



2025-2026
Legislative Issues Committee Report
Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Committee Members:

Chair, Brenda Martinez, Texas Tech University
Cynthia Blanco, South Texas College
Brenda Schumann, The University of Texas at Austin
Trish McCormick, West Texas A&M University
Blanca Guerra, The University of Texas at San Antonio Health Science Center
Jennifer Waits-Davis, Collin College
Tiffany Wendt, Texas Christian University

The Legislative Issues Committee conducted communication via a Microsoft Teams site hosted by Brenda Martinez at Texas Tech University. This method allowed for fluid call-and-response and collaboration by all committee members, as well as a shared resource repository. Formal online meetings were hosted June 4, 2026, July 6, 2026, August 3, 2026, and October 15, 2026.

As Texas is between legislative years, the Legislative Issues Committee determined that taking an educational approach to teaching members how to understand the legislative process and develop tracking and networking approaches within their own institutions and systems would be of the greatest value to the membership. Feedback received was positive.

The Legislative Issues Committee hosted a webinar on August 12, 2026. In attendance were 106 members. Presenting were Brenda Martinez, Brenda Schumann, Trish McCormick, Blanca Guerra, Jennifer Waits-Davis, and Tiffany Wendt. The committee plans to present the webinar presentation live at the annual meeting.

The webinar learning objectives were:

- Understand the Texas legislative process from bill filing to law
- Explain how statutes become administrative rules
- Describe the relationship between the Texas Education Code (TEC), the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB)
- Identify key resources for monitoring legislative and regulatory changes
- Apply this knowledge to compliance planning at your institution

Given the broad nature of the membership with public vs private, community college vs university, health-focused institutions, etc. the committee recommends continued efforts to help the membership learn more about resources and legislative processes so that they can individually focus on legislative efforts that directly impact their institutions. The committee has discussed increasing the educational approach to perhaps having two sessions at the annual meeting: (1) Informative-based and (2) Interactive-based. Both sessions would seek to better prepare the membership to be more confident and knowledgeable of the legislative process. A continued strengthening of the partnership with AACRAO as a resource to highlight federal initiatives and predictions is also encouraged as it brings a better "in the know" perspective of issues at that level.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude for the members of my committee. During a year wherein I have faced significant personal challenges, every member of this committee has demonstrated strong commitment and

participation and helped to carry the work of this committee forward. It has been my honor to serve alongside each one of them.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brenda L. Martinez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "B" and a decorative flourish at the end.

Brenda L. Martinez, Chair