

TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

COMMITTEE ON INNOVATION, DATA, AND EDUCATIONAL ANALYTICS

1200 E. Anderson Lane
Austin, Texas 78752
Board Room

Live Broadcast available at: <https://www.highered.texas.gov>

CHAIR
S. Javaid Anwar

VICE CHAIR
Welcome W. Wilson, Jr.

Fred Farias, III, O.D.
R. Sam Torn
Robert P. Gauntt
Richard L. Clemmer
Daniel O. Wong

Matthew B. Smith,
Student Representative, Ex-Officio

January 26, 2022
9:00 a.m.

This meeting is conducted in person or via video conference, pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.127. A quorum of the board of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (Board) may be present in the Board Room, which is open to the public.

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://www.highered.texas.gov/public-testimony>.

- I. Welcome and committee chair's meeting overview
- II. Consideration of approval of the minutes from the October 20, 2021, 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: Overview of proposed methodologies to inform goals and targets for credentials of value and student debt
 - B. Update on Data Modernization Initiative
 - C. Consideration of approval of the data report required by Texas Education Code, Section 51.4033 and Section 51.4034, related to nontransferable credit and transfer courses
 - D. Report on Financial Aid Advisory Committee activities
- VI. Adjournment

Note: Highlighted items in gray are on the consent calendar.

Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics

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. Only assigned committee members act upon any item before the Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics at this meeting.

Weapons Prohibited: Pursuant to Texas Penal Code, Section 46.03(a)(14), a person commits an offense if the person intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly possesses or goes with a firearm, location-restricted knife, club, or prohibited weapon listed in Section 46.05 in the room or rooms where a meeting of a governmental entity is held, if the meeting is an open meeting subject to Chapter 551, Government Code, and if the entity provided notice as required by that chapter.

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 20, 2021, 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

Via Live Broadcast

October 20, 2021, 9:00 a.m.

DRAFT Minutes

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board *Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics* convened via Zoom at 9:03 a.m. on October 20, 2021, with the following members present: Welcome W. Wilson, Jr., vice chair; Ricky A. Raven; R. Sam Torn; Donna N. Williams; Matthew B. Smith, student representative, ex-officio; and Fred Farias, III, O.D.

S. Javaid Anwar, chair, was not in attendance.

Other Board members present: Rick Clemmer, Robert Gauntt, and Emma Schwartz

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	<p>Before the meeting was called to order, Chairman Dr. Fred Farias began the meeting at 9:06 a.m. and made announcements. He congratulated Mr. Ricky Raven in his new appointment by Governor Greg Abbott on October 19, 2021, to the University of Houston Board of Regents and announced his departure from service to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. He then welcomed two new board members appointed by Governor Abbott, Mr. Richard L. Clemmer and Mr. Robert P. Gauntt, to the meeting and stated that he would formally introduce them at the meeting of the full board scheduled for the next day, October 21, 2021. He then turned the meeting over to Mr. Welcome W. Wilson, Jr., vice chair. Mr. S. Javaid Anwar, chair, was not in attendance.</p> <p>Mr. Wilson, vice chair, called the meeting of the Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics to order at 9:10 a.m. and announced the meeting was being held via live broadcast. Mr. Wilson established that a quorum was met.</p>
II. Consideration of approval of the minutes from the July 21, 2021, meeting of the Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics	<p>On motion by Mr. Raven, seconded by Dr. Farias, the committee approved this item with all members voting in favor.</p>

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
III. Public testimony on agenda items relating to the Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics	Mr. Wilson stated there was no public testimony.
IV. Consideration of approval of the consent calendar	On motion by Ms. Williams, seconded by Dr. Farias, the committee approved agenda items V-D, V-E, and V-G, with all members voting in favor.
<p>V. Matters relating to the Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics</p> <p>A. 60x30TX Data Insight: Preliminary headcount for fall 2021</p> <p>B. Update on Data Modernization Initiative</p> <p>C. Update on Formula Funding Advisory Committees</p> <p>D. Consideration of approving replacement of a member on the General Academic Institutions Formula Funding Advisory Committee and a member on the Health-Related Institutions Formula Funding Advisory Committee for 2024-2025 biennium</p> <p>E. Review of facilities projects that were submitted to the Coordinating Board, pursuant to Texas Education Code, Sections 61.0572 and 61.058</p> <p>F. Consideration of adopting the "Report on Student Financial Aid in Texas Higher Education, Fiscal Year 2020" (General Appropriations Act, Senate Bill 1, Article III, Section 24, 87th Texas Legislature)</p> <p>G. Consideration of approving the appointment of members to the Financial Aid Advisory Committee</p>	<p>Ms. Lori Fey, Deputy Commissioner for Data Analytics and Innovation, provided a presentation and was available to answer questions.</p> <p>This item was for information only.</p> <p>Ms. Lori Fey, Deputy Commissioner for Data Analytics and Innovation, provided a presentation and was available to answer questions.</p> <p>This item was for information only.</p> <p>Ms. Emily Cormier, Assistant Commissioner for Funding, provided a presentation and was available to answer questions.</p> <p>This item was for information only.</p> <p>This item was approved on the consent calendar.</p> <p>This item was approved on the consent calendar.</p> <p>Mr. Charles Contero-Puls, Assistant Commissioner for Student Financial Aid Programs, provided a presentation and was available to answer questions.</p> <p>On motion by Ms. Williams, seconded by Dr. Farias, the committee approved this item with all members voting in favor.</p> <p>This item was approved on the consent calendar.</p>

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
<p>H. Proposed Rules</p> <p>(1) Consideration of the repeal of Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 17, Subchapters A-F, I, K, and L, concerning Resource Planning and the possible adoption of new rules in Chapter 17 of Board rules, concerning changes to the administration of Facilities Audit, Facilities Inventory, Energy Savings Performance Contracts, Board Reports, Institutional Reporting on facilities programs, and the organization of the aforementioned programs</p>	<p>Ms. Emily Cormier, Assistant Commissioner for Funding, provided a presentation and was available to answer questions.</p> <p>On motion by Mr. Torn, seconded by Mr. Raven, the committee approved this item with all members voting in favor</p>
<p>VII. Adjournment</p>	<p>On motion by Ms. Williams, seconded by Mr. Torn, the committee approved this item with all members present voting in favor.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 10:25 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:

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:

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

No items on consent.

Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics

AGENDA ITEM V-A

60x30TX Data Insight: Overview of proposed methodologies to inform goals and targets for credentials of value and student debt

RECOMMENDATION: No action required

Background Information:

The effort underway to refresh the 60x30TX plan has identified important new measures in two key areas: credentials of value and manageable student debt. THECB has been working with Dr. David Troutman, Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Data Officer of Institutional Research and Advanced Analytics for the Office of Institutional Research and Analysis (OIRA) at The University of Texas System, to develop analyses and methodologies to inform goals and targets in these areas.

Dr. Troutman will provide a brief presentation and be available to answer questions.

Ms. Lori Fey, Deputy Commissioner for Data Analytics and Innovation, will be available to answer questions.

Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics

AGENDA ITEM V-B

Update on Data Modernization Initiative

RECOMMENDATION: No action required

Background Information:

At the October 2021 meeting, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) staff reviewed the status of the Data Modernization Initiative, an 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 and interdependent work streams, each of which is supported by consulting experts as noted below:

- Technical and data architecture and implementation – multiple vendors
- Data governance – Nancy Smith, PhD
- Website organization and upgrades – Mighty Citizen

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

AGENDA ITEM V-C

Consideration of approval of the data report required by Texas Education Code, Section 51.4033 and Section 51.4034, related to nontransferable credit and transfer courses

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

Background Information:

Texas Education Code, 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 (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.

This report describes: (1) courses in the Lower-Division Academic Course Guide Manual that are not granted credit at a receiving general academic teaching institution and (2) the number of courses taken by students at public two-year colleges (referred to as "junior colleges" in statute) who either transferred to general academic teaching institutions or earned associate degrees at the two-year colleges.

The SB 25 Report on Non-Transferable Credit and Courses Taken at Public Two-Year Colleges provides an initial snapshot of the transfer landscape in Texas from the perspective of courses attempted, completed, and transferred by students who took courses at two-year public institutions, either while in high school as dual credit or after high school. Unlike transfer data tracked in the past, this data dives more deeply into student course selection and its relationship to transfer and, ultimately, timely and efficient graduation results.

Dr. Melissa Humphries, Director of P-16 Data Analytics and Research, will be available for questions.

Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics

AGENDA ITEM V-D

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 board of 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 November 2020 through October 2021.

The Financial Aid Advisory Committee (FAAC) is authorized under Texas Education Code, Section 61.0776, and Texas Government Code, Section 2110.0012. FAAC 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.

Denise Welch, chair, and Ed Kerestly, past chair of the FAAC, will present a summary of the FAAC's recent activities and will be available to answer questions.

FINANCIAL AID ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

COMMITTEE ABOLISHMENT DATE: 10/31/2024

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](#)).

Annual Report Period: November 2020 - October 2021

Chair: Ed Kerestly – The University of Texas at Austin

Vice Chair: Denise Welch – Panola College

Past Chair: Robert Merino – San Jacinto Community College

Committee Members and Terms:

DeChà Reid	THECB		Victoria Chen	Texas Christian Univ	Dec 2020 – Oct 2023
Kelly Steelman	Amarillo College	Nov 2018 - Oct 2021	Heidi Granger	UT El Paso	Nov 2018 – Oct 2021
Formon Thompson	Midland College	Nov 2019 – Oct 2022	Rachelle Garrett	Stephen F. Austin	Nov 2019 – Oct 2022
Steven Peterson	Blinn College	Nov 2020 – Oct 2023	Joy Thomas	Prairie View University	Nov 2019 – Oct 2023
Johana Boley	Lone Star College	Nov 2020 – Oct 2023	Bridget Ingram	Texas A&M	Nov 2020 – Oct 2023
Tam Nguyen	UNT Health Science Ct	Nov 2018 – Oct 2021	DeDe Gonzales	Texas State University	Nov 2020 – Oct 2023
Paul Galyean	Jacksonville College	Nov 2018 – Oct 2021	Holly Nolan	UH - Clear Lake	Nov 2020 – Oct 2023
Thomas Ratliff	Abilene Christina Univ	Nov 2019 – Oct 2022	Arnold Trejo	UT San Antonio	Nov 2020 – Oct 2023
Shonna Norton	Wichita Falls ISD	Nov 2020 – Oct 2023	Jase Kugiya	UT Austin - Student Rep	Jun 2020 – May 2022
Taryn Anderson	TASFAA Rep	Nov 2020 – Oct 2021	Ben Bholan	Arlington ISD	Nov 2019 – Oct 2022

Committee Meeting Dates: All meetings were held virtually

- 12-10-2020
- 03-04-2021
- 06-03-2021
- 09-02-2021

Annual Costs Expended

Note: All meetings were held virtually, which led to a reduction in annual expenses and time commitments.

Travel: \$49

Other: N/A

Member Time Commitments: 532.25 hours

Current Recommendations to the Board:

1. Continue to work with the Financial Aid Advisory Committee (FAAC) in providing feedback and recommendations on new initiatives 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 work with TASFA Subcommittee to review and streamline the electronic TASFA.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Continue to 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 several financial aid topics. Highlights included, but are not limited to the following:

- **Hosting/participating in presentations to FAAC** – Working with Coordinating Board staff, FAAC hosted presentations and discussed several topics relative to state financial aid funding and best practices within higher education aid administration. These discussions included but not limited to: Verification and Controlled Substance for State Financial Aid Program, FAFSA Simplification: Student Aid Index, Emergency Aid at the Institutional Level, and a presentation on “Hidden Bias in Professional Judgement” presented by Daniel Barkowitz, Assistant Vice President, Financial Aid and Veterans’ Affairs Valencia College (FL) and Michael Birchett, Bluegrass (KY). FAAC appreciated the opportunity to hear from their colleagues and discuss better ways to serve their student population.
- **TASFA Subcommittee** – FAAC’s TASFA Subcommittee continued to work on the online and paper TASFA to improve the student and institutional experience in delivering information and aid. A non-inclusive list of activities the committee worked on:
 - Recommended changes were based on feedback collected from financial aid representatives via a prior survey, as well as from a series of meetings in April 2021 during which the FAAC’s TASFA subcommittee met jointly with the agency’s Electronic TASFA Advisory Committee.
 - Incorporating a link into the ApplyTexas Counselor suite.
 - Providing file layout to schools and vendors school can calculate an Estimated Family Contribution (EFC).
 - Drafting rules for schools to understand the administration of the online TASFA.
- **Data Collection Subcommittee** - FAAC’s Data Collection Subcommittee continued to work with the THECB to improve and streamline financial aid process. A non-inclusive list of activities the committee worked on:

- Providing valuable input on the language and processing for Selective Service Registration Statement, Drug Conviction for State Aid, and Child Support Arrears.
- Assisting and testing the THECB new approach to collect award data for the state’s Net Price Calculator.
- Proposing language changes to the Financial Aid Database (FAD) instruction manual including the cycle dates.
- Providing feedback on the nine-state financial aid program guidelines that were published in April 2021.

The Subcommittee discussed the agency initiative to improve the importing of institutional data through a data modernization project. The committee recommended that a timeline be offered to schools, so they could better prepare and dedicate resources for new programming. The committee felt that when launching any new platform for FAD, it should be at the start in the first cycle of academic year as opposed to the second or third cycle to lessen confusion. Also, to keep in mind of the timing of the data modernization project along with the FAFSA Simplification that will impact how schools collect federal student data.

- **Legislative Subcommittee.** FAAC had multiple discussions with staff from THECB on various pieces of legislation prior to and post passage of the bills during the 87th legislative session, as well as the restoration of the 5% funding reduction across state grant programs. A non-inclusive list of the bills discussed include:
 - **SB 1860** – extends previous deadline for implementation of an electronic TASFA.
 - **SB 1019** – directs the Coordinating Board to provide data on student borrowers disaggregated by categories: sex, ethnicity, etc. and data to be made available in the Student Financial Aid Report.
 - **HB 1888** – allows higher performing students to graduate early from high school, attend public universities and receive scholarships.

The members of FAAC are appreciative of the Board’s approval for the continuation of the committee and offer the following examples of why the FAAC is important:

- The opportunity to share information helps both the agency and the institutions gain a better understanding and make better decisions related to higher education financial aid issues/concerns
- Provides a platform to identify key services and to discuss how we can make those services more efficient and successful in the administration of programs supporting Texas residents in the pursuit of higher education.
- Allows members representing all sectors assist in the realization of the State’s 60X30 goals
- Provides opportunities to influence research and reporting that will provide relevant data to assist THECB and legislators when considering future proposals relevant to the support of higher education