

Report of the TAMS
Commission on Advocacy & Governmental Affairs
Executive Board Meeting
January 21, 2021

Robert Henry (TTU) SN, Chair 2022
Mary Ellen Poole (UT Austin) SN 2021
Eric Baker (Odessa College) C 2022
Wes Moore (Dallas Baptist U) P 2022

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.

Weekly reports over the past year have been somewhat curtailed due to the overwhelming attention to the Covid pandemic impacting the business of the agencies in Austin and focus of legislative actions. Things are beginning to pickup somewhat and will be reported appropriately.

The spring and fall semesters saw a great deal of upheaval due to the Covid-19 response of institutions and agencies. Meetings of the CB and SBEC went online with agendas addressing the issues of the pandemic taking a prominent place among the ongoing business of those agencies. Rules were often modified or suspended regarding curricula and requirements for teacher education programs along with various reporting and accountability requirements in general.

The THECB has been and will continue to focus on implementing aspects of SB 25 from the prior 86th legislative session with restructuring the various TAC (codes) as posted in the Texas Register dated 1-15-21. The Texas Transfer Framework was presented at the CB board meeting earlier today along with a 60x30TX Refinement Update, both of which Powerpoints will be shared with the TAMS membership in the next weekly report of CAGA.

Legislative House and Senate base budgets were released earlier today and are available on the LBB website. Budget outlooks are not as bleak as perhaps anticipated but competition for dollars will still be an issue of concern to keep an eye on. Based on what has been seen so far, expect to see much of the same stemming from legislation of the last, 86th Legislative Session, with a few tweaks here and there and not much new emerging. Topics that will receive the most attention of importance to TAMS will revolve around transfer issues, workforce development, and tuition/fee regulations.

=====

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 TAMS member institutions.