



85th Legislature – Interim Hearings Overview

HOUSE COMMITTEES

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION	
INTERIM CHARGE	
Examine efforts of 2-year and 4-year institutions to implement innovative and non-traditional models of education delivery to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse student body and the demands of a rapidly changing workforce. Identify any obstacles to institutional innovation. Make recommendations to scale innovative educational models to better serve students and employers.	
HEARING DATE	COMMUNITY COLLEGE WITNESSES
6/7/2018	Chancellor Mary Hensley (Blinn College) (VIDEO – 00:24:13)
INTERIM CHARGE	
Determine, to the extent possible, the scope of financial losses to 2- and 4-year institutions, including facilities, that resulted from Hurricane Harvey. Recommend possible state actions to mitigate any negative impact on institutions and ensure governance structures and parameters allow for effective responses. Review the educational opportunities offered to students displaced by Harvey throughout the state. Recommend any changes that could improve the process and what additional service might be needed for these displaced students.	
HEARING DATE	COMMUNITY COLLEGE WITNESSES
9/19/2018	Chancellor Steve Head (Lone Star College) Chancellor Brenda Hellyer (San Jacinto College)
INTERIM CHARGE	
Examine the rapid growth of dual credit course offerings across the state, and evaluate whether dual credit is effectively reducing time-to-degree and improving affordability for students and the state. Evaluate institutions' policies and processes for ensuring rigor and quality, and the adequacy of student advising regarding the potential applicability of dual credit courses to future academic program requirements. Review the current state funding methodology and costs of, and the share of state funding attributable to, dual credit programs.	
HEARING DATE	COMMUNITY COLLEGE WITNESSES
9/19/2018	President Mark Escamilla (Del Mar College)
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS – S/C ON DISASTER IMPACT & RECOVERY	
INTERIM CHARGE	
Examine the use of federal funds by state agencies responding to the effects of Hurricane Harvey and identify opportunities to maximize the use of federal funds to reduce the impact of future natural disasters. Also identify the need for state resources to respond to Hurricane Harvey relief and recovery efforts, as well as opportunities for state investment in infrastructure projects that will reduce the impact of future natural disasters.	
HEARING DATE	COMMUNITY COLLEGE WITNESSES
11/8/2017	Jacob Fraire (TACC) (VIDEO – 01:14:58) President Betty McCrohan (Wharton County Junior College) (01:19:06) Chancellor Steve Head (Lone Star College) (01:28:50)
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS, SELECT	
INTERIM CHARGE	
Develop and present concrete principles on long-term competitiveness and economic development issues. The purpose of the hearing is to show businesses seeking to come to Texas, or that are already located	

in Texas, the principles that the Texas House believes should guide the state's pursuit of long-term economic growth.

HEARING DATE	COMMUNITY COLLEGE WITNESSES
12/5/2017	President Richard Rhodes (Austin Community College) (VIDEO – 05:38:06)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY RESOURCES

INTERIM CHARGE

Examine how state policies may facilitate investment in public infrastructure and workforce development in the Permian Basin region in order to support the anticipated growth in industry activity and related population, and capture the full economic potential of the region.

HEARING DATE	COMMUNITY COLLEGE WITNESSES
12/12/2017	President Steve Thomas (Midland College) President Greg Williams (Odessa College)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY & PUBLIC SAFETY

INTERIM CHARGE

“Junior college campus security” (posted topic, not an official interim charge)

HEARING DATE	COMMUNITY COLLEGE WITNESSES
2/1/2018	Chancellor Mike Metke (Tyler Junior College) Brent Chambers, Director of Public Safety (Tyler Junior College)

SENATE COMMITTEES

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

INTERIM CHARGE

System/Campus Expansion: Consider what role the state should have in overseeing the approval and development of new higher education locations into geographical areas already served by existing institutions. Develop a long-term statewide strategy for authorizing new locations and programs which includes a plan to ensure adequate support for expansion. Explore where there are underserved areas of the state and what type of programs would best serve the population to fill regional workforce needs.

HEARING DATE	COMMUNITY COLLEGE WITNESSES
3/21/2018	President David Hinds (Victoria College) (VIDEO – 01:29:15) President Neil Matkin (Collin College) (01:37:12)

INTERIM CHARGE

60x30 TX Statewide Plan Review: Examine progress in achieving goals within the 60x30TX plan, and review efforts of higher education institutions to implement innovative and non-traditional models of education delivery to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse student body. Consider whether current state policies and regulations may support or hinder institutions' ability to innovate in educational delivery and access. Make recommendations to accelerate innovation in higher education, to better serve students through expanded access to high quality educational opportunities, improve quality in educational delivery, and achieve goals outlined in the 60x30TX higher education strategic plan.

HEARING DATE	COMMUNITY COLLEGE WITNESSES
4/25/2018	Valerie Jones, VP for Instruction (Odessa College) (VIDEO – 03:03:40) Chancellor Mary Hensley (Blinn College) (03:32:05) Chancellor Joe May (Dallas County Community College District) (03:46:10)

INTERIM CHARGE

Mandate Reduction: Examine all current state and federal regulations on public higher education institutions and consider whether reductions of regulations could reduce fees, produce efficiencies and greater student academic performance. Make recommendations to reduce certain regulations for increased flexibility to provide better student outcomes.

HEARING DATE	COMMUNITY COLLEGE WITNESSES
8/22/2018	Chancellor Jim Yeonopolus (Central Texas College) (VIDEO – 00:27:33)
INTERIM CHARGE	
<p>Monitoring: Monitor the implementation of legislation addressed by the Senate Higher Education Committee and make recommendations for any legislation needed to improve, enhance and/or complete implementation. Specifically, receive updates on construction of facilities as a result of tuition revenue bonds authorized during the 84th Legislative Session, as well as the development and implementation of the Texas OnCourse program, authorized during the 84th Legislative Session and monitor the following:</p> <p>(1) SB 2118 (85th) relating to authorization by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for certain public junior colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs.</p> <p>(2) HB 2205 (84th) relating to the State Board for Educator Certification, educator preparation programs, educator certification, issuance of certain teaching permits, and certain procedures for investigating educator misconduct.</p> <p>(3) SB 887 (85th) relating to a requirement that certain participating institutions under the student loan program administered by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board provide loan debt information to certain students.</p> <p>(4) SB 802 (85th) relating to a study and report regarding best practices in the transfer of course credit between public institutions of higher education.</p> <p>(5) SB 810 (85th) relating to open educational resources.</p> <p>(6) HB 2223 (85th) relating to developmental coursework offered by public institutions of higher education under the Texas Success Initiative.</p>	
HEARING DATE	COMMUNITY COLLEGE WITNESSES
8/22/2018	SB 2118: President Richard Rhodes (Austin Community College) (VIDEO – 01:16:20) HB 2223: President Warren Nichols (College of the Mainland) (02:43:05) Cynthia Ferrell, Vice President (TACC) (02:46:52)
INTERIM CHARGE	
<p>Improving Transferability: Examine and make recommendations regarding policies that will help students make informed decisions regarding transferring credits among institutions and promote efficient completion of degrees and credentials. Study the adequacy of advising for transfer students in secondary and post-secondary settings. Focus on statewide solutions that will address transfer for all Texas students, including Fields of Study curricula, the role of the Core Curriculum and additional tools that will help students transfer credits efficiently toward a degree.</p>	
HEARING DATE	COMMUNITY COLLEGE WITNESSES
9/5/2018	President Russell Lowery-Hart (Amarillo College) (VIDEO – 02:11:22) Mark Tengler, Director of Instructional Quality (Houston Community College) (02:19:13) Chancellor Bruce Leslie (Alamo Colleges) (02:34:44)
INTERIM CHARGE	
<p>Dual Credit: Review dual credit opportunities throughout the state, examining the impact of HB 505 (84th Legislature) on students in particular. Look at the outcomes of statewide studies completed in Texas regarding dual credit, and examine the current rigor of dual credit courses, as well as how to improve advising for students in dual credit. (JOINT CHARGE w/SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION)</p>	
HEARING DATE	COMMUNITY COLLEGE WITNESSES
9/12/2018	Jacob Fraire (TACC) (VIDEO – 02:47:33) President Robert Riza (Clarendon College) (03:01:12) Chancellor Steve Head (Lone Star College) (04:19:16) Leticia Adams, Team Lead Advising (San Antonio College) (05:07:44)

JOINT COMMITTEES / OTHER

JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION FORMULA FUNDING	
INTERIM CHARGE	
Improvements to the current formula funding system for institutions of higher education.	
HEARING DATE	COMMUNITY COLLEGE WITNESSES
2/21/2018	Chancellor Brenda Hellyer (San Jacinto College) (VIDEO – 01:17:00)

TEXAS COMMISSION ON PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCE	
INTERIM CHARGE	
Efficiency at the Campus Level	
HEARING DATE	COMMUNITY COLLEGE WITNESSES
3/7/2018	Chancellor Joe May (Dallas County Community College District) (VIDEO – 02:09:22)