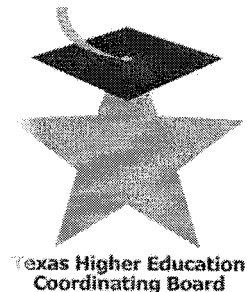


Susan E. Brown
Assistant Commissioner for Planning and Accountability

Susan E. Brown joined the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in February 1987 and now serves as Assistant Commissioner for Planning and Accountability. She has served as the Board representative for the Education Research Centers in cooperation with the Texas Education Agency. She was responsible for the initial development of the higher education Accountability System developed in 2004. Currently, the operations of the Educational Data Center which is responsible for receiving data from Texas institutions, reports to her. She also oversees a range of activities for the agency including development of the funding formulas under which Texas institutions receive a major portion of their state appropriations; review of facilities projects at universities, health-related institutions, and technical and state colleges. In addition, she is responsible for making updates to the state's higher education plan, *Closing the Gaps by 2015*. Susan holds a marketing degree from Texas A&M University.



Written Testimony for the Senate Higher Education Committee
Interim Hearing – July 22, 2010
Charge #4: Accountability

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Accountability Reporting

Panel 5. Study and make recommendations to eliminate unnecessary or duplicate reporting requirements.

I. Current System

- i. Institutions of higher education provide a number of standard reports.
- ii. These reports were designed in a manner to allow flexibility and for that reason they allow the Coordinating Board to calculate the vast majority of the measures without additional reporting by the institutions.
- iii. Institutional accountability groups meet two to three times annually and Coordinating Board staff work with the groups to determine the best method of calculating measures based on information already provided.
- iv. There are a few measures, mostly related to endowments and faculty awards that the institutions input directly into the accountability system.

II. Other Work of the Accountability Groups

- i. CB staff meet with different accountability groups two to three times per year to discuss measures and to determine if there have been changes that need to be incorporated.
- ii. Accountability groups work on sharing ideas for improvement and developing better metrics to understand what is happening on campuses.
- iii. The groups are currently focused on possible methods for measuring value added. Groups are in the process of incorporating suggestions from various institutions into preliminary proposals.

III. Review of All Data Requests

- i. Coordinating Board staff meet with the Data Collection Committee periodically to review all new data collection in an effort to reduce redundancy and to ensure information is collected in a format that allows analysis.

- ii. **Recommendation** – Legislatively designate the Coordinating Board as the *initial* source of public higher education data