

TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

CHAIR
S. Javaid Anwar

COMMITTEE ON INNOVATION, DATA, AND EDUCATIONAL ANALYTICS

VICE CHAIR
Welcome W. Wilson

VIA LIVE BROADCAST

January 20, 2021
10:00 a.m.

Ricky A. Raven
R. Sam Torn
Donna N. Williams
Levi D. McClenny
Student Representative, Ex-Officio
Stuart W. Stedman,
Ex-Officio

AGENDA

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: The presiding chair shall designate whether public testimony will be taken at the beginning of the meeting, at the time the related item is taken up by the Board after staff has presented the item, or any other time as determined by the presiding chair. For procedures on testifying, please go to <http://highered.texas.gov/public-testimony>.

- I. Welcome and Committee Chair's meeting overview
- II. Consideration of approval of the minutes from the October 21, 2020, meeting of the Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics
- III. Public Testimony on Agenda Items Relating to the Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics
- IV. Consideration of approval of the Consent Calendar
- V. Matters relating to the Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics
 - A. *60x30TX* Data Insight: Presentation on Fall 2020 Enrollment and the Enrollment Forecast Process
 - B. Consideration of approval of the data report required by Texas Education Code §51.4033 and 51.4034 related to non-transferable credit and transfer courses
 - C. Update on Data Modernization Initiative
 - D. Consideration of approval of the study of post-secondary outcomes for certain traditional and non-traditional high school students as required by Texas Education Code §61.06692
 - E. Review of facilities projects submitted to the Coordinating Board, pursuant to Texas Education Code §61.0572 and §61.058
 - F. Report on Financial Aid Advisory Committee activities
 - G. Proposed Rules
 - (1) Consideration of adopting the proposed amendments to Chapter 17, Subchapter L, Section 17.113 of Board rules, concerning the Institutional Audit Cycle

Note: Highlighted items in gray are on the Consent Calendar.

(2) Consideration of adopting the proposed amendments to Chapter 22, Subchapter A, Section 22.1 of Board rules, definitions for student financial aid programs

NEW ITEM

H. Consideration of approving the recommendation to enter into staff augmentation and technology service contracts to support implementation of the data modernization initiative

VI. Adjournment

NOTE: Because the Board members who attend the committee meeting may create a quorum of the full Board, the meeting of the Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics is also being posted as a meeting of the full Board. The full Board will not consider or act upon any item before the Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics at this meeting. This meeting is not a regular meeting of the full Board.

Texas Penal Code Section 46.035(c) states: "A license holder commits an offense if the license holder intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly carries a handgun under the authority of Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code, regardless of whether the handgun is concealed or carried in a shoulder or belt holster, in the room or rooms where a meeting of a governmental entity is held and if the meeting is an open meeting subject to Chapter 551, Government Code, and the entity provided notice as required by that chapter." Thus, no person can carry a handgun and enter the room or rooms where a meeting of the THECB is held if the meeting is an open meeting subject to Chapter 551, Government Code.

Please Note that this governmental meeting is, in the opinion of counsel representing THECB, an open meeting subject to Chapter 551, Government Code and THECB is providing notice of this meeting as required by Chapter 551. In addition, ***please note*** that the written communication required by Texas Penal Code Sections 30.06 and 30.07, prohibiting both concealed and open carry of handguns by Government Code Chapter 411 licensees, will be posted at the entrances to this governmental meeting.

Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics

AGENDA ITEM I

Welcome and Committee Chair's meeting overview

Mr. S. Javaid Anwar, Chair of the Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics, will provide the Committee an overview of the items on the agenda.

Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics

AGENDA ITEM II

Consideration of approval of the minutes from the October 21, 2020, meeting of the Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

MINUTES

Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics

1200 East Anderson Lane, Room 1.170

Austin, Texas

October 21, 2020, 9:00 a.m.

DRAFT Minutes

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics convened via Zoom at 9:05 a.m. on October 21, 2020, with the following members present: Welcome W. Wilson, Vice Chair; Ricky A. Raven; R. Sam Torn; Donna N. Williams; Levi D. McClenny, Student Representative, Ex-Officio; and Stuart W. Stedman, Ex-Officio. S. Javaid Anwar, Chair, was not in attendance.

The meeting is available at the following link: <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/apps/Events/>

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
I. Welcome and Committee Chair's meeting overview	Mr. S. Javaid Anwar, Chair, was not in attendance for this meeting. Mr. Welcome W. Wilson, Vice Chair, called the meeting of the Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics to order at 9:05 a.m. and announced the meeting was being held via live broadcast. Mr. Wilson established that a quorum was met. Mr. Ricky A. Raven was not in attendance at the time the meeting was called to order but joined the meeting at 10:15 a.m. and attended the remaining portions of the meeting.
II. Consideration of approval of the minutes from the July 22, 2020, Committee meeting	On motion by Mr. R. Sam Torn, seconded by Ms. Donna N. Williams, the Committee approved this item with all members voting in favor.
III. Consideration of approval of the Consent Calendar	<p>Mr. Wilson stated items on the Consent Calendar would have two votes: one on the non-rule items and one on the proposed rules items.</p> <p>On motion by Mr. R. Sam Torn, seconded by Ms. Donna N. Williams, the Committee approved the non-rule agenda items V-F through V-J.</p> <p>On motion by Ms. Donna Williams, seconded by Mr. R. Sam Torn, the Committee approved agenda items V-K (1) through V-K (7) of the proposed rules.</p>

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
<p>G. Consideration of approval of the Energy Savings Performance Contract for Texas A&M University at Galveston</p> <p>H. Review of facilities projects that were submitted to the Coordinating Board</p> <p>I. Consideration of adopting the report to the legislature on Student Financial Aid in Texas Higher Education, Fiscal Year 2019 (<i>General Appropriations Act, House Bill 1, Article III, Texas Legislature</i>)</p> <p>J. Consideration of adopting the staff recommendation to the Committee relating to the approval of the nominated members of the Financial Aid Advisory Committee</p> <p>K. Proposed Rules</p> <p>(1) Consideration of adopting proposed amendments to Chapter 22, Subchapter A, Section 22.11 of Board rules, concerning General Provisions</p> <p>(2) Consideration of adopting proposed amendments to Chapter 22, Subchapter B, Section 22.28 of Board rules, concerning Provisions for the Tuition Equalization Grant Program</p> <p>(3) Consideration of adopting the proposed repeal of Chapter 22, Subchapter L, Sections 22.232, 22.235, 22.238-22.240, and 22.242 of Board Rules, and amendments to Sections 22.225-22.231, 22.233, 22.234, and 22.241 of Board rules, concerning the Toward EXcellence, Access, and Success (TEXAS) Grant Program</p> <p>(4) Consideration of adopting proposed amendments to Chapter 22, Subchapter M, Section 22.261 of Board rules, concerning the Texas Educational Opportunity Grant Program</p> <p>(5) Consideration of adopting the proposed repeal of Chapter 22, Subchapter Q, Sections 22.331-22.336 and 22.342-22.344 of Board rules, and amendments to Chapter 22, Subchapter Q, Sections 22.329, 22.330, 22.339, and 22.341, concerning the Texas B-On-Time Loan Program</p>	<p>This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.</p> <p>This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.</p> <p>This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.</p> <p>This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.</p> <p>This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.</p> <p>This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.</p> <p>This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.</p> <p>This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.</p> <p>This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.</p>

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
<p>(6) Consideration of adopting proposed amendments to Chapter 23, Subchapter C, Sections 23.65-23.67 of Board rules, concerning the Physician Education Loan Repayment Program</p> <p>(7) Consideration of adopting proposed amendments to Chapter 23, Subchapter H, Sections 23.211 and 23.214 of Board rules, concerning the Peace Officer Loan Repayment Assistance Program</p>	<p>This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.</p> <p>This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.</p>
<p>VII. Adjournment</p>	<p>On motion by Ms. Donna N. Williams, seconded by Mr. R. Sam Torn, the Committee approved this item with all members present voting in favor.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 10:21 a.m.</p>

Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics

AGENDA ITEM III

Public Testimony on Agenda Items Relating to the Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics

RECOMMENDATION: No action required

Background Information:

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: The presiding chair shall designate whether public testimony will be taken at the beginning of the meeting, at the time the related item is taken up by the Board after staff has presented the item, or at any other time as determined by the presiding chair.

Committee on Innovation, Data and Educational Analytics

AGENDA ITEM IV

Consideration of approval of the Consent Calendar

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

Background Information:

In order to save institutions time and travel costs to attend the Committee on Innovation, Data and Educational Analytics meetings in Austin, the Committee has a Consent Calendar for items that are noncontroversial. Any item can be removed from the Consent Calendar by a Committee member.

Consent Calendar

V. Matters relating to the Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics

E. Review of facilities projects submitted to the Coordinating Board, pursuant to Texas Education Code §61.0572 and §61.058

G. Proposed Rules

(1) Consideration of adopting the proposed amendments to Chapter 17, Subchapter L, Section 17.113 of Board rules, concerning the Institutional Audit Cycle

(2) Consideration of adopting the proposed amendments to Chapter 22, Subchapter A, Section 22.1 of Board rules, definitions for student financial aid programs

AGENDA ITEM V-A

60x30TX Data Insight: Presentation on Fall 2020 Enrollment and the Enrollment Forecast Process

RECOMMENDATION: No action required

Background Information:

This is a two-part agenda item that begins with a follow-up to the previously shared fall 2020 preliminary enrollment data. Final, certified fall data will be presented, including comparisons to earlier totals as well as information on dual credit participation rates, enrollment by Pell status, fundable hours and other breakouts not available in the preliminary survey results. The data will provide a more comprehensive window into how enrollment patterns have changed during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The second part of the presentation will focus on the enrollment forecast, which is updated every other year just prior to the legislative session. The forecast has been presented since 1978 and includes all Texas public colleges and universities. Past enrollments by geographic location (county), age, and ethnicity are applied to population projections from the Texas Demographic Center. The results show the enrollments that institutions would attract in future years if their attendance patterns remain the same.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's (THECB) Enrollment Forecast process uses multiple enrollment projection calculations. For each institution, the calculation that produces the projection closest to the 2020 actual/preliminary enrollment is selected. For some institutions, the THECB makes adjustments to the forecast. For example, if the chosen model produces excess enrollments for institutions which have imposed enrollment caps, the excess is redistributed to other institutions.

The institutions are sent preliminary forecasts in early November with comments due approximately four weeks later. Institutional comments are evaluated, and adjustments made before the forecast is recommended for consideration.

Dr. Julie Eklund, Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Planning, will present on these enrollment topics and be available for questions.

AGENDA ITEM V-B

Consideration of approval of the data report required by Texas Education Code §51.4033 and 51.4034 related to non-transferable credit and transfer courses

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

Background Information:

Texas Education Code (TEC), Sections 51.4033 and 51.4034, require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to provide the Legislature with two transfer-related data reports by March 1 of each year, beginning in 2021. Institutions are required to report the necessary data to the THECB to facilitate the preparation of these reports. The report requirements were part of several outlined in Senate Bill 25 (SB 25), passed in the 86th Legislative Session, relating to measures to facilitate the transfer, academic progress, and timely graduation of students in public higher education. Because the reports both relate to transfer, the information will be combined into one report for the Legislature.

Specifically, Section 51.4033 of the TEC focuses on data collected from public universities. It requires a report of non-transferable credit that describes any courses in the *Lower-Division Academic Course Guide Manual* or its successor for which 1) a student who transfers to the institution from another institution of higher education is not granted academic credit at the receiving institution; or 2) a student has declared a major and has not changed majors, and has not received academic credit toward the student's major at the receiving institution. The report must indicate the course name and type, which institution of higher education provided academic credit for the course, and the reason why the receiving institution did not grant academic credit for the course.

Section 51.4034 of the TEC requires a report of courses taken at public two-year colleges. It focuses on courses taken by students who, during the preceding academic year, transferred to a general academic teaching institution or earned an associate degree at a college. The report includes the total number of courses attempted and completed at the college from which the student transferred or earned a degree, including the total number of semester credit hours for those courses, disaggregated by whether the course is in the *Workforce Education Course Manual* or the *Lower-Division Academic Course Guide Manual*. It also includes courses attempted and completed at the college that are not in the recommended core curriculum developed by the THECB under Section 61.822 of the TEC, and courses taken for dual credit.

The required data report will be completed once data are submitted to the THECB for this purpose and subsequently certified. The data are collected through the standardized process on Coordinating Board Management (CBM) reports, including through a newly implemented report for public four-year institutions, the CBM Transfer report, or through the

Student Schedule Report, which collects data about course completion. Due to the timing of the reporting collection, the report is expected to be finalized in February 2021 for submission to the Legislature by the required date of March 1, 2021.

THECB staff respectfully requests that the Committee recommend that the Board of the THECB authorize the Commissioner to submit the SB 25 data report to the Governor's Office and Legislature as soon as it is finalized.

Dr. Julie Eklund, Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Planning, will present this item and be available to answer questions.

Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics

AGENDA ITEM V-C

Update on Data Modernization Initiative

RECOMMENDATION: No action required

Background Information:

At the October 2020 meeting, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) staff reviewed the status of the Data Modernization Initiative, a planning effort to inform the design of a modern data infrastructure to facilitate improved insight and actionable data for THECB stakeholders. The Data Modernization Initiative includes three related work streams, each of which is supported by consulting experts as noted below:

- Technical and data architecture – Alvarez and Marsal
- Data governance – Nancy Smith, PhD.
- Website reorganization and upgrades – Minerva Consulting

Ms. Lori Fey, Deputy Commissioner for Data Analytics and Innovation, will provide a brief update presentation and be available to answer questions.

Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics

AGENDA ITEM V-D

Consideration of approval of the study of post-secondary outcomes for certain traditional and non-traditional high school students as required by Texas Education Code §61.06692

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

Background Information:

As per Texas Education Code, Section 61.06692, enacted in 2019 by the 86th Texas Legislature, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is required to conduct a study comparing postsecondary educational outcomes for students enrolled at institutions of higher education who received a high school diploma and students enrolled at those institutions who received a high school equivalency certificate, disaggregated by the high school equivalency examination completed.

Dr. Melissa Humphries, Director, Strategic Planning Division, will provide a presentation of the study findings and be available to answer questions.

Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics

AGENDA ITEM V-E

Review of facilities projects submitted to the Coordinating Board, pursuant to Texas Education Code §61.0572 and §61.058

RECOMMENDATION: No action required

Background Information:

Senate Bill 215, 83rd Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2013, shifted the authority to approve capital projects from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to the Boards of Regents. However, it grants the THECB the authority to require that institutions continue to report projects to the Board, and THECB staff continue to review facilities projects. Additional information can be provided upon request for projects that do not meet one or more standards. The Board must notify the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house, and Legislative Budget Board on all projects that do not meet standards. These materials serve as that notification.

Ms. Emily Cormier, Assistant Commissioner for Funding, will be available to answer questions.

Reviewed Projects

Institution Project Name	Project Number	Project Cost	Standard Met - Yes/No			
			Space Usage	Space Need	Cost	Building Efficiency
Texas A&M University System Engineering Experiment Station <i>Innovative Technologies Development Complex</i>	000712-20-001	\$80,000,000	NA ¹	Yes	Yes	Yes
University of Houston <i>Melcher Gym Pool Infill and Renovation</i>	003652-20-003	\$15,750,000	NA ²	Yes	Yes	Yes
Texas A&M University - San Antonio <i>Academic & Administrative Building Phase 1</i>	042485-20-001	\$30,000,000	No ³	Yes	Yes	Yes
Texas A&M University - San Antonio <i>Academic & Administrative Building Phase 2</i>	042485-20-002	\$53,000,000	No ³	Yes	Yes	No ⁴
Texas A&M University System <i>RELLIS Academic Complex - Phase II</i>	003629-21-001	\$28,650,000	NA ¹	NA ⁵	Yes	No ⁶
Texas A&M University Health Science Center <i>Engineering and Health Building Renovation</i>	000089-21-001	\$85,718,000	NA ²	Yes	Yes	No ⁷
Texas A&M University <i>Instructional Laboratory & Innovative Learning Building</i>	003632-20-002	\$100,000,000	Yes	Yes	Yes	No ⁸

¹ Space Usage Efficiency is not calculated for Texas A&M System Agencies or System Offices.

² Space Usage Efficiency is not applicable to repair and renovation projects.

³ While the standards for space usage efficiency are not currently met, the institution reports that the downward expansion of this campus and the relocation of a college to the campus will significantly increase the classroom/class lab need on campus, and therefore increase the campus utilization.

⁴ The institution reports that the project does not meet building efficiency standards due to a large amount of shell space in the project. Build-out of this shell space is expected to be included as part of the final project, which will then meet the minimum standard.

⁵ Space Need is not calculated for System Offices.

⁶ The institution reports that to avoid potential issues that occurred on previous projects with similar designs, the penthouse portion of this project was enclosed. This increased the non-assignable GSF space of the project and lowered the efficiency. The actual building does meet the standard when removing the penthouse space from the calculation.

⁷ The institution reports that the space usage efficiency appears low because two levels, in addition to a mechanical penthouse and half of the basement are unassigned for mechanical systems, and nine levels and half of the basement are unassigned shell space for future lease opportunities.

⁸ The current design of the building does not meet the efficiency standard due to safety requirements for the Chemistry Department. To separate hazardous chemical traffic from student traffic, a racetrack corridor system with a separate laboratory prep corridor is included in the design. This factor reduced the overall efficiency but creates a safer environment.

Guidelines Used for Capital Project Reviews				
Project Type	Space Usage	Space Need	Cost	Building Efficiency
New Construction and Addition	Space Usage Efficiency (SUE) score of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75 points in the classroom score for classroom type facilities 75 points in the class laboratory score for lab type facilities 150 points overall for all others 	Does not create nor add to a surplus as predicted in the space projection model	Does not exceed the annually published cost standard	The ratio of net assignable square feet (NASF) to gross square feet (GSF) shall not exceed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classroom and general – 0.60 Office – 0.65 Clinical, diagnostic support labs, and technical research – 0.50 For parking structures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automobile – 400 SF per space Boathouses – 500 SF per space Airplanes – 3,000 SF per space
Repair and Renovation (including repairs and renovations as part of a real property purchase)	Not applicable	Does not create nor add to a surplus as predicted in the space projection model	Does not exceed the annually published cost standard	Does not reduce existing ratio of NASF to GSF more than ten percent
Real Property Purchases	Not applicable	Does not create nor add to a surplus as predicted in the space projection model	Should not exceed the higher of two appraisals. If the cost exceeds this amount, institution must demonstrate the need to purchase at the higher price	Not applicable

Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics

AGENDA ITEM V-F

Report on Financial Aid Advisory Committee activities

RECOMMENDATION: No action required

Background Information:

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) rules require advisory committees to report on committee activities on an annual basis. This allows the THECB to properly evaluate the committee's work, usefulness, and the costs related to the committee's existence. The current report covers the period from October 2019 through October 2020.

The Financial Aid Advisory Committee (FAAC) is authorized under Texas Education Code, Section 61.0776 and Texas Government Code, Section 2110.0012. The Financial Aid Advisory Committee provides the Board of the THECB with advice and recommendations regarding the development, implementation, and evaluation of state financial aid programs for college students. The FAAC 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.

Mr. Robert Merino, Dean of Financial Aid at The San Jacinto Community College District, and Past Chair of the FAAC, will present a summary of the Financial Aid Advisory Committee's recent activities. Mr. Merino and Dr. Charles W. Contèro-Puls, Assistant Commissioner for Student Financial Aid Programs will be available to answer questions.

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.

Meeting Notes

November 21, 2019

March 5, 2020

June 4, 2020 (cancelled)

September 3, 2020

**November 21, 2019
Meeting Notes**

Committee Members in Attendance		Committee Members Absent
Robert Merino (Chair) Diane Todd Sprague (Past Chair) Tacey Anderson Dr. Ben Bholan Shannon Crossland Karla Flores Rachele Garrett Ed Kerestly Lyn Kinyon Tam Nguyen Charles Contero-Puls Thomas Ratliff Terry Sheneman	Joy Thomas Formon Thompson Denise Welch Brent Williford Johnathan Cereceres (Student Rep) <u>Via Teleconference:</u> Paul Galyean Heidi Granger Kelly Steelman Christine Stuart Carruthers	Samantha Stalnaker Marilyn Abedrabbo – (Student Rep)

Agenda Item A. Welcome, Introductions, and Overview of Meeting	Robert Merino, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required Creation of new permanent agenda item
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New implementations – lunch break for members to network and slow down the meeting for quality purposes. New agenda item introduced – “Topics for Future Meetings” will provide opportunity to create topics for the next agenda 	

Agenda Item B. Consideration of Approval of Minutes from meetings held September 5, 2019	Robert Merino, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required Minutes approved
Critical Discussion Points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No corrections were identified Motion to approve minutes and motion was seconded with all in favor 	

Agenda Item C. Update: External Relations	John Wyatt, Sr. Director, External Relations
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the interim period between sessions, committees will consider issues for next session, as well as monitor recent legislation The Lt. Governor has released his interim charges – see handout A lot of discussion going on about adult learners No interim charges from the House yet THECB will work with the committee members and institutions to provide data, analysis, and any relevant information to assist Commissioner Keller has prioritized working collaboratively with stakeholders to understand perspectives and advance consensus-based solutions to the challenges we face in higher education; looking forward to engaging institutions 	

Agenda Item D. Presentation via Skype: Urban Institute Financial Aid Study	Sandy Baum and Kristen Blagg, Urban Institute
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required Will review after completion of study
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project is funded by Arnold Ventures to study the Texas state grant programs and working to strengthen those programs Goal of study is to talk with various constituents, stakeholders, students, and policy holders Presenters identified various student aid issues in Texas – see handout A particular interest of the researchers is the difference between Pell Grants, which are scaled based on an individual's EFC, and TEXAS Grants/TEOG, which effectively provide one grant level (e.g. tuition and fees) to any recipient Researchers were surprised not to have heard more about (1) how students are covering living expenses and (2) older students being excluded. The Institute is delving into these issues without preconceived ideas or conclusions but in order to tweak the system to effectively meet the state's goals 	

Critical Discussion Points:

- FAAC members pointed out that the limited appropriation may be the cause of concerns regarding the equity of allocations, especially in light of the negotiated rule-making that occurs to help strengthen equitable distribution.
- In-district vs. out-of-district tuition presents different challenges for colleges with high out-of-district populations, given the fact that Pell cannot be used as a matching fund for the tuition and fee requirement. For some students the Pell being excluded from matching is helpful, and for others it is not.
- Examples were provided regarding trying to cover living expenses and how to help the working adults attending school who are not able to take a full-time load due to work schedule; one institution is working with non-profit organizations to connect students with additional resources.
- Texas has a unique combination of decentralized grants with a tuition and fee coverage requirement. Without the tuition and fee coverage requirement, there is the potential to offer smaller grants to more students, which could have an impact on loan levels.
- The diversity of Texas institutions and the diversity of students served make it challenging to develop a grant program that serves everyone effectively.
- TEXAS Grant is like a "golden ticket." If you get that ticket, your tuition and fees are covered for four years. If you don't get that ticket, it may be a huge cliff in the funding a student receives.
- The higher academic progress requirements for state grants expect the recipient to do better than what it takes to graduate, which is somewhat counterintuitive to the idea that we are trying to graduate students; seems to be an arbitrary barrier, since students may be eligible for federal and institutional aid, but not state. Affidavit students are particularly impacted, since they don't have federal aid to fall back on.
- Changes to the grant programs without increased appropriations will likely result in simply shifting the benefit from some students to other students.
- Committee members offered informal data from their institutions suggesting students who receive more aid stay in school

Agenda Item E. Discussion: Proposed Update to Texas Administrative Code Related to Student Indebtedness	Dr. Ginger Gossman, Sr. Director, Innovation and Policy Development
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updating based on SB 241 (86th Legislative Session) which updated and clarified SB 887 (85th Legislative Session) by stating higher education institutions are not required to disclose or report private loans on the annual debt letter • State student loans are not considered private loans for this statute and must be included in the letter • There were no suggested changes from the committee. 	

Agenda Item F. Election of Vice Chair	Robert Merino, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required Ed Kerestly elected as VC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair asked for nominations for FAAC Vice-Chair • Only one nomination was received and that was for Ed Kerestly; Mr. Kerestly accepted • Motion was received, seconded, and voted in as vice-chair 	

Agenda Item G. Approval of 2020 Meeting Dates	Robert Merino, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required Meeting dates approved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed meeting dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ March 5, 2020 ◦ June 4, 2020 ◦ September 3, 2020 ◦ December 10, 2020 • Motion was received to accept the dates, seconded, and voted in favor unanimously 	

Agenda Item H. Discussion: Member Expectations	Robert Merino, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Critical Discussion Points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New members had an orientation prior to today's meeting • Chair is taking the opportunity to review the expectations/requirements with all members • Those requirements/expectations are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Review materials prior to attending meeting, so we can all participate and have meaningful input and group discussion ◦ Attendance – you are expected to attend all meetings; three missed meetings in a row or in a year will result automatically vacating your spot on the committee ◦ If you cannot make it to the meeting, you can assign a non-voting substitute ◦ If you cannot make it to the meeting, you may teleconference in, though in-person attendance is highly encouraged to allow for more robust conversations ◦ Bookmark the FAAC website to access all the materials needed [http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/about-us/advisory-committees/financial-aid-advisory-committee/] ◦ Information for lunch will be provided in advance; be prepared to bring cash for your lunch on the day of the meeting 	

Agenda Item I. Update: Prior FAAC Business	Charles Contéro-Puls, Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All prior business will be addressed in individual agenda items. 	

Agenda Item J. Presentation: Financial Wellness Learning Collaborative program	Erin Willig, Program Specialist, College Readiness and Success
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the illness of Ms. Willig, her co-collaborator from the Trellis Company, Bryan Ashton, made the presentation • The idea is to bring together higher education professionals in various roles from various parts of the state to have conversations about how we can implement some of the financial wellness recommendations from the Financial Literacy Advisory Committee. • Inputs, Activities, Outputs, and Outcomes, as well as workgroup structure are outlined in the handout. • Hope to develop a network of professionals and IHEs ready to prioritize student financial wellness • Developing a professional development module with Texas OnCourse to train higher education advisers on how to talk to students about financial wellness • Working to understand key points for policy and procedure changes and improvements • Developing a report on the survey of financial wellness programs and recommendations for minimum standards or promising practices • Intent is to take an approach that acknowledges the impact of financial wellness across the campus, as it relates to retention and a broad number of campus components. 	

Agenda Item K. Presentation: FAAC Annual Report	Diane Todd Sprague Past Chair
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the duties of the past chair is preparation of the annual report for presentation to the Board. Provides the Board with an indication of the interaction that occurs between the financial aid community and the Coordinating Board. Report will focus on the committee's work on strengthening the state's program in relation to access and retention: • The ability for the FAAC to interact with the Coordinating Board to provide feedback on initiatives that would have an impact on state financial aid programs is critical • Working with the Coordinating Board on how state programs can align with federal programs to eliminate any artificial barriers to students • Subcommittees have been invaluable to the work of the FAAC • Continuing to work on the electronic TASFA and the benefits that it can provide • Implemented a new member orientation for individuals joining the FAAC 	

Agenda Item L. Update: TASFA Sub-Committee	Robert Merino sub-committee Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was no subcommittee meeting since the last FAAC meeting College Readiness and Success has submitted proposed rules on the TASFA advisory committee, with a 30 day comment period ending November 25 They are hoping to begin nominations beginning February 20, 2020. 	

Agenda Item M. Update: Data Collection Sub-Committee	Samantha Stalnaker sub-committee Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> De Chà Reid presented in Samantha's absence – sub-committee met October 30, 2019, and went over the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed proposal to redesign the net price calculator tool –it can be cumbersome for students when pulling information and information is not as consistent as it needs to be. Looking for a re-design that is user-friendly for students, institutions, and public and in full compliance. Committee's primary feedback was 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 – looking at security; uses an institution login not individual account login; looking at how it would work with individual accounts. Primary feedback from committee was to make sure the transition to individual accounts doesn't impact data reporting. Grant payment system – improving the system that rolled out August 1. Feedback – email notification after request, at the approval, and at disbursement because other areas at the institutions are affected but don't have access to the system. A recent change allows institutions to extract data from the request screen and to see the document number for the transaction detail to track disbursements. Looking into the FAD cycles and reconciliation –Looking at making cycle two an informational cycle instead of reconciliation cycle to ease the process to acknowledge the increased opportunities for summer financial aid activity. The mentorship program has made some significant improvements in their reporting to help align with FAD. Continuing to look at duplicated data elements to see what opportunities may exist for efficiency. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FADS cycle dates upcoming 19-20 Cycle one – opens Feb 10, 2020, with a deadline of April 17, 2020 Cycle two – opens June 22, 2020, with a deadline August 28, 2020 Cycle three - opens September 28, 2020 with a deadline December 11, 2020 	

Agenda Item N. Update: Legislative Recommendations Subcommittee	Shannon Crossland, Chair
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Started committee in October. Want to explore Legislative recommendations for 87th legislature Will have proposal for recommendations prior to March 2020 meeting for FAAC review. Potential items for review include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal and state financial aid alignment opportunities such as selective service, satisfactory academic progress, and controlled substance requirements Populations not being served Work as a resource Priority financial aid deadline Promise programs Course program of study Net Price Calculator 	

Agenda Item O. Update: TASFAA Recommendations and Feedback	Lyn Kinyon, TASFAA President
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No information at this point 	

Agenda Item P. Update: School District Recommendations and Feedback	Terry Sheneman, Fort Bend ISD
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is his last meeting one the FAAC. No information to report. Shonna Norton has accepted a nomination; her nomination goes to CAAP in December and Board in January for approval. Her first official FAAC meeting is March 2020. 	

Agenda Item Q. Discussion: FAFSA State Deadline Language	Charles Contéro-Puls Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required No requests for changes were received
Critical Discussion Points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The language being used for Texas is now more in line with other states 	

Agenda Item R. Discussion: Proposed Updates to Texas Administrative Code	Charles Contéro-Puls Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SFAP will investigate whether FAD data can provide insight into impact of priority deadline. Members will connect with colleagues/staffs to gather input on priority deadline concepts

Presentation Summary:

- Proposed updates discussed at the September meeting are being handled as follows:
 - Changes to TEOG program and old conditional grant programs for teachers will be posted in the Texas Register late January/early February
 - Proposed updates are being reviewed to strengthen participation in TASSP and the opportunities for service after graduation. Looking to try to reduce artificial barriers and improve participation and nominations from Legislators.
 - Updating B-on-Time but delaying posting until late April or early May so we can delete rules that relate to making new awards since program is phasing out; no new awards will be allowed after this year.
- Seeking feedback on potential approaches to addressing the challenges that have been identified related to the priority deadline. Since administrative code can be changed more easily than statute, seeking input on whether there is any opportunity to address the identified challenges through rule changes.
 - Challenges identified include: deadline doesn't align with the transfer process; deadline impacts an institution's flexibility to award to different populations; deadline causes confusion for students transferring between the different sectors of higher education
 - Feedback received has been: while there is a state required priority deadline, the true deadline varies across institutions, since some schools will use an earlier date; for some schools it's a priority, while for others it's really a cut-off due to limited funding, and still others have to spend a lot of time explaining that it is not a cut-off; the diversity of the types of students make it difficult to have a common priority; the common date doesn't benefit each institution in the same way due to the diversity of institutions; priority is not a guarantee of funding, and may have become more of a rationing tool; was introduced as a means of encouraging students to complete the FAFSA but may have become a deterrent to students who miss the deadline
 - HB3 introduces additional challenges: FAFSA is now required for high school graduation, so is the priority deadline now redundant; and what happens if the high school has a different FAFSA deadline for high school graduation than the priority deadline
 - Looking at whether there is an opportunity to move the priority deadline later to align with high school graduation requirements, and less of an attempt to articulate what every institution must use. Seeking feedback on whether this is an idea the agency should continue to explore, and whether the appropriate way to address it is via rule or statute.

Critical Discussion Points:

- Clarified that the TEXAS Grant Priority Model is not directly linked to the Priority Deadline; a question being considered is which priorities are most critical (e.g. is the academic-based priority of the Priority Model more or less critical than the time-based priority of the Priority Deadline)
- HB3 may eliminate any deterrent, since high school students will now be required to graduate, though the deterrent may still exist for "non-traditional" populations
- Any discussion should consider how the priority deadline will impact allocations, as well as how any flexibility that has been introduced into their use of funding
- Not having a deadline may result in the loss of any incentive for a student/parent to get the FAFSA done.
- There's a lack of clarity on what the state is trying to achieve with the priority deadline.
- Limited funds result in aid being awarded on a first-come first served basis, though those who apply late may often be the ones who need the most help and may be the ones who help the state achieve its completion goals.
- Intent of the statute was to create consistency, though only in a small population of institutions; though the creation of the priority deadline occurred prior to the HB3 implementation of a FAFSA deadline, so need to assess how those statutes interact.

Agenda Item S. Update: Preliminary Considerations for 87th Legislative Session	Charles Contéro-Puls Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This agenda item does NOT reflect any decision by the agency to pursue certain changes. Instead, it is an opportunity for the FAAC to help the agency better understand the various ideas and suggestions that have arisen regarding the state's financial aid programs. • At the recent TASFAA conference, some ideas were presented for feedback, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ federal and state financial aid alignment (conference members suggested some additional opportunities for alignment, including record retention requirements, and repeated coursework and eligible coursework limits); ◦ priority deadline (conference member feedback was to let institutions determine what is the best deadline for their organization and student body); ◦ work as a resource and considering work from a much broader perspective, such as the new Texas WORKS program, and potentially revising the allocation rule to create more flexibility (conference members acknowledged that work-study reallocations don't result in the creation of new work opportunities but rather allow institutions to recategorize institutional work-study as state work-study); ◦ student populations who aren't served or are underserved by our programs (conference feedback provided additional populations, such as for-profit colleges and upper-middle income families); ◦ decentralized nature of the state's programs results in lack of portability of grants; • Conference feedback provided some "nitty-gritty" details of unintended consequences of program requirements (such as the challenge in TEOG when Pell can't be used as a matching grant but there's not enough need to award other funds); this detailed feedback helps the agency understand what is occurring in the field. • Conference feedback was very similar to prior FAAC feedback, which helps increase the agency's confidence level that FAAC feedback provides a good, broad-based picture of the financial aid community. 	

Agenda Item T. Update: Office of Student Financial Aid Programs	Charles Contéro-Puls Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly webcasts will resume in the new year – notifications will go out • Pay attention to upcoming deadlines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ User access portal review was due Nov 15 – if you haven't met this deadline, do so immediately to keep access ◦ State campus-based programs report due December 13. Form was simplified, removing unnecessary information ◦ Financial aid database certification due December 16. VERY CRITICAL to meet this deadline. Financial Aid services team will help you and work with you to solve any issues • Eliminated the academic hold requirement. Academic holds did not help achieve completion and the goals of 60x30TX. The November report should be used to remove those holds. • SFAP will be implementing expanded due diligence to a group of at-risk borrowers. • In December, the loan origination process will be streamlined so that loans for the majority of students will be available to an institution for certification within minutes of the borrower completing the application. 	

Agenda Item U. Discussion: Topics for Future Meetings	Robert Merino, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Suggested Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals by presidential candidates to offer free higher education, loan forgiveness, etc. If something like that were to move forward, what would it mean for state financial aid? FAFSA high school completion – how will it relate to ApplyTexas so we can start thinking about it <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review TEA website video as it relates to FAFSA Will add a standing agenda item for future meetings on this topic Presentation on pilot project for Pell Grants dual credit students and incarcerated students Presentation on recognizing hidden bias and professional judgment Be on the lookout for future topics from conferences you attend; email Dr. Contéro-Puls with your ideas 	

Agenda Item V. Adjournment	Robert Merino, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next meeting March 5, 2020 Meeting adjourned 	

March 5, 2020

Meeting Notes

Committee Members in Attendance		Committee Members Absent
Robert Merino (Chair) Ed Kerestly (Vice Chair) Charles Contéro-Puls Tacey Anderson Dr. Ben Bholan Shannon Crossland Rachele Garrett Lyn Kinyon Thomas Ratliff	Joy Thomas Denise Welch Brent Williford <u>Via Teleconference:</u> Karla Flores Heidi Granger Tam Nguyen Formon Thompson	Paul Galyean Diane Todd Sprague (Past Chair) Samantha Stalnaker Christine Stuart-Carruthers Brent Williford Marilyn Abedrabbo (Student Rep) Johnathan Cereceres (Student Rep)

Agenda Item A. Welcome, Introductions, and Overview of Meeting	Robert Merino, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A

Agenda Item B. Consideration of Approval of Minutes from meetings held November 21, 2019	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 Shannon Crossland; all members voted in favor 	

Agenda Item C. Recognition of Outgoing Student Representatives	Charles Contéro-Puls, Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The committee recognized the two students with terms ending 	

Agenda Item D. Update: Prior FAAC Business	Charles Contéro-Puls, Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Action Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All prior business has been included in the day's agenda 	

Agenda Item E. Presentation: Senate Bill 1474 and Its Impact on New Student Loan Options	Mr. Ken Martin, Assistant Commissioner/CFO and Debra Urias, Vice President, Brazos Higher Education Servicing Corporation
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SB 1474 enables other providers to pursue student and parent lending products Deborah Urias and Justin Green from Brazos Higher Education Servicing Corporation provided details on the parent loan product Brazos has developed based on SB 1474. 	

Agenda Item F. Presentation: Department of Education Experimental Sites Initiative; Second Chance Pell (<i>Via Skype</i>)	Felipe Leal, Director of Financial Aid, Lee College, and Cynthia Martinez, Financial Aid Senior Advisor, Southwest Texas Junior College
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cynthia Martinez provided an overview of how the Second Chance Pell program has been implemented by Southwest Texas Junior College at the Dolph Briscoe Correctional Institution. 	

Agenda Item G. Presentation: Department of Education Experimental Sites Initiative; Pell Grants for Students in Dual Enrollment	Don Hilton, Director of Financial Aid, Ranger College
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don Hilton provided an overview of how the Pell Grant program for Dual Credit students has been implemented by Ranger College Action Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ed Kerestly raised the point that ongoing interest in expanding and strengthening dual credit enrollment in the state may result in legislative interest in this program and how it fits into the state's overall goals, which the agency may wish to follow closely. 	

Agenda Item H. Discussion: House Bill 3 (FAFSA/TASFA Graduation Requirement) and House Bill 2140 (Online TASFAA)	Claudette Jenks, Director, College Readiness and Success
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Claudette Jenks provided an overview of the activities that are occurring at TEA and THECB regarding the FAFSA/TASFA high school graduation requirement in HB 3 and the online TASFA requirement in HB Action Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lyn Kinyon raised the point regarding associated costs and questioned whether students would be charged for filing a TASFA. Claudette clarified that the advisory committee would provide guidance on how development and maintenance costs would most appropriately be addressed. Ed Kerestly raised the point that involving financial aid software providers early in the planning process is critical. Claudette clarified that the advisory committee would solicit information from vendors/stakeholders as part of their discussions. Charles Contéro-Puls raised the point of the difference between the timeliness of receiving FAFSA data and needing to understand why institutions receive data much faster than the agency does. 	

Agenda Item I. Discussion: Proposed Update to Texas Administrative Code Related to TEXAS Grants	Charles Contéro-Puls, Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required Proposed rules will be posted in the <i>Texas Register</i>
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charles Contéro-Puls reviewed proposed updates to the Texas Administrative Code regarding TEXAS Grant prior to posting the proposed rules in the <i>Texas Register</i>. Action Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee members confirmed that the term "award" is being replaced by "grant" and "offer" in published materials. As changes are proposed to the administrative code in the future, this will be integrated into proposed rules. Committee members did not raise any concerns regarding the proposed rules as they exist within statutory limitations. 	

Agenda Item J. Discussion: Proposed Update to Texas Administrative Code Related to Adding a Definition of Academic Year	Charles Contéro-Puls, Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required Proposed rules will be posted in the <i>Texas Register</i>
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charles Contéro-Puls reviewed a proposed update to the Texas Administrative Code regarding the definition of "academic year," prior to posting the proposed rule in the <i>Texas Register</i>. Action Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee members agreed that aligning the state definition with the federal definition would be helpful. Shannon Crossland suggested a change in wording that will be incorporated into the proposed rule before it is published in the <i>Texas Register</i>. 	

Agenda Item K. Discussion: Proposed Update to Texas Administrative Code Related to Repealing the Grant Pro-Ration Requirements	Charles Contéro-Puls, Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required Proposed rules will be posted in the <i>Texas Register</i>
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charles Contéro-Puls reviewed a proposed update to the Texas Administrative Code regarding the elimination of grant pro-ration in TEXAS Grant, TEOG, and TEG, prior to posting in the <i>Texas Register</i>. Action Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee members agreed that elimination of grant pro-ration would provide institutions with greater flexibility to make determinations as to what best suits the needs of their student population. 	

Agenda Item L. Discussion: Proposed Convening of a Negotiated Rule-Making Committee on Texas College Work-Study	Charles Contéro-Puls Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required Charles Contéro-Puls will begin agency discussions on launching negotiated rulemaking
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charles Contéro-Puls reviewed a proposal to convene a negotiated rule-making committee focused on the allocation process for the Texas Work-Study Program with a focus on greater flexibility for institutions. He also reviewed the plan to shift the Texas Work-Study Program disbursement process from a single disbursement at the start of the year to disbursements on an as-needed basis. Action Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee members agreed that a negotiated rule-making process would be a good use of participants time. 	

Agenda Item M. Update: TASFA Sub-Committee	Robert Merino Sub-Committee Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robert Merino provided an overview of the TASFA sub-committee discussions which have occurred since the last FAAC meeting. Items being considered: including AGI on the TASFA; considering September 1 release date for institutions and October 1 for students; additional institutional surveys to gather more feedback 	

Agenda Item N. Update: Data Collection Sub-Committee	Samantha Stalnaker, Sub-Committee Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Samantha Stalnaker provided an overview of the Data Collection sub-committee discussions which have occurred since the last FAAC meeting. Four agenda items at the last subcommittee meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on grants payments system – two enhancements –email notifications for fund requests, return of funds and payment; additional role for access – processing access or review access (viewing only) FAD Data Review Findings – FAD edits that weren't working as intended have been fixed, and additional edits have been added to address data inconsistencies TCWS funds request form – Subcommittee provided input on potential approaches to institutional fund requests that better align with when institutions expend the funds. Updates: Subcommittee provided feedback on upcoming SFAP activities and challenges being reviewed Action Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In response to a question about how coronavirus -related events might impact student eligibility, Charles Contéro-Puls indicated that the agency is meeting to discuss efforts and management procedures in relation to the coronavirus. Charles Contéro-Puls raised the question of how Federal Work-Study Funds are down through the federal system to better understand how the state work-study approach might align with the federal approach. He will review the federal approach in more detail. 	

Agenda Item O. Update: Legislative Recommendations Subcommittee	Shannon Crossland, Sub-Committee Chair
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required The subcommittee will update their report to incorporate the items proposed by FAAC members.
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shannon Crossland presented the recommendations of the Legislative Recommendations sub-committee. Action Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kelly Steelman proposed adding the state's "debt letter" to the list of discussion items for the sub-committee to review in considering federal and state alignment. Ed Kerestly proposed having the subcommittee address whether the financial implications of the expanded eligibility based on aligning the state SAP guidelines with federal guidelines would influence the subcommittee's recommendation. Charles Contéro-Puls proposed having the subcommittee address whether the lack of legislative appropriations to fund an increase to the Target Award would influence the subcommittee's recommendation. Charles Contéro-Puls proposed (during Agenda Item S) having the subcommittee indicate more detail on what they would be looking for in a data-informed study on the Priority Deadline. 	

Agenda Item P. Update: TASFAA Recommendations and Feedback	Lyn Kinyon, TASFAA President
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lyn Kinyon presented an update on recent TASFAA activities and upcoming events. 	

Agenda Item Q. Update: School District Recommendations and Feedback	Ben Bholan, Arlington ISD
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ben Bholan provided a School District perspective based on the new state requirements regarding FAFSA completion. School Districts are encouraged by the new requirements, though there are concerns as to how the 100% expectations will be implemented given the challenges that may prevent families from following through on the requirement. 	

Agenda Item R. Discussion: Interaction of Priorities Impacting State Financial Aid	Charles Contéro-Puls Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required Program Guidelines will be updated to provide clarity on the interaction of the various priorities
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charles Contéro-Puls presented the agency's interpretation of how the various TEXAS grant priorities interact to gather committee feedback on how the agency's interpretation aligns with institutional practice. Action Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee members indicated that the agency's interpretation largely aligns with institutional practice. 	

Agenda Item S. Discussion: Priority Deadline	Charles Contéro-Puls Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required Similar charts will be assembled looking at all eligible students
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charles Contéro-Puls presented data that had been assembled regarding TEXAS Grant, TEOG, and TEG recipients in relation to FAFSA filing date and demographics. 	

Agenda Item T. FAAC Nomination Process	Charles Contéro-Puls Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required The nomination timeline will be revised to allow new members to start their term in September
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charles Contéro-Puls presented the process for collecting nominations for the FAAC. He also raised the question of whether the committee thought the start of the term dates should be shifted from December, back to September. Action Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee members supported the proposed change to have terms start in September and adjusting the nomination timeline accordingly. Lyn Kinyon raised the point that the TASFAA President has typically been the TASFAA Representative on the FAAC, but the individual's term as TASFAA President does not start until November 1. Charles will review this with TASFAA to determine how best to accommodate this. 	

Agenda Item U. Update: Office of Student Financial Aid Programs	Charles Contéro-Puls Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charles Contéro-Puls presented an update of recent activities in the Office of Student Financial Aid Programs Recent updates to our resources (training materials, guidelines, memos, etc.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institutions Calendar – Spring 2020 Consanguinity or Affinity Scholarship Statement Six new exemption guidelines Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Grant Award Amounts – FY 2021 Tuition Set-Asides – Uniform Standards FAD Cycle One opened Feb 21 Upcoming items that will occur before the June FAAC meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TASFAA Regional Trainings FAS Webcast – Mar. 10 Deadlines (processing, reports, etc.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opt In/Out Survey (all institutions) - deadline Feb. 28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Texas College Work-Study (TCWS) Work-Study Student Mentorship (WSMP) Educational Aide Exemption (EAE) Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG) Good Neighbor Recommendations – deadline Mar. 15 Recent SFAP Accomplishments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant Payment Platform Enhancements (discussed in Agenda Item N) Loan origination automation was implemented Dec 17 to speed the approval of borrower applications so that institutions can certify loans more quickly Enhanced due diligence efforts have been implemented to provide more active outreach to support borrowers who may be more likely to become delinquent 	

Agenda Item V. Discussion: Topics for Future Meetings	Robert Merino, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required Members will e-mail Robert with recommended meeting topics
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robert Merino requested input from the committee on future meeting topics Action Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topic suggestion: Are there opportunities to expand financial literacy efforts for parents and high school students given the new FAFSA graduation requirement 	

Agenda Item W. Adjournment	Robert Merino, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required Meeting Adjourned
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Next meeting June 4, 2020• Be sure to send in your Attendance Form to Michelle, even if you attended on the phone• Shannon Crossland moved to adjourn; Thomas Ratliff seconded the motion.	

September 3, 2020

Meeting Notes

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"> Claudette Jenks provided an overview of the activities that are occurring at TEA and THECB regarding the FAFSA/TASFA high school graduation requirement in HB 3 and the online TASFA requirement in HB 2140 HB3 going into effect for Class of 2022; still in development phase Dr. Jenks provided an update from the TEA FAFSA advisory committee, which has been meeting monthly until the fall at least <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently discussing student opt-out form – can be signed by student over 18 or by a parent or counselor for minors Dr. Jenks' THECB TASFA advisory committee is meeting frequently as the committee is on an expedited timeline to discuss development of the eTASFA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussing procedure, development, cost System considerations – how to upload additional documents (tax docs, selective service, etc) to tie to TASFA electronically Security considerations are a big concern Meeting with institutions using an existing eTASFA Organized the committee into two panels (one focusing on higher education side and student focused, looking at student experience, how they can use hardcopy and online TASFA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institutions panel: UT Austin (vendor for ApplyTexas platform), Texas A&M, Texas A&M San Antonio, UNT, Univ of Houston (have not attended), institutions that have an existing eTASFA or are developing/implementing a system Other states with an electronic form will provide insight at next meeting Where will funding come from? Looking at funding options for developing as well as maintenance of system Results due to Legislature January 1, 2021 <p>Committee Question – is the intent of this form to have a common way for all students to complete the same form, then we are going to collect the information, then upload it into our system to calculate the federal methodology EFC or will you be calculating the federal methodology into this process so that you're calculating the EFC just as the federal processor does with the FAFSA?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good question – has come up before during discussions – this will depend on the vendor, with a homegrown system building from scratch, all of those mechanisms will have to be installed from scratch, from conversations with the committee and stakeholders, most want very similar structure to the FAFSA - data obtained, transmittal, etc. Basically – homegrown vs vendor. More discussion and decisions to come <p>Question: what about linking the selective service website? This limits the undocumented population since it needs an SSN to register.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This was only a suggestion, not set in stone. Institutions are looking at something similar to the FAFSA. <p>Question: is there a virtual or video assistance available?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very good suggestion, the panel has raised this issue, and support is moving in that direction. <p>Action Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Another TASFAC advisory committee meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2020 Focus is on information gathering 	

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
Presentation Summary: <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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	

Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics

AGENDA ITEM V-G (1)

Consideration of adopting the proposed amendments to Chapter 17, Subchapter L, Section 17.113 of Board rules, concerning the Institutional Audit Cycle

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

Background Information:

Texas Education Code (TEC), Section 61.0583 requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to conduct a comprehensive audit of educational and general facilities on the campuses of public senior colleges and universities and the Texas State Technical College System to verify the accuracy of the facilities inventory for each of those institutions. Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Title 19, Section 17.113(b) requires that each institution be audited a minimum of once each five years.

Because the timeline requirement was adopted by rule and not specified in the TEC, by changing Rule 17.113, the THECB will gain flexibility in the audit timeline for cases of natural disaster or other circumstances resulting in a need for prioritizing audits at an institution during a certain fiscal year. This change would not amend the rule text limiting these audits to not more than once every five years except upon specific request as required under Rule 17.113.

Section 17.113(b) is amended to remove the requirement that institutions must be audited a minimum of once each five years to allow flexibility in the scheduling of the audits.

Section 17.113(c) is amended due to division name changes and provides that staff of the THECB will publish the schedule rather than specifying a division.

Ms. Emily Cormier, Assistant Commissioner for Funding, will be available to answer questions.

Date published in the *Texas Register*: November 20, 2020

The 30-day comment period with the *Texas Register* ended on: December 20, 2020

No comments were received during the public comment period.

The amendments have been prepared in the following format:

- New language is in lowercase, underlined, and shaded.
- Deleted language is bracketed and struck through.
- When new language replaces deleted language, the new language precedes the deleted language.

Chapter 17 Resource Planning

Subchapter L Facilities Audit

Sections

§17.110 General Provisions

§17.111 Facilities Audit Objectives

§17.112 Data Sources

§17.113 Institutional Audit Cycle

§17.114 On-Site Audit

§§17.110 – 17.112 No Change.

§17.113 Institutional Audit Cycle

(a) The Board shall determine the frequency and the scope of the audits authorized by this section; audits shall be limited to objectives stated in 17.111 of this title (relating to Facilities Audit Objectives).

(b) ~~[Each institution of higher education shall be audited a minimum of once each five years.]~~
The Board may conduct an audit [Audits] of an institution ~~[institutions may be conducted]~~ more often than every five years upon the request of the institution, the Board, the Legislature, or another agency within revenue appropriated for this purpose.

(c) Staff of the Board ~~[The Office of Resource Planning]~~ shall publish a schedule of audits for the succeeding fiscal year.

§17.114 No Change.

AGENDA ITEM V-G (2)

Consideration of adopting the proposed amendments to Chapter 22, Subchapter A, Section 22.1 of Board rules, definitions for student financial aid programs

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

Background Information:

Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Section 22.1(1) is amended to define the phrase "academic year" throughout the chapter to align the use of the phrase in state financial aid programs with its use in federal financial aid programs. Remaining definitions are renumbered accordingly.

Dr. Charles W. Contéro-Puls, Assistant Commissioner for Student Financial Aid Programs, will be available to answer questions.

Date published in the *Texas Register*: November 6, 2020.

The 30-day comment period with the *Texas Register* ended on: December 6, 2020.

No comments were received regarding this rule.

The amendments have been prepared in the following format:

- New language is in lowercase, underlined, and shaded.
- Deleted language is bracketed and struck through.
- When new language replaces deleted language, the new language precedes the deleted language.

CHAPTER 22 STUDENT FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

SUBCHAPTER A GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sections

- §22.1. Definitions
- §22.2. Timely Distribution of Funds
- §22.3. Student Compliance with Selective Service Registration
- §22.4. Records Retention
- §22.5. Exclusion of Certain Resources in Determining Need for State Aid
- §22.6. Priority Deadline for Applying for State Aid
- §22.7. Dissemination of Information and Rules
- §22.9. Institutional Responsibilities
- §22.10. Grade Point Average Calculations for Satisfactory Academic Progress
- §22.11. Provisions Specific to the TEXAS Grant, TEOG, TEG, and Texas Work-Study Programs

§22.1. Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in Chapter 22, shall have the following meanings, unless otherwise defined in a particular subchapter:

(1) Academic Year -- The combination of semesters defined by a public or private institution of higher education to fulfill the federal "academic year" requirement as defined by 34 CFR 668.3.

(2) [(1)] Attempted Semester Credit Hours -- Every course in every semester for which a student has been registered as of the official Census Date, including but not limited to, repeated courses and courses the student drops and from which the student withdraws. For transfer students, transfer hours and hours for optional internship and cooperative education courses are included if they are accepted by the receiving institution towards the student's current program of study.

(3) [(2)] Awarded--Offered to a student.

(4) [(3)] Board or Coordinating Board--The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(5) [(4)] Board Staff--The staff of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(6) [(5)] Categorical Aid--Gift aid that the institution does not award to the student, but that the student brings to the school from a non-governmental third party.

(7) [(6)] Commissioner--The Commissioner of Higher Education, the Chief Executive Officer of the Board.

(8) [~~(7)~~] Cost of Attendance/Total Cost of Attendance--An institution's estimate of the expenses incurred by a typical financial aid recipient in attending a particular institution of higher education. It includes direct educational costs (tuition and fees) as well as indirect costs (room and board, books and supplies, transportation, and personal expenses, and other allowable costs for financial aid purposes).

(9) [~~(8)~~] Degree or certificate program of four years or less--A baccalaureate degree or certificate program other than a program determined by the Board to require four years or less to complete.

(10) [~~(9)~~] Degree or certificate program of more than four years--A baccalaureate degree or certificate program determined by the Board to require more than four years to complete.

(11) [~~(10)~~] Encumber--Program funds that have been officially requested by an institution through procedures developed by the Coordinating Board.

(12) [~~(11)~~] Entering undergraduate--A student enrolled in the first 30 semester credit hours or their equivalent, excluding hours taken during dual enrollment in high school and courses for which the student received credit through examination.

(13) [~~(12)~~] Expected Family Contribution (EFC)--A measure of how much the student and his or her family can be expected to contribute to the cost of the student's education for the year as determined following the federal methodology.

(14) [~~(13)~~] Financial Need--The Cost of Attendance at a particular public or private institution of higher education less the Expected Family Contribution. The Cost of Attendance and Expected Family Contribution are to be determined in accordance with Board guidelines.

(15) [~~(14)~~] Full-Time--For undergraduate students, enrollment or expected enrollment for the equivalent of twelve or more semester credit hours per semester. For graduate students, enrollment or expected enrollment for the normal full-time course load of the student's program of study as defined by the institution.

(16) [~~(15)~~] Gift Aid--Grants, scholarships, exemptions, waivers, and other financial aid provided to a student without a requirement to repay the funding or earn the funding through work.

(17) [~~(16)~~] Graduate student--A student who has been awarded a baccalaureate degree and is enrolled in coursework leading to a graduate or professional degree

(18) [~~(17)~~] Half-Time--For undergraduates, enrollment or expected enrollment for the equivalent of at least six but fewer than nine semester credit hours per regular semester. For graduate students, enrollment or expected enrollment for the equivalent of 50 percent of the normal full-time course load of the student's program of study as defined by the institution.

(19) [(18)] Period of enrollment--The semester or semesters within the current state fiscal year (September 1-August 31) for which the student was enrolled in an approved institution and met all eligibility requirements for an award through this program.

(20) [(19)] Program Officer--The individual named by each participating institution's chief executive officer to serve as agent for the Board. The Program Officer has primary responsibility for all ministerial acts required by the program, including the determination of student eligibility, selection of recipients, maintenance of all records, and preparation and submission of reports reflecting program transactions. Unless otherwise indicated by the institution's chief executive officer, the director of student financial aid shall serve as Program Officer.

(21) [(20)] Residency Core Questions--A set of questions developed by the Coordinating Board to be used to determine a student's eligibility for classification as a resident of Texas, available for downloading from the Coordinating Board's website, and incorporated into the ApplyTexas application for admission.

(22) [(21)] Resident of Texas--A resident of the State of Texas as determined in accordance with Chapter 21, Subchapter B of this title (relating to Determination of Resident Status). Nonresident students who are eligible to pay resident tuition rates are not residents of Texas.

(23) [(22)] Semester -- A payment period, as defined by 34 CFR 668.4(a) or 34 CFR 668.4(b)(1)

(24) [(23)] Three-Quarter-Time--For undergraduate students, enrollment or expected enrollment for the equivalent of at least nine but fewer than 12 semester credit hours per semester. For graduate students, enrollment or expected enrollment for the equivalent of 75 percent of the normal full-time course load of the student's program of study as defined by the institution.

(25) [(24)] Timely Distribution of Funds--Activities completed by institutions of higher education related to the receipt and distribution of state financial aid funding from the Board and subsequent distribution to recipients or return to the Board.

(26) [(25)] Undergraduate student--An individual who has not yet received a baccalaureate degree.

§§22.2. – 22.11. No Change.

Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics

AGENDA ITEM V-H

Consideration of approving the recommendation to enter into staff augmentation and technology service contracts to support implementation of the data modernization initiative

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

Background Information:

Supplemental Materials will be forthcoming.

Ms. Lori Fey, Deputy Commissioner for Data Analytics and Innovation, will provide a brief update presentation and be available to answer questions.