

**COMMITTEE ON
INNOVATION, DATA,
AND EDUCATIONAL
ANALYTICS**

A G E N D A

**1200 East Anderson Lane, Room 1.170
Austin, Texas**

Live broadcast available at: highered.texas.gov

9:00 A.M., Wednesday, July 27, 2022

Chair: S. Javaid Anwar

Vice Chair: Welcome W. Wilson, Jr.

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

Student Representative: Georgia Blackwell (Ex-Officio)

COMMITTEE ON INNOVATION, DATA, AND EDUCATIONAL ANALYTICS

A G E N D A

Public Testimony: *The 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 of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (Board) after staff has presented the item, or any other time as determined by the chair. For procedures on testifying, please go to higher.ed.texas.gov/public-testimony.*

- I. Welcome and committee chair's meeting overview
- II. Consideration and possible action to approve the minutes from the April 27, 2022, 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 and possible action to approve the consent calendar
- V. Matters relating to the Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics
 - A. *Building a Talent Strong Texas* Data Insight: credentials of value and student debt metrics
 - B. Consideration and possible action to approve the "60x30TX Progress Report"
 - C. Update on Data Modernization Initiative
 - D. Consideration and possible action to approve amending the staff augmentation and technology service contracts pursuant to Rule 1.16 and Government Code, Chapter 2155, with Daman Consulting Incorporated to increase funding, including exceeding \$5 million, and extending the contracts from September 30, 2022, to September 30, 2023, for:
 - (1) contractors working directly on the Data Modernization Initiative project; and
 - (2) backfill positions for the data modernization staff augmentation project
 - E. Consideration and possible action to approve amending the service contract pursuant to Government Code, Chapter 2155, with MDRC by extending the contract from June 30, 2022, to April 30, 2023, and adding additional funds to extend and enhance MDRC's ongoing randomized-controlled trial evaluation of the Texas Transfer Grants Pilot Program

- F. Consideration and possible action to approve entering into Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER)-funded interagency contracts totaling no more than \$30 million with various general academic teaching institutions to support the Toward EXcellence, Access, and Success (TEXAS) Grant program
- G. Consideration and possible action to approve the appointment of members to the Financial Aid Advisory Committee

VI. Adjournment

Executive Session: *The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Agency Operations Committee may convene in Executive Session at any point in this meeting, concerning any item listed in the agenda or to seek or to receive its attorney's advice on legal matters related thereto, pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.071.*

Note: *Because the Board members who attend the committee meeting may create a quorum of the full Board, the meeting of the Agency Operations Committee is also being posted as a meeting of the full Board. Only assigned committee members act upon any item before the Agency Operations Committee 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 Texas Penal Code, 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 Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, 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 and possible action to approve the minutes from the April 27, 2022, 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

April 27, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

DRAFT Minutes

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics convened via Zoom at 9:00 a.m. on *April 27, 2022*, with the following members, present: S. Javaid Anwar, Chair; Welcome W. Wilson, Jr., Vice Chair; Richard L. Clemmer; Robert P. Gauntt; Fred Farias, III, O.D.; R. Sam Torn; Daniel P. Wong; and Matthew B. Smith, Student Representative, Ex-Officio.

Other Board members present: Emma W. Schwartz and Donna N. Williams

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, called the meeting of the Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics to order at 9:00 a.m. and announced the meeting was being held via live broadcast. Mr. Anwar established that a quorum was met.
II. Consideration of approval of the minutes from the January 26, 2022, meeting of the Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics	On motion by Mr. Sam Torn, seconded by Dr. Fred Farias, the committee approved this item with all members voting in favor.
III. Public testimony on agenda items relating to the Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics	Mr. Anwar stated there was no public testimony.
IV. Consideration of approval of the consent calendar	Mr. Anwar stated items on the consent calendar would have two votes: one on the non-rule items, and one on the rule item. No items were added or removed. On motion by Dr. Daniel Wong, seconded by Mr. Welcome Wilson, the committee approved the non-rule agenda items V-D and V-E, with all members voting in favor. On motion by Mr. Sam Torn, seconded by Dr. Fred Farias, the committee approved the rule agenda item V-G (1), with all members voting in favor.

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
<p>V. Matters relating to the Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics</p> <p>A. Update on Data Modernization Initiative</p> <p>B. Consideration and possible action to approve the formula advisory committees' recommendations relating to funding formulas for use by the governor and the Legislative Budget Board in making appropriations recommendations to the appropriate legislative committees</p> <p>D. Consideration and possible action to approve the Energy Savings Performance Contract for University of Houston-Clear Lake</p> <p>E. Consideration and possible action to appoint a student representative to the Financial Aid Advisory Committee</p> <p>F. Consideration and possible action to approve amending the staff augmentation and technology service contracts pursuant to Government Code, Chapter 2155, with Daman Consulting Incorporated from June 30, 2022, to September 30, 2022, for: (1) contractors working directly on the Data Modernization Initiative project; (2) backfill positions for the data modernization staff augmentation project</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 for questions. The Formula Funding Advisory Committee (FAC) chairs, Dr. Brent Wallace, chair of the Community and Technical College FAC, Mr. Daniel Harper, chair of the General Academic Institutions FAC, and Mr. Michael Tramonte, chair of the Health-Related Institutions FAC, also provided presentations and were available to answer questions.</p> <p>On motion by Dr. Daniel Wong, seconded by Dr. Fred Farias, the committee approved this item with six members voting in favor and one member voting against.</p> <p>Agenda item V-D through V-F were taken out of order. This item was approved on the consent calendar.</p> <p>This Item was approved on the consent calendar.</p> <p>Ms. Lori Fey, Deputy Commissioner for Data Analytics and Innovation, presented this item and was available for questions.</p> <p>On motion by Mr. Welcome Wilson, seconded by Dr. Daniel Wong, the committee approved this Item with all members voting in favor.</p>

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
<p>C. Consideration and possible action to adopt the commissioner's recommendation relating to the annual report about the financial condition of the state's community college districts (SB 1, 87th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, Rider 12, III-226)</p> <p>G. Proposed Rules</p> <p>(1) Consideration and possible action to adopt proposed amendments to Chapter 22, Subchapter A, Sections 22.3, 22.6, and 22.11 of Board rules, concerning the Student Financial Aid Programs General Provisions</p>	<p>Ms. Emily Cormier, Assistant Commissioner for Funding, was available for questions.</p> <p>On motion by Dr. Daniel Wong, seconded by Mr. Richard Clemmer, this item was approved with all members voting in favor.</p> <p>This Item was approved on the consent calendar.</p>
<p>VII Adjournment</p>	<p>On motion by Mr. Sam Torn, seconded by Dr. Fred Farias, this item was approved. Meeting adjourned at 10:26 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 and possible action to approve 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

- B. Consideration and possible action to approve the “60x30TX Progress Report”
- G. Consideration and possible action to approve the appointment of members to the Financial Aid Advisory Committee

Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics

AGENDA ITEM V-A

Building a Talent Strong Texas Data Insight: credentials of value and student debt metrics

RECOMMENDATION: No action required

Background Information:

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), in close partnership with institutions, other state agencies, and communities across the state, has launched a refreshed strategic plan to effectively meet the needs of the state's workforce, its economy, and individual Texans. This plan, *Building a Talent Strong Texas (TST)*, began to be rolled out in March and staff continue to work closely with partners to develop tools and resources to support institutions in understanding and meeting the new goals.

In parallel, THECB staff have also 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, and his team on the data analyses and methodologies for two key metrics that are new under the TST plan. Staff will provide an overview of TST plan metrics with a deeper review of these new and groundbreaking metrics.

Ms. Lori Fey, Deputy Commissioner for Data Analytics and Innovation, Ms. Melissa Henderson, Associate Commissioner for Strategic Partnerships, and Dr. David Troutman will provide a presentation and be available to answer questions.

Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics

AGENDA ITEM V-B

Consideration and possible action to approve the “60x30TX Progress Report”

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

Background Information:

Biennially, as required by Texas Education Code, Section 61.051 (a-3), the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) must prepare a report that assesses the state's progress in meeting the goals established in the state's long-range higher education strategic plan. To monitor progress toward the goals and keep a timely focus on areas that may need additional attention, the agency prepares the “60x30TX Progress Report” on an annual basis for presentation to the Board. The 2020 report was presented to the Legislature in November 2020.

This year's progress report represents a final update on the 60x30TX plan. The 60x30TX plan was recently refreshed by a jointly led effort of the THECB and the Texas Higher Education Foundation. The THECB adopted the new plan in January 2022, and it is now known as *Building a Talent Strong Texas*. Beginning in 2023, annual progress reports will be aligned with the metrics and targets associated with that plan.

The seventh progress report on 60x30TX includes progress to date on the goals and targets in the plan since the 2015 baseline year, with an emphasis on changes observed in the most recent year of data available (Fiscal Year 2021 for most plan metrics).

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-C

Update on Data Modernization Initiative

RECOMMENDATION: No action required

Background Information:

At the April 2022 board 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 for the agency to improve insight and actionable data for THECB stakeholders.

The Data Modernization Initiative includes multiple project work streams and is supported by both Governor's Emergency Education Relief funds and philanthropic funds in partnership with the Texas Higher Education Foundation. Implementation of this effort is well underway across several related types of work, which involve multiple vendors, including:

- technical and data architecture and implementation;
- user-facing deliverables design;
- data governance, both internal to THECB and with Tri-Agency partner agencies, Texas Education Agency and Texas Workforce Commission; and
- website organization and upgrades.

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 and possible action to approve amending the staff augmentation and technology service contracts pursuant to Rule 1.16 and Government Code, Chapter 2155, with Daman Consulting Incorporated to increase funding, including exceeding \$5 million, and extending the contracts from September 30, 2022, to September 30, 2023, for:

- (1) contractors working directly on the Data Modernization Initiative project; and
- (2) backfill positions for the data modernization staff augmentation project

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

Total Project Cost: Up to \$6,700,000

Source of Funds: Federal funds allocated through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund

Background Information:

At the April 2022 board meeting, the board of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) approved amending existing contracts for contract staff augmentation to support the Data Modernization Initiative (DMI) and to provide backfill support to the Information Systems and Services (ISS) team. Contracts with the selected vendor – Daman Consulting – have been extended to allow additional work to be completed and to align the contract end date with the expenditure deadline for the associated GEER funds.

Staff is requesting to amend these contracts to support work to be completed between October 1, 2022, and September 30, 2023, the expenditure deadline for the final allocation of GEER funds. This amendment supports completion of DMI deliverables that are essential to full functionality of the new infrastructure and provides backfill support to keep agency systems operational.

THECB staff recommend approving the extension of these agreements to secure the technology resources necessary to move forward with implementing projects related to the Data Modernization Initiative.

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

Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics

AGENDA ITEM V-E

Consideration and possible action to approve amending the service contract pursuant to Government Code, Chapter 2155, with MDRC by extending the contract from June 30, 2022, to April 30, 2023, and adding additional funds to extend and enhance MDRC's ongoing randomized-controlled trial evaluation of the Texas Transfer Grants Pilot Program

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

Total Project Cost: Up to \$930,000

Source of Funds: Federal funds allocated through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund

Background Information:

At the July 2021 board meeting, the board of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) delegated authority to Commissioner Harrison Keller to approve contracts under \$1 million that are funded with federal GEER grants. In December 2021, Commissioner Keller approved entering into a contract with MDRC to assist with the implementation of the GEER-funded Texas Transfer Grants Pilot Program and the evaluation of the program through a randomized-controlled trial.

THECB staff recommend extending the existing contract from the current end date of April 30, 2023, to April 30, 2024, and amending the amount by \$375,000 to allow additional evaluation for a second round of transfer grants to be offered in the spring 2023 semester. This extension and amendment align with the October 2023 deadline for expenditure of the GEER funds allocated to this effort.

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

Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics

AGENDA ITEM V-F

Consideration and possible action to approve entering into Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER)-funded interagency contracts totaling no more than \$30 million with various general academic teaching institutions to support the Toward EXcellence, Access, and Success (TEXAS) Grant program

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

Total Project Cost: Up to \$30,000,000

Source of Funds: Federal funds allocated through the GEER Funds

Background Information:

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board staff seek approval to use up to \$30 million of GEER funding to enter into interagency contracts with various general academic teaching institutions to expand the reach of the Toward EXcellence, Access, and Success (TEXAS) Grant program.

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

Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics

AGENDA ITEM V-G

Consideration and possible action to approve the appointment of members to the Financial Aid Advisory Committee

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

Background Information:

In accordance with Texas Education Code, Section 61.0776, and Texas Government Code, Section 2110.0012, the Financial Aid Advisory Committee (FAAC) was created to make recommendations regarding the development, implementation, and evaluation of state financial aid programs for college students. To strengthen student access to higher education, the committee also advises the board of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) regarding strategies for communicating financial aid information to students, parents, secondary school counselors, and others.

The FAAC consists of individuals representing public and private institutions of higher education, public school counselors, and other stakeholders. All members of the advisory committee have student financial aid, admissions, or enrollment background experience. The FAAC meets quarterly, and most members serve for a term of three years.

The appointments are needed to replace outgoing members whose terms have expired and to expand representation within certain institutional sectors and geographic regions. THECB agency staff and the FAAC chair, vice chair, and past chair reviewed the nominations submitted by institutional chancellors and presidents and other stakeholders. A list of the candidates recommended for appointment to the FAAC appears on the following page.

DeChà Reid, Senior Director for Student Financial Aid Programs, will be available to answer questions.

Recommended new Financial Aid Advisory Committee members:

Reginald Brazzle
Director, Scholarships & Financial Aid
Lamar University
(Term ending 2025)

Scott Lapinski
Director of Financial Aid
The University of Texas Permian Basin
(Term ending 2025)

Lynda McKendree
Dean of Scholarships and Financial Aid
University of St. Thomas
(Term ending 2025)

Gaby Leon
Director of Financial Aid
Alvin Community College
(Term ending 2025)

Lisa Schoenbrun
Coordinator, College Readiness
El Paso ISD
(Term ending 2025)

Thomas Ratliff
Director of Student Financial Services
Abilene Christian University
(Term ending 2023, to serve the remainder of unexpired term due to Steven Peterson vacating his position on the committee.)

Joseph Sanchez
Director of Financial Aid
University of North Texas Health Science Center
(Term ending 2023, to serve the remainder of unexpired term due to Dede Gonzales vacating her position on the committee to serve as the TASFAA Representative.)

Dede Gonzales President-Elect TASFAA
(Nominated for a one-year term as the TASFAA representative.)