



<http://ntrp16.org/>

**North Texas Regional P-16 Council  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**January 12, 2021**

**9:00 am – 12:00pm**

**Meeting via Zoom**

**Members present: Sandra Benavidez, Denise Davis, Tiffany Gilmore, Mary Harris, Lisa Harrison, Christine Hubbard, Jean Keller, Barbara Lerner, Raul Martinez, Anna Mays, Laura Mendoza, Anita Perry, Ray de los Santos, Karen Walker, Rosalyn Walker**

**A. Greetings and Thanks**

Jean Keller welcomed all and wished them a Happy New Year. Members shared information about their activities and accomplishments as they continue to manage the current environment.

**B. Approval of October 13, 2020, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

The October 13, 2020 Executive Committee minutes were reviewed. Christine Hubbard moved approval, Lisa Harrison seconded, and the minutes were approved as written.

**C. Approval of December 1, 2020, Council Meeting Minutes**

The December 1, 2020 P-16 Council meeting minutes were reviewed. Christine Hubbard moved approval, Rosalyn Walker seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved as written.

**D. Discussion of Key Issues in K-12 and Higher Education**

Jean invited those present to talk about key issues relevant to the P-16 Council.

Barbara Lerner expressed concern that deficits in college readiness due to varied modalities of instruction. “The COVID interruption” describes the situation. The impact is differential in that some students seem to be coping and learning well while others are struggling. What is this going to mean for students’ college readiness? There is an absence of standardized testing, which means we have fewer measures by which to gauge college readiness. Barbara observed that the greatest deficits are in mathematics. Barbara asked if districts are making changes in their student ranking systems or other means by which colleges, particularly four-year institutions, gauge the readiness of students.

Raul Martinez shared that Collin College waived the TSI for students enrolled in dual credit in the Fall, and he was pleasantly surprised that they had about a 95-96% pass rate. Although the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has allowed continued waivers, Collin College has chosen not to do so.

Lisa Harrison said she had not heard discussion of changing class rankings. She did learn that in some districts, failure rates skyrocketed for students enrolled in distance learning in the fall compared to students attending face-to-face classes. This has become such a divide that more districts are starting to enforce policies that students will not have a distance learning option unless there are underlying conditions or some very specific need. Districts have put in place more qualifying parameters to remain in remote learning. In addition, if students are not being successful remotely, school personnel are able to remove that as an option and bring the students back into the classrooms. There is hope there will be greater engagement in this spring semester. There is an issue with remote students not staying online and being engaged. Districts have started to specify parameters for students who are not passing courses.

Jean Keller shared that in recent discussion with high school mathematics educators from Lewisville and Denton ISDs, they shared greater learning in face to face versus online instruction on average. The same was shown in a recent UTA survey of districts in Tarrant County. Anna Mays concurred, expressing concern about the learning of online students of mathematics.

Rosalyn Walker verified that Tarrant County College is experiencing these same issues. In the Fall, they designated synchronous courses versus asynchronous courses to enable the face-to-face instruction needed by some students. The teacher is available at certain times to help. The students, as well as the instructors much prefer real time interaction and are doing better. There are pockets of low success students, but the numbers have improved. Tutoring and supplemental instruction are online and accessible to students. These opportunities encourage and help students succeed. The Fall success rates are not yet available.

Barbara Lerner shared her belief that the impact of this year on elementary and junior high students will be long lasting as many of these students try to catch up. It will be an ongoing challenge for K-12 teachers. She believes there will be deficits leading to this year being viewed as a gap in the students' educations. There is a reasonable unwillingness to hold students back; as teachers believe, it is not the students' fault. There will be a tendency to advance students who might otherwise not have been advanced, and the result, over the next years, will be hard to gauge. There will be a lack of data this year and that will be hard to interpret future trends.

Lisa Harrison predicted long lasting results, both positive and negative. As we move through this year, things have greatly improved with equipment availability, connectivity/online access, and effective professional learning for staff to ensure they know how to utilize technology. We will never return to education as it was before COVID-19. Some of the changes will be ongoing. The common use of learning management systems may be a readiness for postsecondary. Students are learning how to adapt and are picking up advanced technology skills. Students who are successfully working from home have learned to be self-managing and self-motivated. These skills prepare students for college. In addition, standardized testing is being less of a

focus, provides more time for true learning and for teachers to work with students without worrying about testing.

Barbara Lerner observed that more college students, and especially upper-level students at four-year institutions, are choosing online education. Some students are still interested in dorm life, campus activities, and athletics. There will be demand for face-to-face and online instruction. The challenge is going to be how to create a balance in building multiple sections so that students have many options to how they learn.

Rey de los Santos shared that TRIO program leaders have had to step in when students were dropped for non-attendance or disappearance. They conducted home visits and found recovered students who are impacted by COVID and continue to lack of Internet access. Rey observed that these inequity issues are in communities, especially West Dallas and Oak Cliff. Education is changed forever, but we must consider the implications for diverse students and families. How we respond as a community, as a higher education community, is going to impact students' futures and our futures in their communities over the long term. There are other forces/issues going on in these communities – loss of employment, lack of food, lack of healthcare access, violence, etc. We must be advocates for our students, families, and communities in our diverse region.

- Are there other items we should be thinking about as council members? What resources could we share with other council members?
  - Christine shared that the North Texas Community College Consortium (NTCCC) Spring Leadership Conference on January 22 will promote mental health. The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute will share key initiatives. There will be a panel presentation and breakout sessions on veterans and their specific mental health needs, warning signs, stigma reduction, self-care, care team representatives, trauma, and grief.
  - NTCCC also has a Foundations of Equity Program, and an Institutional Transformation Program. NTCCC is collaborating with UNT on its Equity & Diversity Conference to be held February 23, 2021. Underlying this work is the gap that exists when some students are succeeding and others are not. This may be due to structural inequity, in terms of general access to equipment and experience. The conference will take a hard look at structural inequity, structural racism, and actually making changes. One example to be shared is the Dallas County Promise, a vehicle through which foundations and institutions are offering historically underrepresented students an opportunity to attend college at no cost. Sessions will include workplace biases built into recruitment, hiring, and promotion processes. NTCCC is also working with Dallas Thrives, whose goal is to increase the percentage of workers who earn a living wage.
  - Barbara Lerner shared information on the T3 (Tarrant To & Through) Partnership and the work of the Rainwater Foundation. Currently six IHEs involved with T3: Tarrant, UTA, Tarleton, TCU, Wesleyan and UNT Dallas. Barbara attended a meeting with Rainwater Foundation to explore TWU as a partner.

- Anita Perry shared that the scholarship portion of the T3 program is for all seniors in the district who sign a pledge that makes them eligible for the scholarship opportunities. Advisors are available at the secondary campuses, both middle and high school, to ensure no duplication of services and that all students are advised. The T3 coordinators are housed in the Go Centers. Anita said that T3 is working with Commit, which is a partner. More information can be found at <https://t3partnership.org/about/program-touchpoints>

#### **E. Discussion of NTRP-16 Council's Sustainability**

One suggestion discussed was greater visibility for the Council via media outlets such as the *Dallas Morning News Education Lab*. Another suggestion was to promote the Council among the people who visit the Council meetings. We can share stories of how attending the Council has helped us in our work and professional learning. A membership drive was suggested. Data links on the P-16 Council website are also helpful. We serve as a clearinghouse for K-16 and career leaders. As 60x30TX changes at the state level, we will continue to focus on student access and success data. More thinking must go into the veteran's initiative so that it is not lost as 60x30TX initiative transitions.

#### **F. Committee Updates and Action Plans for 2020-21 Academic Year**

**Communications, Networking & Social Media** – The committee will continue to post current information and serve as a repository of resources to keep everyone informed. Rosalyn Walker expressed appreciation for the Council Website as a source of information and data. Lisa suggested that the website link to the new dashboard that will accompany the new THECB strategic plan.

**Leadership and Sustainability** – The committee will work on action items discussed and extend Invitations to prospective individual members. Jean will reach out to the UNT President's Office regarding the date of the planned regional meeting of the THECB and the list of invitees. We want to make sure our institutions are represented. No new updates as of February 8, 2021.

**Professional Development** – No additional report from what Christine Hubbard shared above. Sandra Benavidez will send professional development activities of Region 11.

**Research, Assessment and Accountability** – No report

**60x30TX Regional Update** – THECB has disbanded 60x30TX and is developing a new strategic plan. There will not necessarily be a regional structure for the new strategic plan. Barbara urged that our region figure out how to reestablish lines of communication with THECB.

**GenTX Update** – Anita shared that April is Financial Literacy Month. May 3<sup>rd</sup> is Decision Day. Fort Worth will celebrate the entire week of Virtual Decision Day. Please join in and the Communications Committee is ready to help share your activities.

**Texas Regional Alignment Network and Discussion of February Council Meeting** - Jean reported that Dr. Melissa Humphries, the THECB contact for the TXRAN grants, which the Council is

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affiliated, holds monthly meetings of all grantees. Melissa is the Director of P-16 Data Analytics and Research. Raul will invite Melissa and her team to present at the upcoming Council meeting.

**Set February 16, 2021 Council Meeting Agenda**

Raul will follow up with other panelists including Krysta Garza, TEA. Areas of interest included student success data for this region, T-stem growth, College Preparatory Courses, dual credit, transferability of credit, time to degree, and systematic study of current issues such as on-line versus in-class learning.

**G. Adjournment**

Jean thanked everyone for their participation in the meeting.

**2020-2021 NTRP-16 Council Meeting Dates and Programs**

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Date	Place	Host	Topics	Program Facilitator
February 16, 2021	Virtual	Raul Martinez	PK-16 Data Collection, Interpretation & Understanding	Raul Martinez
April 27, 2021	Virtual	Rosalyn Walker	Equity and Social Justice	Christine Hubbard

**2020-2021 NTRP-16 Executive Committee Meetings**

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Date	Place
March 30, 2021	Virtual
June 8, 2021	Virtual