



Academic Planning and Policy E-NEWS

ACADEMIC PLANNING AND POLICY: Academic Affairs & Research – Planning & Accountability – P-16 Initiatives

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The Coordinating Board is guided by the Texas higher education plan, Closing the Gaps by 2015, to close the educational gaps in student participation, student success, institutional excellence, and research.

National Research University Fund (NRUF)

Coordinating Board staff met February 24 with representatives from the seven emerging research universities to review draft rules on the National Research University Fund (NRUF). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss measures and standards for high-achieving freshman class, high-quality faculty, and high-quality graduate education. The group continues to discuss the most appropriate measures for each of the categories and is identifying out-of-state peers to use for comparison. The next meeting will be held on April 21 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Coordinating Board offices in Austin. The proposed rules are scheduled to be considered by the Coordinating Board's Strategic Planning and Policy Committee in June 2010, and by the full Coordinating Board in July 2010. Detailed information is available at: www.thecb.state.tx.us/hb51.

MacGregor Stephenson, Assistant Commissioner, Academic Affairs and Research

Deferred Maintenance

Finance and Resource Planning (F&RP) has formed a working group to address issues regarding the calculation of replacement value deferred maintenance and the reporting of deferred maintenance. The initial meeting was April 8, 2010, and representatives from all university systems and the independent institutions were present for discussion and to provide recommendations. Prior to this initial meeting, F&RP staff conducted extensive study and analysis of the topics, providing the workgroup members with a great deal of background information and analysis to shape the discussion of the 10 total charges to be addressed. The initial meeting went well and, although none of the charges were disposed, significant progress was realized toward gaining a mutual understanding of the issues and potential solutions. Institutions have agreed to take the information discussed back to their respective institutions for further discussion and analysis, to be completed by the next scheduled meeting on April 20, 2010.

Thomas E. Keaton, Director, Finance and Resource Planning

Academic Course Guide Manual Advisory Committee

The Lower-Division Academic Course Guide Manual (ACGM) Advisory Committee met at the Coordinating Board on March 29, 2010. Committee members spent the majority of their time discussing the proposed addition of learning outcomes to the ACGM for courses included in the Mechanical Engineering Transfer Compact. The committee recommended at the last meeting that the proposed learning outcomes be posted for public comment, and that the comments received be brought before the committee at the March meeting. A representative from the Voluntary Mechanical Engineering Transfer Curriculum Committee discussed each comment with the group, and appropriate changes were made to the learning outcomes. The committee reviewed draft guidelines for subject area review and chose a subcommittee to work with Board staff on revising the process for adding and deleting courses from the ACGM. The next ACGM meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 2010.

MacGregor Stephenson, Assistant Commissioner, Academic Affairs and Research

UPCOMING EVENTS

Coordinating Board Meetings Quarterly Meeting

April 29, 2010
[Agenda](#)

Committee on Agency Operations

April 28, 2010
[Agenda](#)

Committee on Closing the Gaps

June 21, 2010

Committee on Strategic Planning and Policy

June 22, 2010

USEFUL LINKS

Academic Affairs and Research
[AAR Website](#)

Finance and Resource Planning
[Finance/Resource Website](#)

Texas Higher Education
Accountability System
[Accountability Website](#)

P-16 Initiatives
[P-16 Website](#)

College for All Texans
[CFAT Website](#)

Employment Opportunities at the
Coordinating Board
[CB Jobs](#)

Tuning Oversight Council for Engineering

On April 20, with grant support from Lumina Foundation for Education, the Coordinating Board (CB) will host the first meeting of the Tuning Oversight Council for Engineering, the voluntary advisory council that will assist the CB in integrating the “Tuning” process for course alignment work that was piloted in 2009 through the efforts of the Voluntary Mechanical Engineering Transfer Curriculum Committee. The Tuning Oversight Council will consist of four voluntary advisory committees: (1) Electrical Engineering, (2) Industrial Engineering, (3) Civil Engineering, and (4) Mechanical Engineering. All universities offering a bachelor’s degree program in one of these four engineering disciplines, and all community colleges/districts that either offer introductory engineering courses and/or participate in the Voluntary Mechanical Engineering Transfer Compact were invited to nominate a faculty representative(s) for the council. Fourteen universities and 13 community colleges have nominated representatives. The 39-member council will be made up of designees representing the following institutions: Alamo Community College District; Amarillo College; Dallas County Community College District; El Paso Community College; Houston Community College System; Kilgore College; Lamar University; McLennan Community College; Midwestern State University; Northeast Texas Community College; Prairie View A&M University; San Jacinto College District; South Texas College; Tarrant County College District; Texas A&M University; Texas State Technical College-Harlingen; Texas State University-San Marcos; Texas Tech University; Tyler Junior College; The University of Texas at Arlington; The University of Texas at Austin; The University of Texas at El Paso; The University of Texas of the Permian Basin; The University of Texas at San Antonio; The University of Texas at Tyler; University of North Texas; and West Texas A&M University.

Mary E. Smith, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Academic Planning and Policy

Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee (UEAC) Website

In February, the co-chairs of the Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee (UEAC) and Coordinating Board (CB) staff decided to share the committee’s research and discussion materials online for ease of accessibility.

The new UEAC website (<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/ueac>) includes links to current projects, meeting summaries, UEAC produced reports, research materials, and UEAC completed projects. Most importantly, the website allows members of the public to keep abreast of the core curriculum revision status, process, timeline, and resolutions. As the committee continues to consider recommendations for the revision of the Texas core curriculum, UEAC and the CB hope to keep administrators, faculty, and students apprised of their progress, and will welcome comments on any proposed changes as they arise.

MacGregor Stephenson, Assistant Commissioner, Academic Affairs and Research

Graduate Education Advisory Committee

The Graduate Education Advisory Committee (GEAC) met at the Coordinating Board (CB) on March 26, 2010. The committee discussed the reporting and posting of the 18 Characteristics of Doctoral Programs. The CB recommended that institutions publish only the current year’s data, rather than keeping data from previous years posted together with current data. Coordinating Board staff led a discussion of the forms and procedures for new doctoral program proposals, informing GEAC that use of the new proposal form is mandatory for all proposals received after September 1, 2010. The GEAC reviewed data supplied by CB staff and discussed the credit hour requirements for graduate degree programs at Texas public institutions and the requirements in other states. The GEAC requested that CB staff send the data back to the Texas institutions to check for accuracy, as there was concern that some institutions did not report the data uniformly. The next GEAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 2010.

MacGregor Stephenson, Assistant Commissioner, Academic Affairs and Research; Academic Affairs and Research

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