

Financial Aid Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes
June 25, 2015

<u>Committee Members in Attendance</u>	<u>Committee Members Absent</u>	<u>THECB Staff</u>	<u>Audience</u>
Lisa Blazer Harold Whitis Zelma De Leon Delisa Falks Anna Drake Mary Gallegos-Adams Tom Melecki Carla Fletcher for George Torres Carolyn Jones Carl Gordon Doris Constantine Carolyn Mallory Audree Hernandez Ron Brown Chris Murr via Tel-Conference	Melissa Elliot Pilar Janis Rosario Juarez Anne Walker Marcus Wilson	Ken Martin Charles Puls Linda Battles Lesa Moller Katherne Carson Wanda Carr DeCha Reid Janie Miramontes Albert Contreras Roosevelt Sanchez Michelle Williams Lizette Montiel Holly Kosiewicz Ginger Gossman Connie Cooper Michelle Salazar Rafael Villarreal Sophia Rodriguez Renee Jones Shebah Spears	Lois Holl-ICUT Rissa Pokker-ED Ray Martinez-ICUT Laura Hartmann-UT Systems Tomas Guajardo-UT Systems Charlotte Sellin-SFA Meredith George-UT Systems

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Critical Discussion Points</u>	<u>Formal Decision/Action Required</u>
<u>Approval of Minutes</u>	The minutes from the 2/19/15 meeting were approved by the committee.	Approved

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Critical Discussion Points</u>	<u>Formal Decision/Action Required</u>
<u>Presentation on Student Financial Aid Programs (SFAP)</u> Charles Puls, Deputy Assistant Commissioner – Student Financial Aid Programs	Goal is to build the Office of Student Financial Aid Programs into an integrated unit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SFAP “Central Office” – Office Coordinator, Administrative Assistant, Trainer, etc. • Looking to expand institutional resources (e.g. a Texas Student Aid Handbook, improved institutional portal, etc.) • Comprehensive review of state financial aid reporting requirements to improve efficiency and effectiveness. • Working within our agency to make sure we know what each part of the agency is working on and how we can help each other succeed. 	None

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<p><u>Update the recently completed legislative session</u></p> <p>Lizette Montiel- Office of External Relations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Texas Grant program received an increase of \$62.7M or 9.6% over 2014-2015 levels. This represents the adjusted base and does not include a one-time donation of \$30M from Texas Guaranteed. • Texas Educational Opportunity Grant received a biennial increase in funding from \$65.1 million in FY 2014-15 \$94.0M for 2016-2017. However, because two-year college students previously served by TEXAS Grants were moved to TEOG • Beginning in FY2015 (Senate Bill 215, 83rd Legislature), An Additional \$8.4 million would have been required to continue to fund TEOG at the FY2015 service level. Also, for FY2016-17, TEOG was split into separate pools for community colleges and for state and technical colleges to reflect the different allocation methodologies needed for these sectors. • Tuition Equalization Grant received an increase in funding of \$12.2M or 6.8% for 2016-2017. • The Texas B-On-Time Loan Program is phased out over the next five years. The loan will be provided to students who received an initial loan before the 2015-2016 academic year and the five percent tuition set-aside is eliminated as of the fall 2015 semester. • Top 10% Scholarships are phased out. It has been decreased 54% or \$21.4M limiting awards to renewal students only. • Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program received a cut in funding by \$2.0M or 25%. • The College Work Study Program was level funded at \$18.8M for the biennium. • SB 1750 requires institutions to ensure that at least 20% but not more than 50% of work study positions are provided by employers located off campus beginning with the 2016-2017 academic year. • The Educational Aide Exemption received \$1.5M in new appropriations after funding was discontinued in 2011. • HB 3027 - Texas Competency-Based Education Grant Program did not pass. 	<p>Coordinating Board will be reviewing rules for impacted programs accordingly.</p>

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<p><u>Update on Loan repayment programs (LRP)</u></p> <p>Lizette Montiel- Office of External Relations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Border County Faculty LRP was level funded \$375,626 total (Biennium) • Dental Education LRP received-\$220,000 new appropriations for the biennium. • Mental Health Professional LRP is a new program authorized per SB 239 with \$2.13M total (Biennium) • Physician Education LRP was level funded \$33.8M total (Biennium) • Teach for Texas LRP was level funded \$4.43M total (Biennium) • Math and Science Scholars LRP is a new program authorized per SB 686 \$2.60M total (Biennium) • Math and Science scholars were authorized in the previous session and it calls for the first awards to be made during the 2016-2017 school year. 	<p>Coordinating Board will be reviewing rules for impacted programs accordingly.</p>

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<p><u>Update on new THECB strategic plan</u></p> <p>Ginger Gossman, Sr. Director for Innovation and Policy Development</p>	<p>60X30TX new strategic plan builds on Achievements of Closing the Gaps 2015-2030 draft plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attainment - By 2030, at least 60% of Texans aged 25-34 will have a postsecondary credential or degree. • Completion – By 2030, 550,000 students in that year will complete a certificate, associate, bachelors, or masters from a Texas higher education institution. • Marketable Skills – By 2030, all graduates from Texas public institutions of higher education will have completed programs with identified marketable skills. • Student Debt – By 2030, undergraduate student loan debt will not exceed 60% of first-year wage. • The 60% is a maintenance goal and is structured as a <u>state wide</u> goal. • We are using the median debt ratio to measure the debt compared to wages regarding the 60% goal. • Committee suggested that we create an ongoing state wide advisory group to focus on this goal. The group would include Council of Public University Presidents and ICUT. • Committee members suggested we involve other organizations to participate and share with the main focus of this plan, for instance Centers for Public Policy Priorities, Education is Freedom and Project GRAD. 	<p>None</p>

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<p><u>Discussion of nomination process for new FAAC members</u></p> <p>FAAC Chair, Lisa Blazer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New board members Term begin with December 2015 meeting. • Tom Melecki will take over the Chair position in the December meeting. • In order to meet the deadlines for submitting information for the board, we will have to use email to accomplish this goal prior to the September meeting • The Presidents of the institutions will nominate the new members. • The timeline stand point for the Board is to have the votes in by the end of August 2015 to have them distributed out to the committee members. • The TASFAA President changes as well. • Members who are still interested in continuing servicing, keep in touch with your President. 	<p>The Coordinating Board will send out an announcement to the Presidents of the institutions.</p> <p>Committee members will look at the type of institutes and the rotations of service.</p> <p>Lisa Blazer will work with the CB staff to let you know how many positions are needed.</p>

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<p><u>Discussion of Rule 1.155 – Report to the Board; Evaluation of Committee Costs and Effectiveness</u></p> <p>FAAC Chair, Lisa Blazer and Charles Puls</p>	<p>“The committee chair person shall report any recommendations to the Board on no less than an annual basis. The committee shall also report committee activities to the Board to allow the Board to properly evaluate the committee's work, usefulness, and the costs related to the committee's existence. The Board shall report its evaluation to the Legislative Budget Board in its biennial Legislative Appropriations Request.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a formal report in communicating to the board and appropriate departments the cost and effectiveness of the programs and committees. • There is not a time table on when the template will be available. We are hoping to have a pilot template to present to the board in October. 	<p>None</p>

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<p><u>Discussion of FAAC involvement in data collection</u></p> <p>FAAC Chair, Lisa Blazer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our involvement in data collections. In the past we had a sub-committee. Do we want to continue with a sub-committee on the FAAS report or do we want one only for the data collection from financial aid offices and how that inter-acts with other committees. • Per Linda Battles with the CB our sunset bill required us to engage in the negotiated rule making and re-evaluating the collection of data. • We will have a formal negotiated rule making process of stake holders from the institutions. 	<p>A Sub-committee was discussed and the board agreed that we should form this committee.</p> <p>Charles Puls with the Coordinating Board will follow up with Chair regarding the formation of sub-committees.</p> <p>Lisa Blazer committee chair will send out email requesting volunteers across the state.</p> <p>Doris Constantine volunteered as the lead of the committee; Carolyn Mallory has volunteered to be on the committee.</p>

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<p><u>Discussion of opportunities to improve the agency's support of financial aid administration</u></p> <p>FAAC Chair, Lisa Blazer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In moving from the prior approach to allocation to the negotiated-rule approach to allocations, the negotiated rule process did not include detailed data runs. It will be important for the agency and the negotiated rule committee members to review data related to proposed rules, since this did not occur for TEXAS Grant, which caused some surprising outcomes. • Charles Puls also asked for feedback on the short-term and long-term needs the committee would want us to be looking at, in order to best service the board in the future. • Committee request a list of the current contact information for the CB staff. • Committee members would like to see both FAQ and the FSA handbook resources working together. • Committee requested that if Legislative update with high points could go out to the Presidents and CFO's? • Committee suggested when funds are delayed, can CB expedite the disbursements? • Committee suggested that on non-Legislative years can CB get an idea of the allocations so the institutions can start packaging earlier? 	<p>Coordinating Board will provide something in writing regarding the THECB institutional complaint process.</p>

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Coordination Board Allocations Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B-On-Top preliminary went out June 23, 2015, now in the 10 day review period • Texas Work Study and TEG going out June 26, 2015 • TEGO preliminary going out June 26, 2015, then will go into 10-day review period • Texas Grant going out June 26, 2015, then will go into a 10-day review period • The Texas Work Study funds are allowed to be used for the summer with permission from the CB. 	None

Agenda Item	Critical Discussion Points	Formal Decision/Action Required
Closing of meeting	<p style="text-align: center;">No New Business</p> <p>Meeting adjournment at 1:10pm</p>	<p>FAAC Member nominations will be done prior to next meeting.</p> <p>Next meeting scheduled for September 17, 2015.</p>