

TAMS Report: Director of Two-Year Schools

During our first roundtable, the discussion focused on the FOS (Field of Study) curriculum. Todd Quinlan from the Commission on Curriculum, Articulation, and Transfer provided an update on the progress of several degree plans currently under consideration. It was noted that music has not yet been scheduled for discussion. The biology degree was discussed, however, the proposal put forth by TACC was turned down by both 2-year and 4-year schools. Dr. Bridges gave an inspiring speech, encouraging attendees to recruit, advocate, and be active.

It was reported that most campuses have not yet changed their daily operations or curriculum, as they are waiting to receive more information from the THECB. It was emphasized that articulation agreements are still valid and that AA degrees are still valid. However, concerns were voiced regarding scholarship eligibility, Pell grant status, and transfer.

In terms of the FOS curriculum, it was acknowledged that consensus will need to be reached if the "worst" happens and music associate degrees are limited to 12 degree hours and 6 focused electives. It was suggested that TAMS is well-suited for this task.

The topic of outcomes-based funding was also raised as a concern for some. It was mentioned that the group would be monitoring updates from the legislature.

Lastly, the topic of AI was discussed. It was reported that most campuses are currently in a "holding pattern" as they gather information about AI, both its ethical and un-ethical uses.

In our second roundtable discussion, the focus was on the increased requirement to convert courses to an 8-week term. Most TAMS music programs are only offering core courses in the 8-week format. The sharing of information via ListServ was encouraged to communicate standard practices to share with administrators. Additionally, attention was given to degree plans and pathways, as well as load calculations. It was emphasized that it was important to check with 4-year partners about 8-week courses.

Another topic of discussion was double majors. It was noted that for students pursuing double majors, the degrees had to be at least 20% different and that financial aid was limited to 75 hours at the community college level.

Accommodations for visually impaired students were also discussed.

In addition to the above, the topic of loads and compensation was discussed, including stipends, ILUs, LEHs, and other acronyms.

Finally, it was noted that virtual round tables would be held to continue to build relationships and development among TAMS members. Two Year Schools will meet on May 19 at 11:00 am. It was emphasized that non-TAMS members should be invited for "A Taste of TAMS" and that a round table would be held on September 22, following the TAMS Executive Board meeting for all schools.