

Report of the TAMS  
Commission on Advocacy & Governmental Affairs  
Executive Board Meeting  
September 2, 2016

Robert Henry (TTU) SN, Chair 2019  
Caia McCullar (DBU) PN 2017  
Mary Ellen Poole (UT Austin) SN 2018  
Eric Baker (Odessa College) C 2019

**Commission on Advocacy and Governmental Affairs**

*The Commission on Advocacy and Governmental Affairs shall be primarily responsible for articulation with and review of issues relating to such entities as the Texas Music Educators Association, State Board Of Education, Texas Education Association, Coordinating Board, Field of Study Curriculum, Texas Legislature, and notification to membership of advocacy initiatives and the need for action-based responses. Commission shall present formal report to the Membership at each annual meeting.*

The work of CAGA since the TAMS Annual Meeting in January 2016 has been primarily of reporting on matters affecting its Membership Institutions coming from the actions of the THECB, SBEC, and Texas Legislature. Among the initiatives have been the Music Field of Study and other proposed actions of the THECB related to the last legislative session including the roll-out of the new **60x30TX** plan for higher education, and the increasing emphasis on workforce development.

Once again, the THECB in its Recommendations to the 85<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature, is proposing initiatives aimed at workforce development and toward implementing outcomes-based funding for colleges and universities. Later this month the THECB will be hosting a Texas Education & Workforce Summit:

## Texas Education & Workforce Summit

### Summit

### Overview

Join us on September 19-20, 2016 for the Texas Education & Workforce Summit, a culmination of the series of workforce and education forums that have been held across the state to assess regional needs and ensure that Texas is poised to compete in an ever-changing 21st century economy. As part of Governor Greg Abbott's Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative, the one and a half-day summit's featured speakers will include Texas Commissioner of Education Mike Morath, Texas Commissioner of Higher Education Raymund Paredes, Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Andres Alcantar and TWC Commissioners Ruth Hughs and Julian Alvarez. The commissioners will present their recommendations related to establishing a framework for closer collaboration among public education, higher education, and workforce development entities in Texas.

The Texas Education & Workforce Summit will be held on September 19-20, 2016, at the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center at The University of Texas at Austin (1900 University Avenue).

Additionally, legislative committee meetings are scheduled to begin preparing for related initiatives during the upcoming legislative session:

SENATE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
COMMITTEE: Higher Education  
TIME & DATE: 10:00 AM, Monday, September 12, 2016  
PLACE: E1.012 (Hearing Room)  
CHAIR: Senator Kel Seliger

The Senate Higher Education Committee will meet to take up the following charges:

- Study regional workforce needs in the state and make recommendations on whether metrics should be applied to authorize public community colleges to offer certain baccalaureate degrees in order to meet the regional workforce needs.
- Monitor the implementation of legislation addressed by the Senate Committee on Higher Education and make recommendations for any legislation needed to improve, enhance, and/or complete implementation. Specifically, monitor the following: (1) Initiatives designed to create effective, clear transfer pathways for students, including the newly enacted multidisciplinary studies associate degree; (2) Implementation and progress of the Math and Science Scholars Loan Repayment Program; and (3) The progress of the pilot program enacted by the 83rd legislature relating to improving student loan default rates and financial aid literacy among postsecondary students.

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What do these ongoing and future initiatives hold for the TAMS Membership and member institutions? Other than the typical paperwork, etc. associated with bureaucratic directives, the primary effect could well be the competition for resources for our programs, and indeed, even possibly the very existence of our programs in certain cases. Once again, music and the arts will most likely have to defend its position of importance to the broader goals of higher education as the implementation of past directives and as future proposals begin to unfold. Is TAMS positioned to answer the question, "How do music programs contribute to workforce development in the context that the Legislature and THECB are presenting?"

TAMS-CAGA will continue to monitor and report on these and future items of importance to TAMS and may request the Executive Board to assist and broaden any actions that may be deemed necessary to address any issues affecting the Membership member institutions.