

TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

DRAFT MINUTES

July 27, 2023

Regular Quarterly Meeting

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (Coordinating Board) convened at 9:02 a.m. on July 27, 2023, with the following members present: Fred Farias, presiding; Donna Williams; Richard Clemmer; Stacy Hock; Emma Schwartz; Ashlie Thomas; Welcome Wilson; Daniel Wong; and Cage Sawyers.

Members absent: Javaid Anwar

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
I. Call to order: opening remarks	<p>Dr. Farias called the meeting of the Coordinating Board to order and called roll. All members were present except for Mr. Anwar, Mr. Clemmer, and Mr. Wilson. Mr. Wilson joined the meeting at 9:10am and Mr. Clemmer joined at 9:20am.</p> <p>On a motion by Ms. Williams, seconded by Ms. Schwartz, the Board voted to excuse Mr. Anwar's absence.</p>
II. Commissioner's remarks	<p>No action required. Commissioner Keller provided remarks on some of the agenda items.</p>
III. Public testimony	<p>Dr. Farias announced that written testimony had been received against agenda item 10-N (6).</p>
<p>IV. Approval of minutes</p> <p>A. April 2023 Quarterly Board Meeting</p>	<p>On a motion by Dr. Wong, seconded by Ms. Williams, the Board approved the minutes for the April Quarterly Board Meeting. The vote was unanimous.</p>
V. Approval of the consent calendar	<p>On a motion by Ms. Schwartz, seconded by Ms. Hock, the Board approved the non-rule consent calendar as amended. The vote was unanimous.</p> <p>Items approved on the consent calendar were: 7-D; 8-C; 8-D; 8-E; 8-F; 10-B; 10-D; 10-E; 10-F; 10-G; 10-I; 10-K; 10-M (1-5); and 11-B.</p>

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	<p>On a motion by Ms. Williams, seconded by Mr. Clemmer, the Board approved the rule consent calendar. The vote was unanimous.</p> <p>Item approved on the rule consent calendar was 8-G (1).</p>
VI. Major Policy Discussion: Data Modernization Initiative	No action required. Ms. Lori Fey, Deputy Commissioner for Data Analytics and Innovation, presented this item and was available for questions.
VII. Matters relating to the full Board	
A. Update on <i>Building a Talent Strong Texas</i>	No action required. Melissa Henderson, Associate Commissioner for Strategic Partnerships, presented this item and was available for questions.
B. Update on Texas Transfer Initiatives	No action required. Ms. Elizabeth Mayer, Assistant Commissioner for Academic and Health Affairs, presented this item and was available for questions.
C. Update on Program Approval	No action required. Ms. Elizabeth Mayer, Assistant Commissioner for Academic and Health Affairs, presented this item and was available for questions.
D. Acceptance of gifts and donations to the Board	This item was approved on the consent calendar.
E. Discussion and possible action on approved institutional accreditors and study of additional accreditors	No action required. Commissioner Keller presented this item and was available to answer questions.
F. Update on procurement of vendor to service student loan origination and servicing	This item was postponed to later in the meeting.
VIII. Matters relating to the Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics	
A. Committee chair's overview	No action required.

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<p>B. Consideration and possible action to approve the recommended appointments to the Community College Finance Standing Advisory Committee</p>	<p>On a motion by Dr. Farias, seconded by Ms. Schwartz, the Board appointed members to the Standing Advisory Committee for Public Junior Colleges. The vote was unanimous.</p> <p>Emily Cormier, Assistant Commissioner for Funding, presented this item and was available to answer questions.</p>
<p>C. Consideration and possible action to approve the recommended appointments to the General Academic Institutions Formula Advisory Committee</p>	<p>This item was approved on the consent calendar.</p>
<p>D. Consideration and possible action to approve the recommended appointments to the Health-Related Institutions Formula Advisory Committee</p>	<p>This item was approved on the consent calendar.</p>
<p>E. Consideration and possible action to approve the appointment of members to the Financial Aid Advisory Committee</p>	<p>This item was approved on the consent calendar.</p>
<p>F. Consideration and possible action to approve the "Report on Student Financial Aid in Texas Higher Education, Fiscal Year 2022" (General Appropriations Act, Senate Bill 1, Article III, Section 24, 88th Texas Legislature)</p>	<p>This item was approved on the consent calendar.</p>
<p>G. Proposed Rules</p> <p>(1) Consideration and possible action to amend Board Rules, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 22, Subchapter A, Section 22.6, concerning General Provisions</p>	<p>This item was approved on the consent calendar. A copy of the Board rules as adopted may be found in the agenda materials.</p>
<p>IX. Lunch</p>	<p>The board did not break for lunch. The chairman announced a 10-minute break. The meeting adjourned at 10:54AM and re-convened at 11:07AM.</p>
<p>X. Matters Relating to the Committee on Academic and Workforce Success</p>	
<p>A. Committee chair's overview</p>	<p>No action required.</p>

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
B. Consideration and possible action to adopt the recommendation relating to the January 2023 Annual Compliance Reports for institutions under a Certificate of Authorization (“A” through “O”)	This item was approved on the consent calendar.
C. Consideration and possible action to adopt the recommendation relating to the expansion of recognition for the Association for Biblical Higher Education	<p>On a motion by Dr. Wong, seconded by Ms. Thomas, the Board adopted the recommendation relating to the expansion of recognition for the Association for Biblical Higher Education. The vote was unanimous.</p> <p>Elizabeth Mayer, Assistant Commissioner for Academic and Health Affairs, presented this item and was available to answer questions.</p>
D. Consideration and possible action to adopt the Family Practice Residency Advisory Committee’s recommendation relating to the distribution of funds trusted to the Coordinating Board to support family practice residency programs for Fiscal Year 2024	This item was approved on the consent calendar.
E. Report on activities of the Family Practice Residency Advisory Committee, including the report on trusted funds distributed in Fiscal Year 2023	This item was approved on the consent calendar.
F. Consideration and possible action to adopt the recommendation relating to funding appropriated to the Joint Admission Medical Program for Fiscal Years 2024-25	This item was approved on the consent calendar.
G. Report on activities of the Joint Admission Medical Program	This item was approved on the consent calendar.
H. Consideration of and possible action to adopt the report on the Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Review of the Autism Grant Program	This item was approved on the consent calendar.
I. Report on activities of the Learning Technology Advisory Committee	This item was approved on the consent calendar.
J. Consideration and possible action to approve the request to extend the current contract with the Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in	On a motion by Dr. Farias, seconded by Mr. Clemmer, the Board approved the request to extend the current contract with the Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education for up to six

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<p>Education for up to six months to continue maintenance and support of the OERTX platform</p>	<p>months to continue maintenance and support of the OERTX platform. The vote was unanimous.</p> <p>Dr. Michelle Singh, Assistant Commissioner for Digital Learning, presented this item and was available to answer questions.</p>
<p>K. Consideration and possible action to adopt the report on the effectiveness of the Open Educational Resources Grant Program (General Appropriations Act, SB 1, 87th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, Rider 49)</p>	<p>This item was approved on the consent calendar.</p>
<p>L. Consideration and possible action to approve the request to extend the current contract with the Apply Texas System vendor</p>	<p>On a motion by Ms. Schwartz, seconded by Dr. Wong, the Board approved the request to add up to \$450,000 and extend the current contract with the Apply Texas System vendor. The vote was unanimous.</p> <p>Laura Brennan, Assistant Commissioner for College and Career Advising, presented this item and was available to answer questions.</p>
<p>M. Consideration and possible action to appoint members to the following advisory committees:  (1) Academic Course Guide Manual Advisory Committee  (2) Apply Texas Advisory Committee  (3) Certification Advisory Committee  (4) Learning Technology Advisory Committee  (5) Texas Transfer Advisory Committee</p>	<p>These items were approved on the consent calendar.</p>
<p>N. Consideration and possible action to approve the following requests for new degree programs:</p> <p>ALAMO DISTRICT-PALO ALTO COLLEGE  (1) Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT) in Operations Management</p>	<p>On a motion by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Ms. Schwartz, the Board approved the new degree program. The vote was unanimous.</p> <p>Ms. Elizabeth Mayer, Assistant Commissioner for Academic and Health Affairs, presented this item and was available for questions. Patrick Lee, Interim Vice President of Academic Success; Dr. Rachara Jefferson, Interim Dean of Academic Success for Career and Technical Education; and Joseph</p>

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<p>TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY  (2) Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Animal and Natural Resource Sciences</p>	<p>Coppola, Department Chair in Career and Technical Education, were also available for questions.</p> <p>On a motion by Ms. Schwartz, seconded by Ms. Thomas, the Board approved the new degree program. The vote was unanimous.</p> <p>Ms. Elizabeth Mayer, Assistant Commissioner for Academic and Health Affairs, presented this item and was available for questions. Dr. Diane Stearns, Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs; and Dr. Barry Lambert, Dean College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Interim Dean College of Graduate Studies, were also available for questions.</p>
<p>TEXAS A&amp;M UNIVERSITY  (3) Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science (BA, BS) in Journalism</p>	<p>On a motion by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Ms. Hock, the Board approved the new degree program. The vote was unanimous.</p> <p>Ms. Elizabeth Mayer, Assistant Commissioner for Academic and Health Affairs, presented this item and was available for questions. Dr. Alan Sams, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, was also available for questions.</p>
<p>THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  (4) Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree to Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree in Nurse Practitioner</p>	<p>On a motion by Dr. Farias, seconded by Ms. Hock, the Board approved the new degree program. The vote was unanimous.</p> <p>Ms. Elizabeth Mayer, Assistant Commissioner for Academic and Health Affairs, presented this item and was available for questions. Alexa Stuijbergen, Dean, School of Nursing; and Alexandra Garcia, Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs, School of Nursing, were also available for questions.</p>
<p>THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER  (5) Master of Science (MS) in Speech Language-Pathology</p>	<p>On a motion by Ms. Hock, seconded by Ms. Schwartz, the Board approved the new degree program. The vote was unanimous.</p>

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<p>THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON (6) Master of Science in Anesthesia (MSA) in Anesthesia</p>	<p>Ms. Elizabeth Mayer, Assistant Commissioner for Academic and Health Affairs, presented this item and was available for questions. Dr. Ahmed Abdelal, Associate Professor and Program Director for Communication Sciences and Disorders; and Dr. David Criswell, Professor and Chair of the Department of Kinesiology and Interim Chair of the Department of Rehabilitation Science, were also available for questions.</p> <p>Written testimony was received against agenda item 10–N (6). A copy of the testimony can be found at attachment A.</p> <p>On a motion by Ms. Hock, seconded by Ms. Schwartz, the Board approved the new degree program. The vote was unanimous.</p> <p>Ms. Elizabeth Mayer, Assistant Commissioner for Academic and Health Affairs, presented this item and was available for questions. Dr. Rhashedah Ekeoduru, Associate Professor of Anesthesiology; Dr. Naveen Vanga, Associate Professor of Anesthesiology and Vice Chair for Education; and Dr. Kevin Morano, Senior Vice President of Academic and Faculty Affairs Anesthesiology, were also available for questions.</p>
<p>THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL BRANCH AT GALVESTON (7) Doctor of Clinical Nutrition (DCN) in Clinical Nutrition</p>	<p>On a motion by Dr. Farias, seconded by Ms. Thomas, the Board approved the new degree program. The vote was unanimous.</p> <p>Ms. Elizabeth Mayer, Assistant Commissioner for Academic and Health Affairs, presented this item and was available for questions. Dr. Elizabeth Lyons, Chair and Associate Professor, Nutrition, Metabolism, and Rehabilitation Sciences; Dr. Claudia Sealey-Potts, Professor and Director of Clinical Nutrition; and Blair Brown, Assistant Professor and Program Director, Master of Science and Dietetic Internship, were also available for questions.</p>

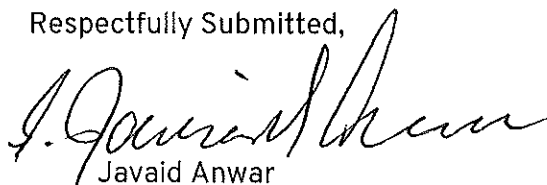
AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
<p>THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY (8) Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Materials Science and Engineering</p> <p>UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS (9) Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Human Performance and Movement Science</p>	<p>On a motion by Dr. Wong, seconded by Ds. Farias, the Board approved the new degree program. The vote was unanimous.</p> <p>Ms. Elizabeth Mayer, Assistant Commissioner for Academic and Health Affairs, presented this item and was available for questions. Karen Lozano, Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering; and Janna Arney, Executive Vice President and Provost, were also available for questions.</p> <p>On a motion by Mr. Clemmer, seconded by Ms. Williams, the Board approved the new degree program. The vote was unanimous.</p> <p>Ms. Elizabeth Mayer, Assistant Commissioner for Academic and Health Affairs, presented this item and was available for questions. Dr. Jakob Vingren, Kinesiology, Health Promotion and Recreation Department Chair; and Dr. Randy Bomer, Dean of the College of Education, were also available for questions.</p>
<p>XI. Matters Relating to the Agency Operations Committee</p>	
<p>A. Committee chair's overview</p>	<p>No action required.</p>
<p>B. Report on grants and contracts</p>	<p>This item was approved on the consent calendar.</p>
<p>C. Consideration of adopting the agency's operating budget for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025</p>	<p>On a motion by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Ms. Williams, the Board adopted the agency's operating budget for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025. The vote was unanimous.</p> <p>Mr. Anthony Infantini, Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Commissioner for Finance, presented this item and was available for questions.</p>
<p>D. Consideration and possible action to approve the Texas Department of Information Resources Interagency Contract budget for Data Center Services</p>	<p>On a motion by Ms. Hock, seconded by Dr. Farias, the Board approved the Texas Department of Information Resources Interagency Contract budget for Data Center Services. The vote was unanimous.</p>



AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
	<p>Mr. Anthony Infantini, Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Commissioner for Finance, presented this item and was available for questions.</p>
<p>E. Consideration and possible action to adopt the Annual Internal Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2024</p>	<p>On a motion by Ms. Williams, seconded by Ms. Thomas, the Board adopted the Annual Internal Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2024. The vote was unanimous.</p> <p>Mr. Paul Maeyaert, Interim Assistant Commissioner, Internal Audit and Compliance, presented this item and was available for questions.</p>
<p>F. Consideration and possible action to adopt the Annual State Compliance Monitoring Plan for Fiscal Year 2024</p>	<p>On a motion by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Ms. Hock, the Board adopted the Annual State Compliance Monitoring Plan for Fiscal Year 2024. The vote was unanimous.</p> <p>Mr. Paul Maeyaert, Interim Assistant Commissioner, Internal Audit and Compliance, presented this item and was available for questions.</p>
<p>VII-F. Update on procurement of vendor to service student loan origination and servicing.</p>	<p>This item was taken out of order. The Board met in closed session to receive an update on procurement of vendor to service student loan origination and servicing</p> <p>The Board went into closed session at 12:33 p.m. The Board reconvened in open session at 12:52 p.m. There was no action taken during the closed session.</p>
<p>XII. Adjournment</p>	

With no further business, on a motion by Mr. Clemmer, seconded by Ms. Williams, the meeting adjourned at approximately 12:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Javaid Anwar

Secretary of the Board

ATTACHMENT A

Public Testimony

Name: Andrea Pee

Organization: Texas Association Nurse Anesthetists

Agenda Item # & Subject Matter: X. N. 6. Consideration and possible action to approve the request from The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston for a Master of Science in Anesthesia degree with a major in Anesthesia

For or Against or Neutral: Against

Oral/Written Testimony: Written

Written Testimony: To whom it may concern,

The Texas Association of Nurse Anesthetists (TxANA) represents the voices of over 5,000 Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) across the state. We are writing today to express our concern with a proposed Anesthesiologist Assistant (AA) education program within the UT Health system. The proposed program would unnecessarily duplicate existing programs serving the same regional population, in violation of 19 TAC §5.45.

AAs are unlicensed anesthesia providers who work directly under the supervision of a physician anesthesiologist. AAs must have a master's degree, but otherwise are required to have very little training before beginning to practice. CRNAs, on the other hand, must have a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, one to two years of full-time nursing experience in intensive care, and a master's degree. Because of their advanced training, CRNAs may practice independent of an anesthesiologist.

UT Health-Houston currently has a CRNA program in place. The CRNA program is the highest-ranking program within the UT health system and has consistently maintained a first-time pass rate of 100% on the national certifying exam. Houston also has an additional CRNA program at Baylor College of Medicine. More importantly, there is a far greater demand for CRNAs. A search on the most popular anesthesia job posting board, gaswork.com, shows a total of 16 open positions for AAs in Texas, compared to 578 open positions for CRNAs.

Nevertheless, if the proposed UT Health AA program is approved by the THECB, clinical sites in Houston will be taken from CRNA students. Given the multiple CRNA programs in Houston, as well as the numerous anesthesiologist residents in the area, this program is unnecessarily duplicative, and would likely harm, existing programs. We hope that this agency will seriously consider whether this proposed program violates state rules.

## PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Name: Angela Mund, DNP, CRNA

Organization: American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (aana)

Agenda Item # & Subject Matter: X. N. 6. Consideration and possible action to approve the request from The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston for a Master of Science in Anesthesia degree with a major in Anesthesia.

For or Against or Neutral: Against

Oral/Written Testimony: Written

Written Testimony: The American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (AANA), which represents more than 59,000 nurse anesthetists (including Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) and student nurse anesthetists) nationwide, submits their comments in opposition to the proposed Anesthesiologist Assistant Program at UT-Health Houston. AANA supports the opposition statement that the Texas Association of Nurse Anesthetists (TxANA) has provided you on this same issue.

Anesthesiologist Assistants are not the solution to the Texas anesthesia provider workforce shortage, but independent providers such as CRNAs can be.

Adding another anesthesiologist assistant (AA) program in Texas would not be a sufficient solution to the anesthesia provider workforce shortage in Texas. AAs are educated and trained to be dependent anesthesia providers whose work depends entirely on the availability of physician anesthesiologists. AAs can only work in the same physical locations as physician anesthesiologists, which are usually in urban areas.

AA training and education are not equivalent to that of a CRNA. Compared to CRNAs, AAs are not required to have any healthcare background prior to starting their AA program. AA programs are approximately 24-27 months total, which is much shorter than the length of CRNA programs. Moreover, there is a program at Texas Christian University that allows AAs to transition into CRNAs during an additional 29-36 months of education. The intent of this program is to provide an AA with the training and education needed for them to become a CRNA who can practice as an independent anesthesia provider.

Another anesthesiologist assistant program would hinder educational opportunities for independent anesthesia providers such as CRNAs.

If the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board were to approve the proposed AA program at UT-Health Houston, it would be at the cost of CRNA educational opportunities. For clinical experience, a student registered nurse anesthetist cannot be trained in a room that is staffed by an AA under the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Programs' standards. The reason for this is because CRNAs can only be trained by a provider who can practice as an autonomous anesthesia provider, and AAs cannot practice without anesthesiologist supervision. Physician anesthesiologists control access to the clinical experiences needed by our students in many urban hospitals, and they can block nurse anesthesia training programs from obtaining necessary clinical experiences, thereby reducing the number of CRNAs trained in the state. This situation

would be further exacerbated by having AAs in rooms, thereby lowering the number of CRNAs who can be educated to be independent anesthesia providers in the state.

For the above-mentioned reasons and those referenced in the Texas Association of Nurse Anesthetist's letter, we respectfully request that you reject the proposal for an anesthesiologist assistant program at UT Health-Houston.