES Act reporting resources at nasfaa.org/COVID19



14

NASFAA Requests Relief Extension

- With relief measures set to expire on December 31, NASFAA joined the Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS) and the American Council on Education (ACE) in a letter urging the ED to extend and expand the following CARES Act repayment relief to student loan borrowers through Sept. 30, 2021, or until the unemployment rate has fallen below 8% for three consecutive months.
 - Automatic payment suspensions and 0% interest rate
 - Suspension of debt collection and involuntary collections
 - Counting suspended payments as qualifying payments toward rehabilitation, Public Service Loan Forgiveness and discharge under income-driven repayment plans
- The November 2 letter also requests that ED take action to help borrowers with Federal Family Education Loans (FFEL) or Perkins Loans that are not owned by ED, which were not included in the CARES Act.



15

Borrower Relief Extended to 1/31

- With President Trump's August 8 executive order extending student loan relief set to expire December 31, 2020, ED announced on December 4 that borrowers would receive a one-month extension of the federal student loan administrative forbearance period, the pause in interest accrual, and the suspension of collections activity
- The announcement provides borrowers with debt relief for an additional month, establishing a new deadline of Jan. 31, 2021, which is after the Biden administration is set to take office.
- Non-payments will continue to count toward the number of payments required under IDR plans, loan rehabilitation agreements, and PSLF.



16

Extension of Waivers

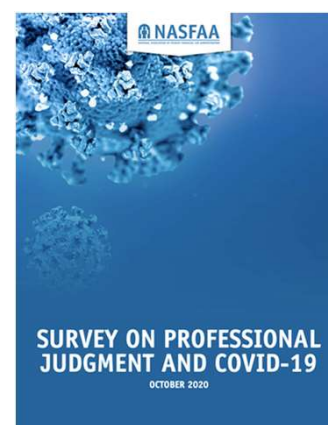
- Flexibilities were published in Electronic Announcements on March 5, April 3, May 15, July 9, and July 10, 2020.
- On August 21, ED extended the deadline for all flexibilities related to the COVID-19 emergency through the end of the payment period that includes December 31, 2020 or the end of the payment period that includes the end date for the Federally-declared emergency related to COVID-19, whichever occurs later.
- Exceptions to this broad update include some portions of the following items: Campus-Based Matching Requirements, Leave of Absence, R2T4, Foreign Institutions, Academic Calendars, and Reporting and Audit Requirements



17

September 2020 Professional Judgment Survey

- NASFAA surveyed a subset of its membership in September to learn more about how COVID-19 has impacted the number of PJ requests schools have received and gauge how institutions are handling the increases.
- These new survey results follow up on NASFAA's June 2020 survey in which members reported anticipating a large increase in requests for professional judgment.
- Respondents for the September 2020 survey consisted of individuals from financial aid offices at 212 public, private, community college, and proprietary institutions of higher education across the country.



18

September 2020 Professional Judgment Survey

Key Findings from the September 2020 survey include:

- 59% of respondents reported a somewhat or great increase in PJ requests between March 1, 2020 and September 21, 2020 when compared to last year.
- 58% of respondents anticipated that their PJ requests will somewhat or greatly increase between October 1 and December 31, compared to last year.
- 23% of respondents reported that their office has been proactively reaching out to students to inform them about PJ. An additional 15% are considering doing so and another 23% were already doing such outreach before the pandemic.
- While under 50% of respondents began zeroing out income and/or unemployment benefits during COVID-19 or are considering doing it, 80% of respondents said their office would do this if Congress and/or ED explicitly permitted it, as they did with the 2009 GEN-09-05 guidance in the wake of the Great Recession.



19



20

HEA Reauthorization

- Last reauthorization in 2008
 - Current version of HEA technically expired in 2013
- **House**
 - **House Democrats:** College Affordability Act
 - » Comprehensive reauthorization bill
 - » Introduced and passed by House Ed & Labor Committee in October 2019
 - » Has not been voted on by the full House
- **Senate**
 - No fully comprehensive bills from either side yet.
 - Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray have a history of cooperation, and Sen. Alexander's pending retirement adds a new dynamic.
 - **Senate Republicans:** Student Aid Improvement Act
 - "Skinny HEA"
 - Introduced September 2019
 - Has not been marked up or passed by Committee



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HEA Reauthorization: This Session

	Senate Student Aid Improvement Act	House College Affordability Act
1. Introduced in Committee	✓	✓
2. Committee mark-up		✓
3. Pass out of Committee		✓
4. Pass out of full House or Senate		
5. Conference House & Senate bills		
6. Both chambers pass final version		
7. President signs into law		



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HEA Issue Priorities



Issue	House Republicans	House Democrats	Senate Republicans	Senate Democrats
"One Grant, One Loan"	✓		✓	
FAFSA simplification	✓	✓	✓	✓
Risk-sharing	✓	✓	✓	✓
Repayment simplification	✓	✓	✓	✓
Free college for two years		✓		✓
Pell Grant increases tied to inflation		✓		✓
Pell Grants for short-term programs	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pell Grant "bonus" for increased credit load	✓			✓
Eliminate origination fees	✓	✓		✓
Loan refinancing		✓		✓
Campus-based aid allocation formula changes	✓	✓		✓

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HEA Reauthorization Next Congress?

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- Likelihood is low:
 - Focus on pandemic
 - Time to get new Congress up and running
- Opportunities for piecemeal legislation



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► Building Blocks to HEA



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FAFSA Simplification – FUTURE Act

- In December 2019, Congress passed and President Trump signed into law the FUTURE Act, which contained text from the FAFSA Act previously supported by NASFAA.
- In addition to providing \$255 million in annual permanent funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other Minority-Serving Institutions, the bill allows for direct cross-agency data sharing between IRS and ED, and will:
 - » Transfer all items currently brought over from the DRT and applicants' filing status.
 - » Eliminate up to 22 questions from the FAFSA.
 - » Allow students currently unable to use the DRT, including both non-tax-filers and tax filers of all filing statuses, to experience a simpler FAFSA process.
 - » Address verification burden
 - » Permit sharing of taxpayer information between ED and IRS for the purpose of determining eligibility for income-driven repayment plans.



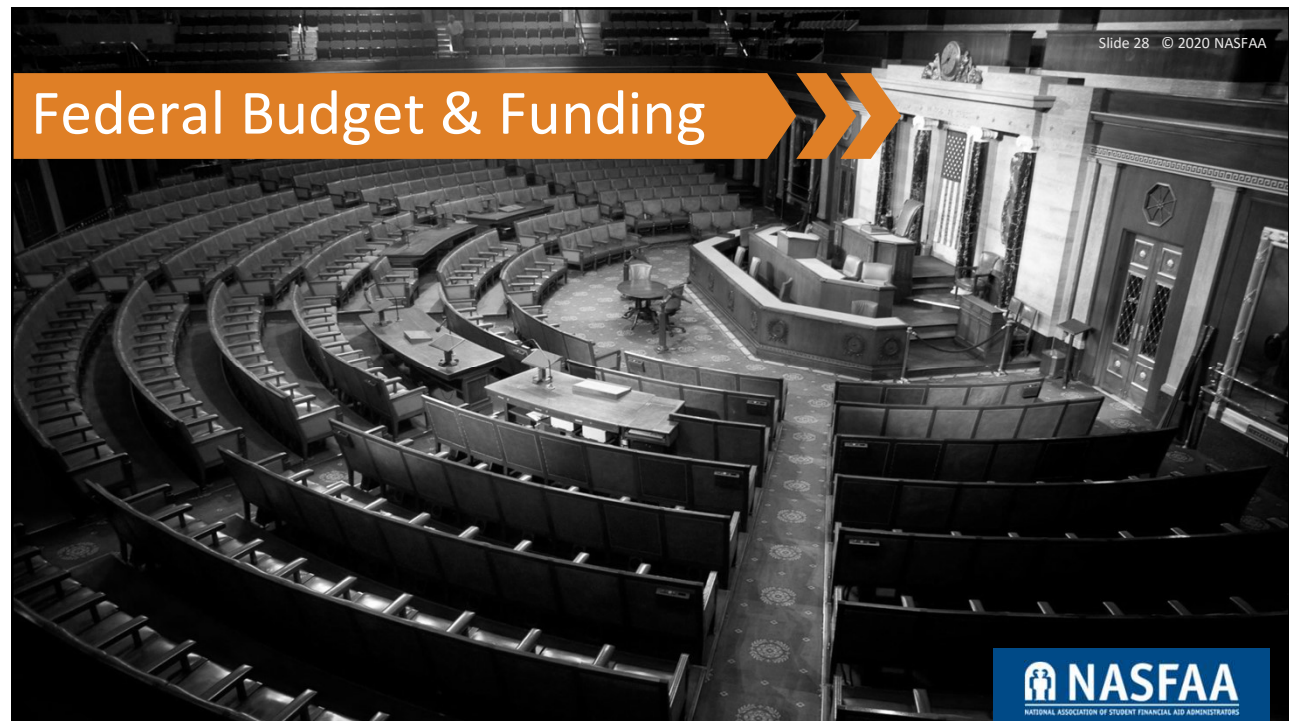
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FAFSA Simplification

- But there is more work to be done:
 - Congress should further simplify by sending FAFSA filers down one of three “pathways” based on predicted financial strength
- Both the House and Senate have bills that seek to do this:
 - College Affordability Act
 - FAFSA Simplification Act introduced by Senators Alexander (R-TN) and Jones (D-AL) in October 2019.

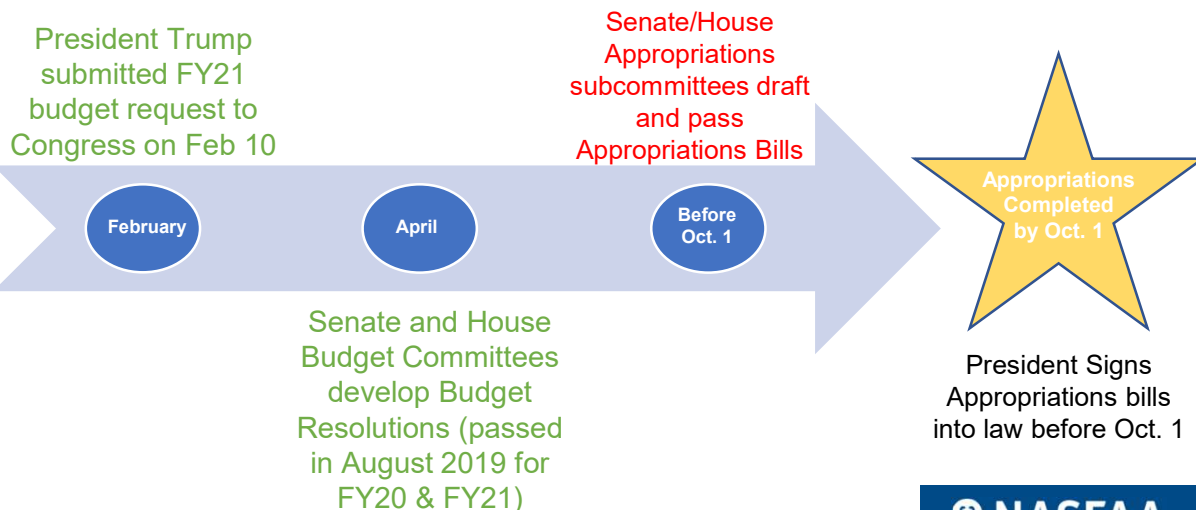


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What's Next: FY2021



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What's Next: FY2021

- Congress did not pass its FY21 spending bills before the new fiscal year began on October 1. On top of the typical challenges facing the appropriations process, FY21 has been especially challenging given the 2020 presidential election and the ongoing negotiations over COVID-19 relief legislation.
- Congress passed signed a bipartisan continuing resolution (CR) to extend government spending until December 11. President Trump signed the CR into law on October 1, narrowly avoiding a government shutdown.
- Congress has less than a week to pass either a FY21 omnibus spending bill or another CR. Both sides have expressed support for finalizing FY21 spending before the end of the year, but a short-term CR extending funding into next year may be needed.



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Department of Education



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Department of Education Outlook

- NextGen Digital & Customer Care Program
 - Consolidated digital platform
 - » Final goal is for all borrowers to log-in to the same site to access their federal loans
 - Servicers will be “brandless”
- Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement
 - Personalized financial literacy content
 - » Overview of borrower’s current debt and if still enrolled, how much of their borrowing limits they have left
 - Aid Summary
 - » Provides personalized detailed loan and grant summaries such as total subsidized loan usage
 - Loan Simulator
 - » Allows personalized look at different repayment strategies available to the borrower based on personal goals

www.fsaconferences.ed.gov



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Department of Education Outlook

- ED introduced FSA site virtual assistant, Aidan
 - New chatbot used to answer routine questions from borrowers
- FSA ID Improvements
 - FSA ID password no longer expires after 18 months
 - » will only expire if there is a security issue
 - Easier password/password hint creation process
- Next GEN PPO (Partner Participation and Oversight)
 - First phase will have two vendors responsible for all loan management
 - » In the future, single portal for federal aid participating institutions
 - Includes real-time status for immediate information
 - Institutions will be able to report to one system to cut down on reiterating data in multiple reports



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Verification Updates

- FSA at their annual conference announced that they used training data from both the 2018-19 and 2019-20 FAFSAs to conduct their cost-benefit analysis.
 - This is how FSA decides on the verification rate for each academic year
- FSA's analysis determined that the costs of verification exceed the benefits when more than 18% of FAFSA completers are verified.
- Consequently, as of October 1, 2020 FSA has been verifying only 18% of FAFSA filers.



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2018-19 Rulemaking Status

	Accreditation & State Auth	TEACH Grant & Faith-Based	Distance Ed
NPRM*	6/12/19	12/11/19	December 2019
Final Rules	11/1/19	8/14/2020	9/2/2020
Effective Date	7/1/20	7/1/21	7/1/21
Optional Early Implementation?	State authorization Disclosures	TEACH Grant – yes Faith-based - yes	Yes

*Committee reached consensus on proposed regulatory language after the negotiated rulemaking process for all 4 topics.



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Foreign Gift Reporting

- In June, ED published a new online portal for institutions to report foreign gifts and contracts valued at \$250,000 or higher. The new reporting system went into effect immediately and was intended to be used before the July 31 reporting deadline.
- ED published a report in October alleging billions of dollars in foreign gifts had gone unreported over several decades.
- ED published a Notice of Interpretation (NOI) on November 13 tying Section 117 reporting to Program Participation Agreements. The NOI includes a request for comments, and NASFAA plans to submit comments.



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NASFAA State Advocacy Toolkit

- NASFAA developed the **State Advocacy Toolkit** to provide resources and materials to support state-level advocacy for regions, states, institutions, and individuals interested in becoming more engaged in state-level student aid policy.
- The toolkit features the following resources:
 - **User Guide** that includes advocacy tips, instructions on how to contact your state representatives, and more!
 - **Letter and email templates** that can be customized with your information before sending to your state lawmakers.
 - **Talking points** that outline and give examples of the importance of state financial aid programs.
 - **Student Advocacy Manual** that provides resources for students to support their advocacy efforts.
- Available at nasfaa.org/state_advocacy_toolkit


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**NATIONAL STUDENT AID PROFILE:
OVERVIEW OF 2020
FEDERAL PROGRAMS**

Slide 39 © 2020 NASFAA


National Student Aid Profile: Overview of 2020 Federal Programs




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Advocacy Opportunities


▲ **Volunteer!**
Work with and support NASFAA's policy team:



Advocacy Pipeline



Policy Task Forces



Get Students Involved!


▲ **Stay Informed**

Read NASFAA's *Today's News* and Policy and Advocacy Webpages on nasfaa.org

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▲ **Write and Visit Your Member of Congress**

- Share your advocacy efforts with NASFAA, so we can support and assist you
- New education committee members mean new states in the mix!



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FINANCIAL AID ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

COMMITTEE ABOLISHMENT DATE: 10/31/2021

Committee Purpose: The Financial Aid Advisory Committee was created to provide the Board advice and recommendations regarding the development, implementation, and evaluation of state financial aid programs for college students. It also assists staff in the development of training materials for use by the Center for Financial Aid Information and others in informing students, parents, secondary education counselors, college personnel, members of appropriate community-based organizations, and others about financial aid opportunities for Texas students, including eligibility requirements and procedures for applying for financial aid. (Texas Education Code [Sec. 61.0776](#)). In addition, the committee shall provide insight on state financial aid program policies and procedures (e.g. eligibility, allocations, disbursement processes, etc.); review the collection, use, and reporting of data; and identify areas of research for consideration. (Texas Administrative Rules governing this committee can be found by visiting [FAAC Administrative Rules](#) and [Advisory Committee Administrative Rules](#).)

Report Period:

November 2019 – October 2020 (FY 2020)

Committee Members:

Chair: Robert Merino – San Jacinto Community College

Vice Chair: Ed Kerestly – Angelo State University

Past Chair: Diane Todd Sprague – The University of Texas at Austin

Charles Contéro-Puls	THECB Rep	Ongoing	Thomas Ratliff	Abilene Christian Univ.	Nov 2019-Nov 2022
Tacey Anderson	Rice University	Oct 2019-Nov 2020	Terry Sheneman	Fort Bend ISD	Dec 2017-Oct 2020
Ben Bholan	Arlington ISD	Nov 2019-Nov 2022	Samantha Stalnaker	Tarrant County College	Dec 2017-Nov 2020
Christine Carruthers	TX State Tech	Dec 2017-Nov 2020	Kelly Steelman	Amarillo College	Dec 2018-Nov 2021
Shannon Crossland	Texas Tech Univ.	Jun 2019-Nov 2020	Joy Thomas	Prairie View A&M Univ.	Nov 2019-Nov 2022
Karla Flores	UT-Rio Grande Valley	Dec 2017-Oct 2020	Formon Thompson	Midland College	Nov 2019-Oct 2022
Paul Galyean	Jacksonville College	Dec 2018-Oct 2021	Denise Welch	Panola College	Dec 2018-Nov 2021
Rachele Garrett	S.F. Austin State Univ.	Nov 2019-Nov 2022	Brent Williford	Blinn College District	Dec 2017-Nov 2020
Heidi Granger	UT-El Paso	Dec 2018-Dec 2021	Marilyn Abedrabbo	Student Rep	Jun 2018-May 2020
Lyn Kinyon	TASFAA Rep	Nov 2019-Nov 2020	Johnathan Cereceres	Student Rep	Jun 2018-May 2020
Tam Nguyen	UNT Health Science	Dec 2018-Nov 2021	Jase Kugiya	Student Rep	Jun 2020-May 2022
Shonna Norton	Wichita Falls ISD	Mar 2020-Oct 2023			

Committee Meeting Dates:

11-21-2019

03-05-2020

06-04-2020 (cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions)

09-03-2020 (virtual)

Annual Costs Expended

Note: The June FAAC meeting was cancelled, and the September meeting was held virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions. These restrictions led to a reduction in annual expenses and time commitments from the prior year.

Travel: \$6,080 (a 35% reduction from FY 2019)

Other: \$4.00

Time Commitments: It is estimated that committee members and agency staff averaged 313 hours in preparation, meeting day, and post-meeting administrative activities for each quarterly meeting.

Current Recommendations to the Board:

1. Continue to work with the Financial Aid Advisory Committee (FAAC) in providing feedback and recommendations on new initiatives in particular when there would be an implied or real impact on state financial aid program policies and procedures. This is critical to the strengthening of student participation and providing access to higher education.
2. Continue to work with FAAC in seeking feedback on how the State aid program rules and policies could align with Federal policies with an eye to mitigating barriers to students.
3. Continue the work of the Data Collection Subcommittee to review and streamline the collection, use, and reporting of institutional reports to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB).
4. Continue to create and utilize Financial Aid Advisory Committee subcommittees with subject experts to review and identify areas of development/research for consideration of topics of interests.
5. Continue to provide information regarding proposed legislative recommendations so FAAC can provide feedback on potential impact to students in high school and those seeking a postsecondary education.
6. Continue support of tuition set-aside funds.
7. Continue work with THECB in cooperation with FAAC on providing an electronic TASFAA and review the possibilities on providing a student's complete state financial aid history to institutions.

Summary of Tasks Completed:

Over the course of the year, the Financial Aid Advisory Committee members discussed and provided feedback and recommendations regarding a number of financial aid topics. Highlights included, but are not limited to the following:

- **Hosted a New Member Orientation** – The FAAC Chair, Past Chair, and Coordinating Board staff provided an orientation for new members to assist in roles, responsibilities and expectations in order to assist new members in being able to participate more fully with FAAC in providing more robust conversation and feedback.
- **Hosted presentations to FAAC** – Working with Coordinating Board staff, FAAC hosted and discussed a number of presentations relative to innovative or best practices within higher education aid administration.
 - Texas State Grant Programs: Investigating Strengths and Weaknesses – Sandy Baum and Kristen Blagg, Urban Institute
 - Draft Changes to Rules for SB 887 (85R) Student Debt Letter – Ginger L. Gossman, Ph.D., THECB Innovation & Policy Development
 - Financial Wellness Learning Collaborative – Erin Willig, College Readiness and Success, and Bryan Ashton, Trellis
 - Senate Bill 1474 and Its Impact on New Student Loan Options – Ken Martin, Assistant Commissioner/CFO and Debra Urias, Vice President, Brazos Higher Education Servicing Corp.
 - Department of Education Experimental Sites Initiative; Second Chance Pell – Felipe Leal, Director of Financial Aid, Lee College and Cynthia Martinez, Financial Aid Senior Advisor, Southwest Texas Junior College
 - Department of Education Experimental Sites Initiative; Pell Grants for Students in Dual Enrollment – Don Hilton, Director of Financial Aid, Ranger College
- **TASFA Subcommittee** – FAAC's TASFA Subcommittee surveyed TASFAA members and based on survey results the subcommittee proposes the following recommendations:
 - Add Adjusted Gross Income to the TASFA.
 - Add taxes paid to the TASFA.
 - Improve the explanation in the parenthesis on #70 to better align with FAFSA's verbiage.
 - Add additional verbiage throughout the document to clarify that every question on the TASFA should be answered or marked N/A.
 - Reference certain definitions within the question to more clearly steer people to the instructions.

- Add verbiage to direct student to the FA office if they have questions about the Selective Service Status form.
- Add verbiage about SSS.gov as a resource for students that may be unfamiliar with the requirements or the term “exempt”.
- Add verbiage regarding school participation “most school participate but check with your financial aid office to confirm which application to use”.
- **Data Collection Subcommittee** – FAAC’s Data Collection Subcommittee continued to identify areas of improvement:
 - Discussed proposal to redesign the net price calculator tool to ensure that the design provided consistency across the board on how institutions are to provide data and to provide additional training to institutions for using the tool.
 - Reviewed the Move It account users to make sure the transition to individual accounts does not affect data reporting.
 - Changed FAD cycle two to an informational cycle instead of reconciliation cycle to ease the process to acknowledge the increased opportunities for summer financial aid activity.
 - Made two enhancements to the grants payments system –email notifications for fund requests, return of funds, and payment; additional role for access – processing access or review access (viewing only)
 - Fixed FAD edits that weren't working as intended, and additional edits have been added to address data inconsistencies
 - Subcommittee provided input on potential approaches to institutional TCWS fund requests that better align with when institutions expend the funds
 - Improved the Student Financial Aid Programs (SFAP) webpages. The committee reviewed some recommendations and sample pages and provided feedback on the suggested changes.
 - Financial Aid Services Communications group requested additional feedback on the current System Authorization Form used by institutions to add, remove, or update user access for the three financial aid portals (HelmNet, MOVEit and CBPass).
- **Legislative Recommendations Subcommittee** – FAAC’s Legislative Recommendations Subcommittee recommend the follow legislative proposals for the 87th Legislative Session:
 - Federal/State Alignment Opportunities
 - Align State aid program’s Selective Service requirements, controlled substance requirements, and satisfactory academic progress (SAP) criteria with corresponding Federal aid requirements.
 - Align the Texas Educational Opportunity Grant (TEOG) Program matching requirement to that of the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) and/or TEXAS Grant Program matching requirements. This would allow the Federal Pell Grant to be used to match the TEOG grant in covering tuition and required fees.
 - Align the state and federal annual debt letter (new Federal Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement requirement delayed until 2021-22).
 - Work as a Resource
 - Align the Texas Work-Study Mentorship to Texas College Work-Study reinforcing goals of 60x30TX.
 - Priority Financial Aid Deadline
 - Assess the need and purpose of priority the state financial aid deadline.
 - Increasing TEXAS Grant from the \$5,000
 - Overall percentage increase in funding for the TEXAS Grant Program to allow the recommended (target) award amount to increase from \$5,000 per year to an amount equitable of the average tuition and fees.

State Deadlines

***Paper* or PDF FAFSA**

The language in this column is what is displayed to users who view the deadline information on the ***paper*** or PDF FAFSA.

FAFSA® on the Web (FOTW)

The language in this column is what is displayed to users who view the deadline information on FAFSA on the Web and ***on the Deadline PDF on the web.***

The following 6 rows indicate the symbols on the paper or PDF FAFSA and what the symbols mean on FAFSA on the Web. If a symbol is used on the paper or PDF FAFSA, the accompanying text must be on FAFSA on the Web.

Symbols on the Paper or PDF FAFSA

a)---(date received)

b)---(*) Additional forms may be required.

c)---(♦) Check with your financial aid administrator.

d)---(\$) Awards made until funds are depleted.

e)---(^) As soon as possible after October 1, 2021.

f)---(#) For priority consideration, submit by date specified.

g)---(+) Applicants encouraged to obtain proof of mailing.

Pay attention to any symbols listed after your state deadline.

Text for symbols on FAFSA on the Web

a)---by midnight, Central Time.

b)---Additional forms may be required.

c)---(♦) Check with your financial aid administrator.

d)---(\$) Awards made until funds are depleted.

e)---(^) As soon as possible after October 1, 2021.

f)---For priority consideration, submit application by date specified.

g)---Applicants encouraged to keep a record of their submission by printing out their online

State

Paper Deadline

TX

January 15, 2022 # * Private and two-year institutions may have different deadlines. ♦

State

FOTW Deadline

Texas

January 15, 2022. For priority consideration, submit application by date specified. Additional forms may be required. Private and two-year institutions may have different deadlines. Check with your financial aid administrator.

Outline of Potential Exemption and Waiver Rule Changes

Currently, exemptions and waivers are addressed by 95 rules across thirteen subchapters in Chapter 21 (Student Services) of the agency's rules.

Input from the Financial Aid Advisory Committee is requested on whether a streamlined approach to this information might be beneficial.

Creating a single "Exemptions and Waivers" subchapter in Chapter 22 (Student Financial Aid Programs) has the potential to provide a more efficient presentation of the details that are necessary for these programs. Unnecessarily redundant information would be removed from the administrative code, and definitions that guide the administration of exemptions and waivers would be centralized.

It is estimated that the new subchapter would have less than twenty rules, while still capturing the essential information required. The following items would be repealed from Chapter 21 and replaced with streamlined information in Chapter 22:

- Rule §21.7 (relating to Tuition and Fee Definitions) – {The exemption and waiver subchapter would have a rule dedicated to definitions.}
- Rule §21.8 (relating to Definition of Student Financial Need) – {Chapter 22 already defines financial need.}
- Chapter 21, Subchapter I, Rules §§21.213-21.219 (Exemption Program for Children of Professional Nursing Program Faculty and Staff)
- Chapter 21, Subchapter L, Rules §§21.309-21.316 (Exemption Program for Clinical Preceptors and Their Children)
- Chapter 21, Subchapter Q, Rules §§21.518-21.526 (Exemption for Peace Officers Enrolled in Law Enforcement or Criminal Justice Courses)
- Chapter 21, Subchapter U, Rules §§21.634-21.642 (The Good Neighbor Scholarship Program)
- Chapter 21, Subchapter Z, Rules §§21.786-21.792 (Exemption for Firefighters Enrolled in Fire Science Courses)
- Chapter 21, Subchapter AA, Rules §§21.901-21.910 (Reciprocal Educational Exchange Program)
- Chapter 21, Subchapter BB, Rules §§21.931-21.938 (Programs for Enrolling Students from Mexico)
- Chapter 21, Subchapter BB, Rules §§21.931-21.938 (Programs for Enrolling Students from Mexico)
- Chapter 21, Subchapter EE, Rules §§21.990-994 (National Student Exchange)
- Chapter 21, Subchapter II, Rules §§21.1080-21.1089 (Educational Aide Exemption Program)
- Chapter 21, Subchapter SS, Rules §§21.2260-2263 (Waiver Programs for Certain Nonresident Students)
- Chapter 21, Subchapter SS, Rule §2264 (Waiver Programs for Certain Nonresident Students)
- Chapter 21, Subchapter TT, Rules §2270-2276 (Exemption Program for Dependent Children of Persons Who Are Members of Armed Forces Deployed on Combat Duty)

Agenda Item 18
Update: Office of SFAP

Rules Activity

The following rules were **adopted** since the September 3, 2020, FAAC meeting, please see the details below:

Chapter 22. Student Financial Aid Programs

Subchapter A. General Provisions

Section(s): 22.11 (Amendment)

Texas Register Publication Date: November 20, 2020

Effective date: December 9, 2020

Chapter 22. Student Financial Aid Programs

Subchapter B. Provisions For The Tuition Equalization Grant Program

Section(s): 22.28 (Amendment)

Texas Register Publication Date: November 20, 2020

Effective date: December 9, 2020

Chapter 22. Student Financial Aid Programs

Subchapter L. Toward EXcellence, Access, And Success (TEXAS) Grant Program

Section(s): 22.225-22.231, 22.233, 22.234, 22.241 (Amendment)

Section(s): 22.232, 22.235, 22.238-22.240, 22.242 (Repeal)

Texas Register Publication Date: November 20, 2020

Effective date: December 9, 2020

Chapter 22. Student Financial Aid Programs

Subchapter M. Texas Educational Opportunity Grant Program

Section(s): 22.261 (Amendment)

Texas Register Publication Date: November 20, 2020

Effective date: December 9, 2020

Chapter 22. Student Financial Aid Programs

Subchapter Q. Texas B-On-Time Loan Program

Section(s): 22.329, 22.330, 22.339, 22.341 (Amendment)

Section(s): 22.331-22.336, 22.342-22.344 (Repeal)

Texas Register Publication Date: November 20, 2020

Effective date: December 9, 2020

Chapter 23. Education Loan Repayment Programs

Subchapter C. The Physician Education Loan Repayment Program

Section(s): 23.65-23.67 (Amendment)

Texas Register Publication Date: November 20, 2020

Effective date: December 9, 2020

Chapter 23. Education Loan Repayment Programs

Subchapter H. Peace Officer Loan Repayment Assistance Program

Section(s): 23.211, 23.214 (Amendment)

Texas Register Publication Date: November 20, 2020

Effective date: December 9, 2020

The following **proposed rules** were published in the *Texas Register* on November 6, 2020. Please see the details below:

Chapter 22. Student Financial Aid Programs

Subchapter A. General Provisions (Definitions for Student Financial Aid Programs)

Section(s): 22.1 (Amendment)

Texas Register Publication Date: November 6, 2020

30-day Comment Period Ends: December 6, 2020

Update: Office of SFAP (continued)

Announcements:

- **Student Financial Aid Programs** announces the retirements of Lesa Moller and Connie Cooper at the end of December. Together Lesa and Connie have a combined 78 years of dedicated service to the agency's financial aid programs!

Deadlines:

- All reallocated funds for Emergency Educational Grant Funds must be disbursed by Dec. 10
- The deadline for FY 2020 FAD reporting cycle three is Dec. 15

Accomplishments since last FAAC meeting:

- Resumption of **loan servicing activities** (including generation of due diligence correspondence, reporting to credit bureau, assessment of late fees) effective November 1, 2020.
- Resumption of **phone service** effective November 16, 2020.
- Permissions were restored in **HelmNet** for schools to process CAL and TASSP change transactions.
- The award disbursement portion of the new system for the **Peace Officer Loan Repayment Assistance Program** is 99.9% completed (the reconciliation piece is being completed).
- Work on the online application for the **Nursing Faculty Loan Repayment Assistance Program** on the "modernized" platform is well under way.