



Texas Association of Certification Officers

Promoting communication among educator preparation programs, school districts, and state agencies in Texas

Fall 2020 CSOTTE (Virtual Conference) TACO General Meeting Minutes Sunday, October 18 4:00pm – 4:50pm

Welcome: Misti Corn, 2020-21 TACO President

Members in attendance: 59

Introduction of 2019-2020 Officers:

- Misti Corn, Texas A&M University, President
- Susan Sharp, Howard Payne University, President-Elect
- Katheryn Hartshorn, Texas A&M Texarkana, Immediate Past President
- Wendy Sklenarik, Angelo State University, Secretary
- Connie Sabo-Risley, University of Incarnate Word, Treasurer

Approval of Minutes: June 2020 Meeting, Wendy Sklenarik, Secretary

Motion to approve: Sandra Parnell

Seconded: Susan Sharp

Treasurer's Report: Connie Sabo-Risley, Treasurer

Motion to approve: Sandra Parnell

Seconded: Susan Sharp

Recognition of New Members

- Sara Hartman- Wayland Baptist
- Donna Kubena- Texas Lutheran
- Michelle Fennick- Houston Baptist
- Pamela Trocki- University of North Texas
- Kimberly Kuklies- Texas A&M Central Texas

Recognition of Retiring Members

- No retirees

Discussion Items

Coping with Covid-19: Problems encountered and solutions developed

- How are you reaching out to STR finishers that are not yet certified?
 - Listservs
 - Email campaigns
 - Internal reports
 - Mailed letters to last known address
 - Making those that do not want to test sign off that that were informed and decline.

Tracking and communicating with WINT and WPRO certifications

- Using Excel Spreadsheet submit to TEA to track
- Use "Remind" to contact students with text messages

New ASEP Reporting System

- Some parts made it easier
- Will there be notice so data can be fixed?
 - Since this is a Report Only year, there will be no windows to update and fix data available
- August 24th is the deadline to add anyone new into ASEP
- On the last SBEC Meeting Agenda Docs there was information on new criterial for ASEP Reporting (5A and 5B)

2020 Classroom Grants

- 67 applicants (7 more than last year)
- 15 EPPs that had 1-12 applications each
- 12 grants were awarded for \$250
 - Grant Committee
 - Melissa Beene, Chair
 - Belinda Granados
 - Sandra Parnell
 - Christine Pruitt
- Award recipients were VERY appreciative
- It was brought up to see if it were possible that a consideration be made for those Initial Certification Finishers that enter straight into a graduate program could be considered for the award if they were verified by their certification officer to be a first year teacher a year after they finished
 - The board and classroom grant committee can look at this and see if there is a timeline that would be fair and would work for all applicants.
- A concern was brought forth that more Urban Schools need to be considered for the award.
 - The grant committee uses a blind review process, which does not indicate what schools the candidates are from

- If there comes a time that we get an increased number of applicants, then the board and the grant committee can consider grouping the applicants (urban/rural, small/medium/large programs, etc)
- Certification Officer Letter: It was brought up that not all programs have personal contact with their students, so could the letter be a verification process only?
 - The board and the grant committee will tweak the wording of the letter, so that it is a verification process and signature by the program.
- If you would like to volunteer to be on the grant committee please contact Connie

Additional Discussion Items

- TEA Townhall- you can still submit questions. Please either send those via TACO Talk or to Misti directly
- Would be nice if we had a document that had all of the contact information for the other Certification Officers in the State.
- Can this year be another Report Only year? The limitations of information available since everyone in the state are doing everything differently (field experiences, virtual schooling, etc) make it hard to get consistent data.
 - It has been heard that having two Report Only years will be looked down upon, but there might be some negotiating room.
- Two CSOTTE Journal reviewers are needed from the TACO Organization

Upcoming Save the Dates

- June 14th-15th: Summer Meeting Dates
- October 10th-12th: CSOTTE Conference in San Marcos @ Embassy Suites
- CSOTTE Conferences 2021-2024 will be in San Marcos @ Embassy Suites

Adjournment