

TACRAO 2023 Nominations and Elections Committee Report

The 2023 Nominations and Elections Committee members were: Sofia Almeda (Chair), Maggie Cano (Chair-Elect), Jennifer Beal, Mary Lemburg, and Brenda Schumann.

Process and Timeline Overview

Ahead of the nominations period, the N&E Committee discussed the following general timeline for the nomination and election cycle:

- ✓ **June 7 – June 25:** Nominations open (Members get an email from the TACRAO system MemberClicks and I'll send a reminder via the listserv. We will emphasize that members should follow instructions from the system email. Only active members can nominate.)
- ✓ **July 14:** Notify nominees and provide activity form to those who agree to be considered so that we can see their contributions and interest in the position.
- ✓ **Week of July 3:** Obtain points from TACRAO Secretary
- ✓ **Wednesday, July 19:** N&E holds preliminary slate meeting
- ✓ **Friday, July 21:** Reminder from Chair to non-respondents about activity form. All were informed that no form or no response -= nomination declined.
- ✓ **Sunday, July 23:** Nominees' forms due to Chair
- ✓ **Week of July 24:** Follow-ups if agreed/needed (unlikely as of 7/19 per committee meeting)
- ✓ **Tuesday, July 24 – 25:** Activity Forms provided to N&E committee members for individual review via shared link
- ✓ **Tuesday, August 1** N&E committee meets one last time by Teams to review and finalize slate to be recommended to TEC
- ✓ **~Thursday, August 4:** Ballot recommendations go to N&E from Chair for vetting/feedback
- ✓ **August 10 – August 16:** *Election period; seven days long and in the month of August per Bylaws

The following nominations were sought:

- **President-Elect**
- **Vice President for Admissions**
- **Secretary**
- **2024 Nominations and Elections Committee Members, including the new chair-elect**

Emails encouraging nominations of qualified members were sent to active members using and according to MemberClicks, with reminders going out via the TACRAO listserv. Nominees were contacted via email starting July 17 to confirm their interest and willingness to proceed with nomination. One nominee was excluded given an insufficient lapse in time since is last service on the N&E Committee; the member was contacted directly by the Chair. Nominees were asked to submit the PDF-based TACRAO Activity Form by July 23 for use in selecting a slate of nominees. Those with multiple nominations were asked to identify which position(s) they were interested in filling (for example, both Secretary and N&E). They were also informed that, should they be willing to fill any role for which they were nominated, the N&E Committee would consider best fit and greatest need. To further aid in their assessment of nominees, the N&E Committee obtained a current list of members and their points/activity from the TACRAO Secretary on July 5, in accordance with TACRAO procedures.

The following is a summary of nominations received:

1. 75 total nominations submitted (nominations and/or names duplicated)
2. 58 unduplicated nominations for *positions* (some members carried nominations for two roles)
3. 9 members nominated two roles (none nominated for more than two)
4. 48 unique members nominated for office and/or N&E

	Total Nominations	Accepted Nomination	Declined	No Response	Ineligible
President	3	2	1	0	0
VP for Admissions	12	4	5	3	0
Secretary	14	8	1	5	0
N&E	29	11	4	13	1

One of our N&E Committee members chose to vacate the N&E Committee role to accept a nomination for TEC office. The Chair promptly met with President Melinda Carroll, President-Elect Bobbie Brown, and Past President Paige Bussell by phone, and a consensus was reached to proceed with the process with current N&E Committee members, and not use any alternates as none had been expressly identified as part of the 2022 elections process.

The N&E Committee met virtually on August 1 to review qualifications of the nominees. A slate was determined among N&E committee members that took into consideration the following aspects, to name a few: expanding leadership opportunities among the membership, achieving diversity of institution type and size, and achieving diversity of higher education area (admissions v. registrar, etc.). After submitting names for the slate to the TEC via TACRAO President Melinda Carroll, a meeting was coordinated to discuss the committee's decisions. Explanations and rationale were shared with TEC by the Chair, after which an updated list was provided by the Chair to the President. The following member names were then presented to the membership for voting via Vote-Now:

President

- Chris Reed, Texas A&M University
- Dara Newton, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

VP for Admissions

- Griselda Castilla, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- Jason Hale, Texas Tech University
- Kristin McDonald-Willey, Amarillo College

Secretary

- Cindy Blanco, South Texas College
- Georgina Antillon, The University of Texas at El Paso
- Jennifer Beal, North Central Texas College
- Jodie Rexroat, Southern Methodist University

N&E

- Amanda McSween, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
- Anam Iqbal, Southern Methodist University
- Andi Scott, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- Brandy Simpkins Piner, UT Health San Antonio
- Lorena Rios, Laredo College
- Nichole Mancone Fisher, Texas Christian University
- Nickolaus Cioci, Texas Southern University
- Rex Oliver, Texas Tech University
- Samantha Taylor, Tarrant County College

All members whose names were not moved forward on the ballot were contacted by the Chair by phone, with a few email follow-ups where necessary. The TACRAO member list was provided to Vote-Now on August 8. Voting via Vote-Now began on August 10 and closed at noon on August 17. Names of candidates were randomized within each position when membership logged in to vote. Voting reminders were sent by Vote-Now on August 11, 12, and 15, and via the listserv on August 11, 15 and 16.

TACRAO Election Results

Results of the election were provided from Vote-Now on August 17 and announced to the TACRAO membership via the listserv by TACRAO President Melinda Carroll on August 18. While 409 members voted, an increase from 2022, the turnout *decreased* based on total membership:

Year	Total Number of Members Active and Able to Vote	Total Number of Members Who Voted	Voter Turnout
2022	2083	354	17%
2023	2609	409	15.7%

TACRAO Executive Committee Results:

President Elect: Chris Reed | Texas A&M University
Vice President for Admissions: Jason Hale | Texas Tech University
Secretary: Jennifer Beal | North Central Texas College

TACRAO Nominations and Elections Committee Results:

Maggie Cano, Chair (Elected in 2022) | A&M Corpus Christi
Samantha Taylor, Chair-Elect | Tarrant County College
Lorena Rios | Laredo College
Rex Oliver | Texas Tech University
Andi Scott | The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Brandy Simpkins Piner, Alternate A | UT Health San Antonio
Nichole Mancone Fisher, Alternate B | Texas Christian University

Recommendations

The N&E Activity Form should reside in MemberClicks for consistency, ease of use, and reference (we understand this was underway as of late October 2023).

Participation is still not as robust as might be hoped, and it would be good for all TACRAO leaders to include a message of “get involved – nominate and vote” as often as possible when addressing membership. We suggest informational sessions at the annual conference or, better yet, as a precursor to the N&E period, when members can be informed of the nominations process, who can serve, and what all roles entail (especially the role of N&E committee member).

The N&E Committee was careful to identify two alternates for the 2024 N&E period given challenges that surfaced during the N&E process when a sitting committee member opted to accept a nomination for TACRAO Office. It is imperative that each Chair pass on to the Chair-Elect the importance of identifying alternates and announcing their names/results to the membership.

Given the size of the N&E Committee, the opportunities that could arise for leadership opportunities, and natural turnover in higher education, we recommend that *three* alternates be identified from voting results in future elections

and that Article II of the Bylaws be amended accordingly with proper approvals. An initial draft of possible changes was provided by the Chair in August for consideration in future TEC meetings.

The N&E Committee recognizes sitting members may be nominated for office and may wish to accept the nomination for consideration to be placed on the ballot. This is encouraged, but if there is concern for continuity in the Chair role, TEC may want to consider enabling N&E Committee members to vacate their roles, but not the Chair-Elect or Chair.

The association will benefit from developing recorded N&E procedures that allow the committee to officially consider the nominations for other factors (balance of diversity in regional, institution type, and bio/dem characteristics) before making recommendations to the executive committee. The outgoing Chair will work with the incoming Chair and Chair-Elect to pass on an initial draft. This will, in part, also solidify responsibilities for contacting all nominees with the results of the elections and achieve consistency. (It should be noted that President Melinda Carroll ultimately contacted all TEC nominees and the Chair contacted all N&E nominees.)

As in 2022, the N&E Committee used Microsoft Teams to help committee members meet, see, and discuss all the documents, responses from nominees, updates to timeline, etc. Incoming Chair Maggie Cano is positioned to use similar virtual meeting methods to keep the N&E process efficient but cost effective to TACRAO as well.

Finally, I thank TEC for eager discussions regarding N&E that will undoubtedly serve to tighten procedures and strengthen the process in order to achieve consistency from year to year, emphasize leadership growth, and continue alignment with N&E process changes that took place in 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sofia Almeda', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sofía Almeda, TACRAO N&E Chair 2023