

Report of the TAMS
Commission on Advocacy & Governmental Affairs
January 22, 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.

1. All members of CAGA were present plus 6 other attendees.
2. **Texas Legislature**

Legislative House and Senate base budgets were released yesterday 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, reporting/accountability/transparency, workforce development, and tuition/fee regulations.

The Senate Higher Ed. Committee has been appointed:

Chair: [Sen. Brandon Creighton](#)

Vice Chair: [Sen. Royce West](#)

Members: [Sen. Brian Birdwell](#)

[Sen. César Blanco](#)

[Sen. Borris L. Miles](#)

[Sen. Angela Paxton](#)

[Sen. Drew Springer](#)

[Sen. Larry Taylor](#)

[Sen. Judith Zaffirini](#)

The House Higher Ed. Committee has yet to be appointed.

3. **THECB**

The CB met yesterday with two agenda items that will impact the TAMS Membership. One was the 60x30TX Refinement Update outlining the timeline for upcoming revisions. The other was the major policy discussion on an Update for the Texas Transfer Framework.

In the CAGA Report dated 1-15-2021, it included a number of proposed rules by the CB posted in the Texas Register. They had to do with repeal of and new rules in several TAC (Texas Administrative Code) and TEC (Texas Education Code) regarding Transfer of Credit, Core Curriculum and Field of Study Curricula. These were filed in anticipation of a comprehensive revision of the Texas Transfer Framework, creating the Texas Transfer Advisory Committee and discipline specific subcommittees as part of the implementation of these proposed changes. Much of this has come about as the result of the CB actions resulting from SB 25 of the previous 86th Legislative Session.

4. Other items including enrollment numbers, credit hour production, contact hours, speed of student matriculation, and other similar topics were briefly discussed.