

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

AGENDA ITEM X-J (2)

Update on activities of the Learning Technology Advisory Committee (Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Section 1.191)

RECOMMENDATION: No action required

Background Information:

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) rules require advisory committees to report on committee activities on an annual basis. This allows the board of the THECB to properly evaluate the committee's work, its usefulness, and the costs related to its activities. The Learning Technology Advisory Committee (LTAC) engages in substantive policy research and discussion regarding the role that learning technology plays in Texas higher education. LTAC also reviews institutional plans for distance education programs as part of rules adopted in May 2023 (Texas Administrative Code [TAC], Title 19, Chapter 1, Subchapter O). LTAC informs the THECB how distance education and computer-assisted instruction, including e-learning tools such as electronic textbooks and open course materials, can help the state reach the goals of *Building a Talent Strong Texas*. Patrick Pluscht, Executive Director of the Division of Digital Strategy and Innovation, Digital Growth at the University of North Texas, serves as chair of the committee, and Charlene Stubblefield, Executive Director of the Center for Instructional Innovation and Technology Services at Prairie View A&M University, serves as co-chair.

The committee held four hybrid meetings in Fiscal Year 2025.

LTAC examined a variety of topics during the above reported meetings pertaining to distance education and learning technology, including the current TAC definitions for distance education, digital learning practices at institutions, open educational resources, the Principles of Good Practice for Distance Education, new rules and new processes for reviewing and approving distance education programs, Institutional Plans for Distance Education submissions, adapting to innovation with a focus on generative artificial intelligence, proposed distance education rules and activities related to from the Department of Education, SARA regulations, research activities and findings related to distance education, and persisting institutional matters relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Patrick Pluscht, chair of LTAC, will provide a brief update of activities and be available to answer questions.

LEARNING TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

COMMITTEE ABOLISHMENT DATE: APRIL 27, 2028

Committee Purpose: The Learning Technology Advisory Committee (LTAC) engages in substantive policy research and discussion regarding the role that learning technology plays in Texas higher education. LTAC also reviews institutional proposals for distance education programs as part of Texas Administrative Code (TAC) rules adopted in May 2023. The LTAC informs the Coordinating Board how distance education and computer-assisted instruction, including e-learning tools such as electronic textbooks and open course materials, can help the state reach the goals of *Building a Talent Strong Texas*.

Report Period: End of Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 (July 26th, 2024–July 24th, 2025)

Chair: Patrick Pluscht

Co-Chair: Charlene Stubblefield

List of committee members is attached.

Committee Meeting Dates:

August 30, 2024 (Hybrid), January 31, 2025 (Hybrid), March 7, 2025 (Hybrid), and June 13, 2025 (Hybrid).

Annual Costs Expended:

There were no costs expended for the meetings during the reporting period because all meetings were hybrid. The chair's institution paid for his travel expenses.

Travel: \$0

Other: \$0

Time Commitments:

Committee members spend approximately four to six days during each fiscal year traveling and attending meetings. Coordinating Board staff spend approximately five to seven days preparing materials and reports, coordinating meeting arrangements, and attending meetings.

Current Recommendations to the Board:

There are no recommendations at this time.

Summary of Tasks Completed:

The committee held four hybrid meetings in the reporting period.

LTAC examined a variety of topics during the above reported meetings pertaining to distance education and learning technology, including digital learning practices at institutions, open educational resources, the Principles of Good Practice for Distance Education, new processes for reviewing and approving distance education programs, Institutional Plans for Distance Education submissions, adapting to innovation with a focus on generative artificial intelligence, proposed distance education rules and activities related to the Department of Education, SARA regulations, and research activities and findings related to distance education.

Learning Technology Advisory Committee Members

Academic Year 2025

NOTE: Term of service ends on August 31 of the year indicated in parentheses after member's name, unless otherwise noted.

Chair

Patrick Pluscht (25)

Executive Director
DSI Digital Growth
University of North Texas
940-565-4936
patrick.pluscht@unt.edu

Co-Chair

Charlene Stubblefield (26)

Executive Director of the Center for Instructional
Innovation and Technology Services
Prairie View A&M University
936-261-3281
cjstubblefield@pvamu.edu

Members: Public Community Colleges

Erasmus Addae, Ph.D. (27)

Associate Vice Chancellor of
Distance Education
Austin Community College
512-223-1370
erasmus.addae@austincc.edu

Jeneé Higgins, Ph.D. (26)

Dean of eLearning and
Instructional Design
Howard College
432-264-5015
jhiggins@howardcollege.edu

Alicia Lloyd (27)

Associate Dean of Off Campus
Instructional Services
Lamar State College Orange
409-882-3991
alicia.lloyd@lsco.edu

Luke Dowden, Ed.D. (27)

Chief Online Learning Officer
and Associate Vice
Chancellor
Alamo Colleges District
210-485-0163
ldowden1@alamo.edu

Catherine Howard, Ed.D. (27)

Dean of Stem & Business
Texarkana College
903-823-3285
catherine.howard@texarkana.college.edu

Timothy L. Snyder, Ed.D. (26)

Associate Vice Chancellor for
Teaching and Learning Innovation
Houston Community College
713-718-8963
timothy.snyder@hccs.edu

Robert Greene, Ed.D. (25)

Executive Director Online
Instructional Development and
Support
Lone Star College
832-519-2902
Robert.Greene@lonestar.edu

Janet Kamps (27)

Director, Office of eLearning
Del Mar College
361-698-1315
Jkamps@delmar.edu

Niki Whiteside (25)

Assistant Vice Chancellor for
Instructional Innovation and
Support
San Jacinto College
281-991-2660
Niki.whiteside@sjcd.edu

Oscar Hernandez (26)

AVP of Institutional
Effectiveness and
Educational Technologies
Texas Southmost College
956-295-3451
Oscar.hernandez@tsc.edu

Members: Public Universities

Patricia Abrego, Ph.D. (26)

Director of Academic
Technology
Texas A&M International
University
956-645-6201
pabrego@tamiu.edu

Ashley Dockens, Ph.D. (26)

Assistant Provost of Academic
Innovation and Quality
Assurance
Lamar University
334-200-8943
adockens@lamar.edu

Jeffrey Freels, Ph.D. (25)

Director of Assessment,
Research, and Evaluation
The University of Texas at
Austin
n/a
Jeff.freels@austin.utexas.edu

Michelle Giles, Ph.D. (26)

Program Director and
Associate Professor for
Instructional Design and
Technology
University of Houston – Clear
Lake
281-283-3516
giles@uhcl.edu

**Christiana Christofides,
Ph.D., J.D. (25)**

Managing Director, TTU Online
Texas Tech University
806-834-5236
christiana.christofides@ttu.edu

VACANT (26)

The University of Texas at
Tyler

Pamela Morgan, Ph.D. (27)

Director, Distance Education
and Academic Outreach
Midwestern State University
940-397-4785
pamela.morgan@msutexas.edu

Lynda Murphy, Ed.D. (27)

Executive Director of Digital
Educational Technologies and
Compliance
Texas Woman's University
940-898-3405
lmurphy@twu.edu

Members: Public Health-Related Institutions

Wade Redman, Ph.D. (26)

Acting Assistant Provost of Digital Learning
Chair, Department of Laboratory Sciences &
Primary Care Professor - School of Health
Professions
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
806-544-7237
Wade.redman@ttuhsc.edu

Erin McGoff, D.Prof. (27)

Assistant Vice President of the Health Education
Center and Director of Simulation
The University of Texas Medical Branch at
Galveston
409-266-0010
ermcgoff@utmb.edu

Members: Independent Colleges & Universities

VACANT (26)

Southern Methodist University

Non-Voting Student Member

Esmeralda Gonzalez (26)

Student
The University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley
956-379-1790
esmeralda.perales01@utrgv.edu

Coordinating Board Staff

Gwendolyn Morel, Ph.D.

Director
Digital Learning
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
512-427-6246
gwendolyn.morel@highered.texas.gov

Andrew B. Lofters, Ph.D.

Director, Research and Grants
Academic and Health Affairs
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
512-427-6239
andrew.lofters@highered.texas.gov

TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
LEARNING TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Academic and Health Affairs/Digital Learning
1801 N. Congress Ave., Suite 12.200,
Austin, Texas 78701

Learning Technology Advisory Committee
August 25, 2023
9:00 AM – 1:30 PM

This meeting was held via video conference.

Members present: Patrick Pluscht - Chair, Charlene Stubblefield – Co-Chair, Ruth Cubas-Chisum, Luke Dowden, Jeffrey Freels, Glynnis Gaines, Robert Greene, Darryl James, Janet Kamps, Sarah Lee, Bella Rodriguez, Timothy L. Snyder, Lydia Tena, Niki Whiteside

Members absent: Mary Gentry, Alicia Lloyd, Julie Delello, Pamela Morgan, Yun Wan, Megan Weatherly, Jacqueline Mok, Erin McGoff, and Alexandra Herron

Staff present: Michelle Singh, Andrew Lofters, Kylah Torre, Gwendolyn Morel, Carrie Gits, Cathie Maeyaert, Meghan Ryan, and John Wyatt

Guests:

Summary Notes

1. Welcome and opening remarks

Mr. Patrick Pluscht, Chair, called the meeting to order. A quorum was met for this committee meeting.

2. Consideration of and possible action to approve summary notes from the June 23, 2023 meeting

Mr. Patrick Pluscht asked if there were any comments, questions, or corrections needed.

Hearing none, a motion to approve the summary notes was made by Dr. Robert Greene. The motion was seconded by Dr. Lydia Tena. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Recognition of Members with terms ending In August 2023

Mr. Patrick Pluscht presented this item.

4. Consideration of and possible action to approve the proposed revisions and recommend an updated Principles of Good Practice for Distance Education to the Board for approval.

Dr. Robert Green and Ms. Janet Kamps presented this item and were available for questions.

Dr. Jeff Freels made a motion to use the shorter title (Principles of Good Practice for Distance Education), add some explanatory text in that first one or two paragraphs to clarify that Principles of Good Practice apply to for-credit courses, programs, etc. as reflected in the Texas Administrative Code. And, to give the committee the authority to make non-substantive edits to the document as necessary prior to going to the Board.

5. THECB Updates

- a. Legislative Session Update
Mr. John Wyatt presented this item and was available for questions.
- b. State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA)
Ms. Cathie Maeyaert presented this item and was available for questions.
- c. Data Modernization Initiative
Ms. Meghan Ryan presented this item and was available for questions.
- d. Digital Learning Updates
Dr. Kylah Torre presented this item and was available for questions.

6. Workgroup / Sub-Committee Sessions, which may include the following: Quality Assurance, Research, Operations

7. Discussion of Workgroups / Sub-Committee Session Reports

Mr. Patrick Pluscht presented this item and was available for questions.

8. Discussion of Future Agenda Items and Meeting Dates

Mr. Patrick Pluscht led the discussion for future agenda items that included discussion and consideration of future meeting dates and formats, THECB Updates to include inviting Dr. David Troutman back to speak on Micro Credentials, Legislative Session Updates, State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA) updates, and updates on Data Modernization. Other future agenda recommendations included discussion surrounding the process in developing credit and non-credit courses and programs with the distance education plan, establishing sub-committees, restructuring workgroups, AI updates, OER Texas website updates, a report from Dr. Luke Dowden on the Micro-credentials Learning Network and Digital Learning Summit and the Credentials of Value rules that apply, and HB8 items.

Dr. Andrew Lofters suggested early January for possible upcoming meeting dates.

9. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Robert Greene the Committee adjourned at 1:22 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
LEARNING TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Academic and Health Affairs/Digital Learning
1801 N. Congress Ave., Suite 12.200,
Austin, Texas 78701

Learning Technology Advisory Committee
January 12, 2024
9:00 AM – 1:30 PM

This meeting was held via video conference.

Members present: Patrick Pluscht - Chair, Charlene Stubblefield – Co-Chair, Patricia Abrego, Luke Dowden, Michelle Giles, Jenee Higgins, Robert Greene, Darryl James, Janet Kamps, Poonam Kumar, Sarah Lee, Alicia Lloyd, Erin McGoff, Pamela Morgan, Wade Redman, Michael Robertson, Bella Rodriguez, Timothy L. Snyder, Lydia Tena, Megan Weatherly, Brett Welch, Niki Whiteside

Members absent: Oscar Hernandez and Jeffrey Freels

Staff present: Michelle Singh, Andrew Lofters, Kylah Torre, Gwendolyn Morel, Carrie Gits, Maryanne Maddoux

Guests:

Summary Notes

1. Welcome, Introduction of new members and opening remarks

Mr. Patrick Pluscht, Chair, called the meeting to order. A quorum was met for this committee meeting. Dr. Kylah Torre noted a revision to the agenda. Item 3-A should be listed as Item 4 and the following two items updated to Item 4-A and Item 4-B. The remaining agenda items will be re-numbered as well.

2. Consideration of and possible action to approve summary notes from the August 25, 2023 meeting

Mr. Patrick Pluscht, Chair, asked if there were any comments, questions, or corrections needed.

Hearing none, a motion to approve the summary notes was made by Dr. Robert Greene. The motion was seconded by Dr. Lydia Tena. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion of Institutional Plans for Distance Education review process

Dr. Kylah Torre introduced this item and Dr. Luke Dowden presented the item to the committee. Dr. Kylah Torre and Dr. Luke Dowden were available for questions.

4. THECB Updates

- a. State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA)
Dr. Andrew Lofters presented this item and was available for questions.
- b. Digital Learning Updates
Dr. Kylah Torre presented this item and was available for questions.

5. AI Subcommittee Report

Mr. Patrick Pluscht, Chair, and Dr. Kylah Torre presented this item and were available for questions.

6. Discussion of restructuring Workgroups

Mr. Patrick Pluscht, Chair, presented this item and was available for questions.

7. Workgroups/Sub-Committee Sessions, which may Include the following: Quality Assurance, Research, Operations

8. Discussion of Workgroups/Sub-Committee Sessions Reports

Mr. Patrick Pluscht, Chair, presented this item and was available for questions.

9. Discussion of Future Agenda Items and Review meeting calendar

Mr. Patrick Pluscht, Chair, made future agenda item recommendations for House Bill 8 and Micro-Credentialing

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Janet Kamps the Committee adjourned at 12:27 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
LEARNING TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Academic and Health Affairs/Digital Learning
1801 N. Congress Ave., Suite 12.200,
Austin, Texas 78701

Learning Technology Advisory Committee
April 5, 2024
9:00 AM – 1:30 PM

This meeting was held via video conference.

Members present: Patrick Pluscht - Chair, Charlene Stubblefield – Co-Chair, Patricia Abrego, Luke Dowden, Jeffrey Freels, Michelle Giles, Jenee Higgins, Robert Greene, Oscar Hernandez, Darryl James, Janet Kamps, Poonam Kumar, Sarah Lee, Alicia Lloyd, Erin McGoff, Pamela Morgan, Wade Redman, Michael Robertson, Timothy L. Snyder, Lydia Tena, Megan Weatherly, Brett Welch, and Niki Whiteside

Members absent: Bella Rodriguez

Staff present: Michelle Singh, Andrew Lofters, Gwendolyn Morel, and Carrie Gits

Guests: Van Davis (WCET)

Summary Notes

1. Welcome and opening remarks

Mr. Patrick Pluscht, Chair, called the meeting to order. A quorum was met for this committee meeting.

2. Consideration of and possible action to approve summary notes from the January 12, 2024 meeting

Mr. Patrick Pluscht, Chair, asked if there were any comments, questions, or corrections needed.

Hearing none, a motion to approve the summary notes was made by Dr. Darryl James. The motion was seconded by Dr. Robert Greene. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion of proposed Department of Education rules regarding distance education

Mr. Patrick Pluscht, Chair, introduced this item and Dr. Van Davis, WCET, presented the item to the committee and was available for questions.

4. Consideration and possible action for recommendations from the Committee regarding proposed Department of Education rules regarding distance education

Mr. Patrick Pluscht presented this item and was available for questions. Dr. Luke Dowden made a motion for THECB staff to engage with TAC and ICUT (and University GR professionals) to draft a letter with comments to the DOE regarding proposed distance education rules.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Pam Morgan. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion of Institutional Plans for Distance Education review process

Dr. Andrew Lofters presented this item and was available for questions.

6. THECB Updates

a. State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA)

Dr. Andrew Lofters presented this item and was available for questions.

b. House Bill 8

Dr. Gwendolyn Morel presented this item and was available for questions.

c. Digital Learning Updates

Dr. Gwendolyn Morel presented this item and was available for questions.

7. Workgroups/Sub-Committee Sessions, which may include the following: Quality Assurance, Research, Operations

8. Discussion of Workgroups/Sub-Committee Sessions Reports

Mr. Patrick Pluscht, Chair, presented this item and was available for questions.

9. Discussion of Future Agenda Items and Review meeting calendar

Mr. Patrick Pluscht, Chair, made future agenda item recommendations to include THECB updates, and items regarding IPDE, Department of Education regulations on proposed rules, and House Bill 8.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Darryl James the Committee adjourned at 12:33 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
LEARNING TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Academic and Health Affairs/Digital Learning
1801 N. Congress Ave., Suite 12.200,
Austin, Texas 78701

Learning Technology Advisory Committee
June 21, 2024
9:00 AM – 1:30 PM

This meeting was held via video conference.

<u>Members present:</u>	Patrick Pluscht - Chair, Charlene Stubblefield – Co-Chair, Patricia Abrego, Luke Dowden, Jeffrey Freels, Michelle Giles, Robert Greene, Oscar Hernandez, Jenee Higgins, Janet Kamps, Poonam Kumar, Sarah Lee, Alicia Lloyd, Erin McGoff, Pamela Morgan, Wade Redman, Lydia Tena, Niki Whiteside, and Esmeralda Gonzalez
<u>Members absent:</u>	Darryl James, Michael Robertson, Timothy Snyder, Megan Weatherly, Brett Welch
<u>Staff present:</u>	Michelle Singh, Andrew Lofters, Kylah Torre, Gwendolyn Morel, Carrie Gits, and Maryanne Maddoux
<u>Guests:</u>	Ms. Lee Rector (THECB)

Summary Notes

1. Welcome and opening remarks

Mr. Patrick Pluscht, Chair, called the meeting to order. A quorum was met for this committee meeting.

2. Consideration of and possible action to approve summary notes from the April 5, 2024 meeting

Mr. Patrick Pluscht, Chair, asked if there were any comments, questions, or corrections needed.

Hearing none, a motion to approve the summary notes was made by Mr. Oscar Hernandez. The motion was seconded by Dr. Pam Morgan. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion of proposed Department of Education rules regarding distance education

Mr. Patrick Pluscht, Chair, introduced this item and Dr. Kylah Torre and Dr. Andrew Lofters presented the item to the committee and were available for questions.

4. Consideration and possible action for recommendations from the Committee regarding comments on proposed Department of Education rules regarding distance education

Mr. Patrick Pluscht, Chair, presented this item and was available for questions.

5. Discussion of Institutional Plans for Distance Education review process

Dr. Andrew Lofters presented this item and was available for questions.

6. Discussion of statewide higher education activities pertaining to Generative Artificial Intelligence

Dr. Kylah Torre presented this item and was available for questions.

7. THECB Updates

- A. Digital Learning Updates

Dr. Kylah Torre presented this item and was available for questions.

- B. State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA)

Dr. Andrew Lofters presented this item and was available for questions.

- C. House Bill 8

Ms. Lee Rector, THECB, presented this item and was available for questions.

8. Workgroups/Sub-Committee Sessions, which may Include the following: Quality Assurance, Research, Operations

9. Discussion of Workgroups/Sub-Committee Sessions Reports

Mr. Patrick Pluscht, Chair, presented this item and was available for questions.

10. Discussion of Future Agenda Items and Review meeting calendar

Mr. Patrick Pluscht, Chair, made future agenda item recommendations to include THECB updates, last meeting with current members, 2025 committee meeting dates, invite the Work Force Division to present on House Bill 8, Department of Education proposed rules, Huron results, and two-year baccalaureate programs.

11. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Robert Greene the Committee adjourned at 12:47 pm. The motion passed unanimously.