

Report of the TAMS
Commission on Advocacy & Governmental Affairs
January 26, 2018

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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.

1. Commission members were recognized and service terms noted (w/"expiration" dates). The member for the Private School position remains unfilled at this time.
2. It was reviewed that the 85th Texas Legislature impact on higher education came primarily in the form of legislation regarding workforce development as expected with limited funding resources in general. Institutions were given the directive to make local decisions as to priorities for their available resources – this will be a continuing theme in the next session.
3. The THECB meeting held yesterday, Thursday, January 25, 2018 had a major policy discussion on Outcomes-Based-Funding, yet again preparing to develop new plans to propose a revised and more aggressive recommendation for OBF in the next set of legislative recommendations from the CB.

While OBF in Texas had been introduced in FY 2009, legislative interest had waned and nothing concrete had been established. A limited system of OBF was implemented in the 2-year schools in 2014 but still has yet to gain traction overall with three bills not making it through the 85th legislative session:

HB 430 (Johnson)
SB 34 (Zaffirini)
HB 1241 (Giddings)

The discussion on OBF included representatives from CB counterparts in Tennessee presenting the model used in that state. The hot issues centered on the design principles and common metrics to be included:

Simple (current formula funding, primarily enrollment numbers) vs. **complex** (institutional mission-based including total number of degrees/certificates awarded, progression, priorities

for underrepresented students, job placements, wages of graduates, high demand/STEM degrees, research expenditures, successful transfer, etc. among other possibilities). Look for weightings and scaled data to be used for whatever metric components are included.

4. Future Initiatives for CAGA & TAMS - Increase advocacy component

- Develop link on TAMS web site with overview of “things/people/entities to know” to reference in navigating issues of interest/concern to the membership, ongoing and new music executives. An updated listing of links previously shared with TAMS has been submitted for possible inclusion on the TAMS website.
- Expand the conversation among TAMS membership as to the impact of the 85th legislative session relative to decreased finances/appropriations and how music and the arts might present their case in competition for resources, particularly in view of the increasing emphasis on workforce development.

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THE THIRD GOAL: MARKETABLE SKILLS

By 2030, all graduates from Texas public institutions of higher education will have completed programs with identified marketable skills. This goal challenges institutions to think more explicitly about the programs they offer and the job skills that students learn within those programs. Marketable skills in this plan are defined as: *Those skills valued by employers that can be applied in a variety of work settings, including interpersonal, cognitive, and applied skill areas. These skills can be either primary or complementary to a major and are acquired by students through education, including curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular activities.*

No specific fields of study are identified but emphasis is placed on high demand/STEM, health professions, and service/technical fields, among others.

Many detailed discussions will ensue at the CB as the numerous differences of opinion will be hashed out during this developmental stage of the restructured OBF proposal.