

TACRAO Legislative Issues Committee 2021-2022 Report

TACRAO Legislative Issues Committee Members:

Jodie Rexroat, Chair – Southern Methodist University
Chris Johnson – Texas State Technical College
Sarina Willis – Prairie View A&M University
Robert Jenkins – UT Health Science Center at Houston
Julie Reyes – Texas A&M International University

State Legislation:

As this is an even numbered year, we are between legislative sessions but anticipate a lively legislative session when the 88th Legislature convenes in January.

The Speaker of the House issued his interim charges in March 2022 and in April the Lieutenant Governor issued interim charges for the Senate. They outlined not only key legislation from the 87th Legislative Session but also issues that will be a priority for the 88th Legislature.

Some of these focal issues regarding Higher Education include:

- Monitor progress towards 60x30TX plan
- Rising costs of Higher Education
- Workforce Education
- Funding of Permanent University fund
- Teaching and Health Care workforce participation
- Monitor implementation of legislation from 87th legislature

We will await the results of the November 8th election, to see if these priorities remain the same or if the results of the congressional and gubernatorial races necessitate a shift.

Note: Long-time Senate Higher Education committee member, Larry Taylor (District 11) is retiring. He has been a vocal member of the Higher Education Committee. We will wait with bated breath for his committee replacement to be named.

Federal Legislation:

We are monitoring several high-profile issues in both the legislative process and in the courts.

- Recommended changes to Title IX legislation were released in July 2022
- Two affirmative action cases will be heard on October 31st before the Supreme Court.
- The future of DACA remains uncertain. While an appeals court has determined that DACA is illegal, but the program has not been discontinued.

- The Department of Education had canceled its recognition of the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools from participating in federal student aid programs unless they can get approval elsewhere. Twenty-seven colleges will have 18 months to find new accreditation.