



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.

Advisory Committee on Higher Education Cost Efficiencies

In fall 2009, Governor Rick Perry issued Executive Order RP73 – relating to a comprehensive review of higher education cost efficiencies (<http://governor.state.tx.us/news/executive-order/13573/>). As a result, the Coordinating Board has arranged an Advisory Committee on Higher Education Cost Efficiencies, a 20-person policy committee comprised of higher education leaders and business leaders that will be reviewing reports and making recommendations according to the mandates included in the Executive Order. The Coordinating Board will have its final recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature by November 1, 2010.

To date, the Committee has held four meetings – an organizational meeting on December 3, and subsequent meetings on January 12, February 9, and March 9. Meetings are held at the Coordinating Board offices in Austin from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and include presentations by experts on various topics of interest to the Committee. Meetings are open to the public and are webcast. The next meeting will be held on April 13 and will be focused on facilities – space utilization, long-term facilities, deferred maintenance funding, and alternatives to creating new campuses. The Committee will continue meeting monthly at least through May 2010. A detailed schedule and meeting materials are available online at: <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/acce>.

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

Tuning Texas

In November 2009, Texas was one of seven states to receive a four-year, \$1.8 million productivity grant from Lumina Foundation for Education to continue work the state initiated under a one-year, \$150,000 planning grant from Lumina to plan methods of making the opportunity of going to college more affordable for students and the state. As part of this multi-year, Lumina-sponsored grant project, Texas will be embarking upon integrating the “Tuning” process into course-level alignment work that was piloted in 2009 through the efforts of the Voluntary Mechanical Engineering Transfer Curriculum Committee. Lumina’s “Tuning USA” Initiative is a faculty-led pilot project designed to define what students must know, understand, and be able to demonstrate after completing a degree in a specific field. Over the four-year grant period, with the help of voluntary advisory committees made up of higher education faculty from across Texas, the Tuning and course alignment process will be applied to 16 academic discipline areas, beginning with additional engineering fields.

On Thursday, February 25, 2010, and Friday, February 26, 2010, three interactive educational seminars about “Tuning Texas” were held at the Sheraton Hotel in Austin. The first was designed for business leaders, the second for public higher education chancellors/presidents, and the third for engineering deans/department chairs and engineering program representatives from institutional members of the Texas Association of Community Colleges. Grant funding for these meetings allowed a small but balanced number of participants from across Texas to attend. The seminars were designed to: (1) facilitate discussion on how Texas can better prepare students for the workplace and align education with workforce needs, and (2) increase understanding of the steps necessary to apply Tuning methodology to specific degree programs in Texas. A fourth “Tuning Texas” meeting for the faculty who will be actively participating in the Tuning and course alignment process during 2010 is tentatively planned for April 20 at the Coordinating Board offices in Austin. A “Tuning Texas” webpage is under development for the Coordinating Board’s website.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Coordinating Board Meetings Quarterly Meeting

April 29, 2010
[Agenda](#)

Committee on Agency Operations

April 28, 2010
[Agenda](#)

Committee on Closing the Gaps

March 22, 2010
[Agenda](#)

Committee on Strategic Planning and Policy

March 23, 2010
[Agenda](#)

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](#)

Enrollment Growth

Enrollment growth funding is designed to provide a mechanism for delivering additional formula assistance to those institutions experiencing rapid enrollment expansion during the biennium. Formula funding for an institution is determined via a base year. The base year is a three-semester period that occurs before the legislative session. If dramatic growth occurs during a non-session year, the first opportunity to receive additional funding is the next legislative session. Enrollment growth funding is designed to combat the lag by providing additional funding between legislative sessions. The funding is appropriated to the Coordinating Board because it is not distributed until the growth actually occurs. Funding is currently based on the growth from fall-to-fall semesters that exceeds a threshold. The threshold is 5 percent for the two-year institutions, and 3 percent for the four-year general academic institutions. Hours generated that exceed the percentage increase are eligible for funding.

In FY 2010, for the two-year institutions, the value of those hours that exceeded the 5 percent threshold, and that were therefore eligible for funding, was \$25.8 million. However, only \$1.76 million was appropriated and distributed. For the four-year general academic institutions, the value of those hours that exceeded the 3 percent threshold, and that were therefore eligible for funding, was \$33.2 million. However, only \$1.75 million was appropriated and distributed.

Jim Pinkard, Program Director, Planning and Accountability; and Paul Turcotte, Program Director, Planning and Accountability

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 March 31 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 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.

MacGregor Stephenson, Assistant Commissioner, Academic Affairs and Research

Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee (UEAC) Update

Since its meeting on November 13, 2009, the Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee (UEAC) has seen the appointment of 10 new members. The UEAC is comprised of 23 voting members representing community colleges, universities, health science centers, and technical institutes. Members serve three-year terms, with about a third of the members rotating off of the UEAC each year. During the November 2009 meeting, the Committee adopted a statement regarding learning outcomes that will serve the Committee as a guiding principle: "Through the general education core curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world; develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse global world; and cultivate advanced intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning."

At the most recent meeting of the UEAC (February 26, 2010), the group continued its consideration of recommendations for the revision of the Texas Core Curriculum. The meeting in February began a deliberation regarding more specific learning objectives regarding intellectual and practical skills. The next meeting of the UEAC will take place on April 16, 2010, at the Coordinating Board offices in Austin.

MacGregor Stephenson, Assistant Commissioner, Academic Affairs and Research; and Catherine Parsonault, Senior Education Specialist, Academic Affairs and Research

Institutions' Accountability Reports Sent to Presidents and Chancellors

Each institution and system was recently sent its fall 2009/ FY 2009 Accountability System report(s). Institutions are encouraged to study the report and examine the data available for in-state peer institutions. Institutions can update their Accountability comments at any time during the year. For that reason, we encourage use of the online system at: <http://www.txhighereddata.org/Interactive/Accountability/>.

Janet Beinke, Director of Planning, Planning and Accountability

P-16 Regional Councils Institute

P-16 Outreach hosted a P-16 Regional Councils Institute on February 3 in Austin. Approximately 189 public school and higher education administrators and workforce, community, and business leaders attended the Institute. This was the second P-16 Institute of FY 2010 designed to bring P-16 Regional Council teams of local secondary, post-secondary, and community and business partners together to assist in *Closing the Gaps by 2015*. During the P-16 Institute, Coordinating Board staff offered a series of sessions on data, student assessments, workforce, and P-16 Councils' best practices. Each council was provided with this year's regional data set. The common P-16 Council measures consist of Pre-K-5th grade common indicators, middle school success factors, high school success factors, and transition to college and higher education success factors. Councils are currently analyzing their respective data, making comparisons to last year's data, and noting progress. The next P-16 Institute is scheduled on June 16, 2010, at the Doubletree Hotel North in Austin.

Judy Loredo, Assistant Commissioner, P-16 Initiatives

Faculty Collaboratives

The Coordinating Board established the College and Career Readiness (CCR) Faculty Collaborative Initiative to provide faculty of institutions of higher education who prepare pre-service teachers with the latest information and resources regarding the CCR Standards. The activities of the faculty collaboratives will help ensure that prospective teachers receive preparation that is closely aligned with the CCR Standards. New teachers will be better able to prepare their students to be college-ready in the four content areas and in the cross disciplinary standards included in the CCR Standards. Additionally, a [website](#) was launched in November 2009, with a basic structure to allow for the dissemination of pertinent information and access to resources. Content will continue being added, especially in the form of professional development tools. Virtual community features will be made available in the spring of 2010.

The Faculty Collaboratives have hosted numerous activities over the past several months. For example, the Mathematics Collaborative hosted a regional seminar on January 29-30 that was focused on the redevelopment of mathematics teacher preparation curricula. The English/Language Arts Faculty Collaborative conducted a symposium, Meeting the Challenge for Success in College and Careers, February 4-5, for approximately 100 college faculty. The Science Faculty Collaborative hosted a symposium in San Antonio on February 26 that addressed integrating the CCR Standards with Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and the new English Language Proficiency Standards. For details on these and other collaborative events, please visit www.txfacultycollaboratives.org.

Judy Loreda, Assistant Commissioner, P-16 Initiatives; and Susan Barnes, Director, Senior Director for Educator Quality, P-16 Initiatives

Recruitment Brochures for Engineering

With grant funds from Lumina Foundation for Education, the Coordinating Board recently contracted with Roark Creative to design, print, and ship 20,000 engineering brochures to higher education institutions participating in the Voluntary Mechanical Engineering Transfer Compact. The student recruitment brochures are designed as a folder so that additional transfer compacts can be inserted into the main body of the brochure as Texas moves forward with additional voluntary transfer compacts for other engineering disciplines. To find out more, please visit: <http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/mechanicalengineeringtransfercompact>.

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

Information on the Coordinating Board's Website

The following data and reports have been updated and are available on the Coordinating Board's website:

- Summary of Deferred Maintenance FY 2010 – FY 2014
<http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/1978.PDF?CFID=2144008&CFTOKEN=58714966>
- Sources and Uses (Universities, HRIs, Lamars, TSTCs) FY 2009
<http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/1977.PDF?CFID=2144008&CFTOKEN=58714966>
- Facility and Development Project Audit Schedule - FY 2011
<http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/1976.PDF?CFID=2144008&CFTOKEN=58714966>
- Fall 2009 Housing Survey Added
<http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/1975.PDF?CFID=2144008&CFTOKEN=58714966>
- Fall 2009 Deferred Maintenance to Replacement Values
<http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/1969.PDF?CFID=2144008&CFTOKEN=58714966>
- Fall 2009 Space Projection Model
<http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/1968.PDF?CFID=2144008&CFTOKEN=58714966>
- Tuition Revenue Bond Process and History Updated
<http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/1965.PDF?CFID=2144008&CFTOKEN=58714966>
- Texas General Academic Institutions Expenditure Study FY 2007 - FY 2009
<http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/reports/pdf/1964.pdf?CFID=2144008&CFTOKEN=58714966>

Gary Johnstone, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Planning and Accountability; and Paul Turcotte, Program Director, Planning and Accountability