



## Texas Association of Certification Officers

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

### Minutes June 5, 2023 Meeting

The meeting was opened at 11 AM by Melissa M Beene, outgoing TACO president, in the SkyRoom at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio. President Beene welcomed members and guests to the meeting, and then introduced the officers for 2023-24:

Teryana Lamb, Harris County Department of Education, President  
Jessica Powell, University of North Texas, President-elect  
Melissa M Beene, Texas A&M - San Antonio, Immediate Past President  
Connie Sabo-Risley, University of the Incarnate Word, Treasurer,  
Wendy Sklenarik, Angelo State University, Secretary (was not present)

President Lamb then presented the outgoing President with a gift of appreciation for all of the work she has done for TACO for the past year.

The minutes of the October 9, 2022, meeting were discussed. Sandra Parnell moved to accept them, and Susan Sharp seconded. The motion carried and the minutes were approved. The treasurer's report was given. Kim Perez moved to accept it, and Jessica Hightower seconded. The report was approved.

President Lamb then recognized new members by asking them to stand and introduce themselves to the room. She then recognized retiring members. The one retiring member present was Ginny Fender of UT-Tyler, who has been a member of TACO since its founding.

Treasurer Connie Sabo-Risley then briefly discussed dues. Dues are \$30 for the first member from each EPP and \$15 for each additional member from that EPP. She reminded members that dues run June 1 to the following May 31 and encouraged those who had not yet paid their dues to do so, reminding members in general that our biggest expense as an organization is funding the classroom grants each year, and so that basically our dues go back out into the community to support first year teachers.

Connie Sabo-Risley then was asked to talk about TACO Talk, the very active email discussion group of TACO. She stated that there were some issues with bounce back due to various receiving entities using anti-spam techniques that might disrupt the members receiving the emails, but that if these were brought to her attention, she would do her best to correct them. She also mentioned that the discussion group is for members only, stating that she gets several requests each year to have additional people added to the list but not to the TACO membership. She did point out that at \$15 per additional member, it broke down to \$1.25 a month to be a member of the TACO listserv and asked informally if the

membership thought that TACO Talk was worth that amount or more, and the membership informally agreed heartily.

The 2023 classroom grant applications were then discussed. Connie Sabo-Risley informed the membership that 12 applications had already been received from a variety of EPPs including three that had never previously had a candidate apply. She mentioned that in each of the past three years during which these awards had been given, TACO had received approximately 60 applications, and she thanked those who in previous years had helped read the applications and select the winners as well as those who had promoted the application with their candidates. She mentioned that she would put the classroom grant application material back out on the TACO Talk sometime within the next week.

TACO past president Susan Sharp then reported on the Educator Preparation Stakeholder Group, the SBEC advisory body upon which she represents the TACO membership. She stated that TEA had made changes to the rewriting of TAC chapter 228, which is currently under revision, to reflect the input from stakeholders. She also mentioned that TEA personnel have been improving somewhat about getting materials to the group prior to SBEC meetings. In addition, she shared an email she received from Mark Olofson in response to a query she sent about the availability of the various data reports made available by TEA. His email stated that TEA policy would be to release these reports only to the EPP legal authority, who would in turn distribute as appropriate to EPP personnel.

President Lamb then reported on the activities of the Texas Coalition for Educator Preparation, a stakeholder's group in which she represents the TACO membership. She mentioned that this group had been active monitoring what was happening with various bills during the recent Texas legislative session.

President Lamb then spoke to the membership about the upcoming October 8-10 2023 CSOTTE conference. It will be in San Marcos and all members are encouraged to attend and submit proposals. The TACO general meeting will take place on Sunday afternoon, and on Monday we will again have the lunch networking session. The membership was asked whether the TACO leadership should request the presence of one or more TEA staff members at the luncheon. There was some discussion about exactly what TEA would have to offer during such an informal session, compared to the value of membership being able to just freely engage in conversation without TEA present. President Lamb said that the leadership would take all of this into account before deciding the format of the Monday lunch. President Lamb encouraged members to consider submitting session proposals on topics of interest to certification officers. She also informed membership that the TEA update at CSOTTE will be a Tuesday 8 am optional session rather than the Tuesday lunch closing general session.

President-elect Powell then distributed amongst the tables copies of a certification officer activity sheet. On the sheet, the membership was invited to indicate how proficient they felt at various ASEP duties. They were also asked to rank the usefulness of the TEA HelpDesk, TEA specialist support, the midyear and near end-year data reports from TEA, the TEA newsletter, the Pearson EPP newsletter, and TACO Talk. The results of the survey and a listing of the comments will be appended to these minutes.

With no other business, President Lamb adjourned the meeting at 11:51.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Sabo-Risley for Wendy Sklenarik