

**TCCAO Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, July 22, 2020**  
**Zoom**  
3:05pm-4:35pm

**Attending**

Specific member or designated representative attendance not recorded.

**Welcome**

Amy Andersen, TCCAO President, called the meeting to order and welcomed all.

**Minutes**

Andersen noted that this meeting would be recorded to assist as needed in preparing meeting minutes. With a note of thanks to Dr. Christopher Maynard, TCCAO Vice President, she reported that the previous meeting's minutes were available on the website. (<http://www.tccao.org/meetings/>)

**Guest Presenter: THECB Update**

Dr. Ray Martinez, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Workforce Education, provided an update on the agency's response to COVID-19 to date. Dr. Stacey Silverman, Assistant Commissioner for Academic Quality and Workforce, also attended the meeting.

- Continued work on the same pre-COVID-19 priorities (transfer hours, statewide OER repository, student support, TSI success) through reorganization and new staff (implemented in early February, just before the coronavirus crisis ramped up).
- Continued responsiveness to higher education institutions across the state, work with state leadership to ensure maximum flexibility, and maintain close communication, especially with the Governor's Office (for example, how to address the bacterial meningitis requirement, with potential leniency or waivers).
- Directed members to the THECB's FAQ Workgroup and Resource Webpage; citing the group meets weekly and posts updates regularly; the team has curated over 80 FAQs as of July 21; most recently, they posted a 6-page, updated "reopening checklists" addressing various minimal health protocols.
- Noted they have pulled together an informal transfer group to continue work, concurrent to COVID-19 efforts, on improving the transfer landscape; they are reviewing existing policies to determine possible rule-making or other non-legislative avenues for improvement; updates on this work will be provided at the Board meeting tomorrow.
- Reported that another priority, a statewide repository of OER (a Texas "microsite"), may launch as early as mid-August or September.
- Turned over the floor to a new staff member to review briefly efforts & updates on:
  - Some College, No Credential Degree Reclamation Initiatives (GradTX)
  - Leveraging Technology to Support Students (ADVi Chatbot, Advise Texas)
  - TSI & TSIA
- Q: Can the chatbot/near-peer advising questions be common across multiple institutions? And/or set up to connect students asking a specific question to that school?
- Q: ADVi and Advise, when originally released, focused on certain geographical areas—any updates on outreach to other areas? Or on stop-outs? Yes, have results on West Texas and High Plains regions; can distribute those.

- Q: Will there be latitude from traditional expectations on the length of the semester (e.g., after-Thanksgiving, etc.)? Waivers can be requested for current calendars to change start or end date, moving one week, one way or another from the common week.
- Q: What about flexibility on reporting – as this hybrid approach is not hybrid in the conventional sense of the word (but rather for density management)? When reporting on the 004, you do have flexibility, for the summer, if you have a course that you normally offer F2F, and you need to change to remote delivery? You do not need pre-approval to offer a **course** via hybrid delivery, but for a **program** to be offered 100% online, that needs pre-approval.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Pranesh Aswath, TCCAO Treasurer, reviewed briefly the Treasurer's Report provided to members.

- The net change in budget was only \$2.50; with a switch to virtual meetings, we have had no expenses. We are still awaiting reimbursement from the hotel for our spring meeting (it was originally credited toward our fall meeting, but the hotel has since agreed to refund the deposit, as verified by Chris Maynard).

### **#TeachersCan Report/Discussion**

Shonda Gibson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, The Texas A&M University System; and Nicole Prescott, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, The University of Texas System, provided an update on this initiative:

- "Thank you to teachers" campaign launched over the summer with a rewarding social media campaign that garnered a lot of positive support and feedback, bringing in about 125 partners. Over 12,000 nominations were submitted for exceptional teachers, parents and professionals. Will also conduct a back-to-school campaign.
- Becoming a teacher is a noble thing to do right now; we have been tracking and have seen growth in the numbers, with much attention going to universities on how to become a teacher.
  - What is happening now is counter-attack to the negative connotations (prestige of the profession, undesirable salaries, etc.), we are starting to see teachers as heroes instead of the downtrodden profession or simply as a backup plan.
  - Time to reframe the narrative of/for teachers; colleges of education have been working with local school districts to offer professional development opportunities, other educational supports in a remote learning environment.
- Having a willing ear and support for maximum flexibility on rules and regulations with THECB and TEA have been very helpful; a special thank you to state leadership in bringing us to the table and in communicating to the regulatory agencies what we need.
- Still face issues with certification tests (unable to give as they cannot be done online); challenges with providing high quality clinical work experiences; generally, how to prep students to enter workforce; and immediately, contact hours, especially with schools starting later in the fall
- Also have opportunities to reframe the narrative, to reimagine educator prep

### **Discussion Items**

- *Fall reopening plans/concerns*
  - If school districts delay opening, how does that affect faculty and staff with school-aged children?
    - Tarrant County reported they will start a month later; child care facilities are closing/not taking new children; reports that online course delivery is increasing; issues with housing contracts

- Difficult to predict ever-changing situation; most of us spent months developing a fall repopulation plan – many are having to rethink/retool
- Are you bringing students back if you have on-campus housing?
  - Some at reduced capacity; Some have space, or a dorm, dedicated to isolation
  - Moving dining to a different approach
- At what cap or point do you close campus? Have you had those discussions?
  - Some schools have multiple indicators to consider, without specific thresholds
    - Lots of uncertainty with/for international students
  - Student decisions on housing: prorated refunds from schools in the spring likely set a precedent not matched by apartments for leases
- *Ensuring compliance with PPE usage on campus*
  - Some guidelines are in place; some schools went from recommendation to mandate
  - Adding language to syllabi; adding expectations to student handbook; etc.
  - Asking faculty to model community behavior; how to “enforce” without calling UPD
    - Giving all faculty a box of masks, to offer to student without one; if the student refuses/becomes confrontational, faculty will cancel class (move it online), with the main responsibility to protect self and other students; deescalate as quickly as possible, then later report the student to student conduct office
- *Definitions of online programs to various reporting bodies (THECB, SACSCOC, NC-SARA, IPEDS)*
  - Multiple variations of reports to different agencies creates confusion, and now with COVID-19, and with different ways of tracking courses with hybrid delivery, we have additional modalities to report on. Seeking guidance on more consistent reporting methodology, reporting requirements.
  - Collective, silent agreement that this is problematic; no real answers, though. There may be much more leniency in these times.

**TALA Update** (<http://www.tccao.org/tala/index.html>)

Christopher Maynard, TCCAO Vice President, provided a brief TALA report:

- Cohort 2 closing ceremonies are slated for this Friday; we hope that we made the transition to a virtual experience cleanly, and with meaningful experiences and good leadership opportunities
- Cohort 3 opening meeting still scheduled for August 6-8 in person, but with virtual attendance option
- Q: What does Cohort 3 registration look like? About 45—close to the first two cohorts
- Q: Are we seeing representation from more colleges and universities? Yes; all cohort attendees and their institutions are listed on the website; very pleased to have representation from across all systems and most universities; some schools have sent participants annually
- Q: Sam Houston has dedicated institutional resources to support this statewide program, with the expectation that there would be a review process 2-3 years down the road; SHSU’s support has been valuable, especially through the participants’ positive testimonials; as a group should we think on how to approach THECB for statewide resources, or Foundation contacts, for support? At the October meeting, will present data/report on the first two cohorts that might help inform/support that kind of (funding) request.

**Officer Election-Treasurer**

- In accordance with the organizational bylaws; Chris Maynard, Vice President, has agreed to assume the President role, and Pranesh Aswath will move from Treasurer to Vice President.

- Anderson received one nomination for Treasurer, Dr. Serenity King, University of Texas at Dallas. She then opened nominations from the floor; none were submitted. King was installed as Treasurer by acclimation.

#### **Future Meeting Dates**

- *October 21, 2020* (Virtual)
- *January 19-20, 2021: Retreat* (Format TBD, but if unable to meet in person for an actual retreat, will hold a meeting in the usual format. Reservations with the usual hotel are tentative, will wait on signing a contract.)
- *April 21, 2021* (TBD)
- *July 21, 2021* (TBD)

#### **Adjournment**

With no further business or discussion, Dr. Anderson adjourned the meeting at 4:35pm.