

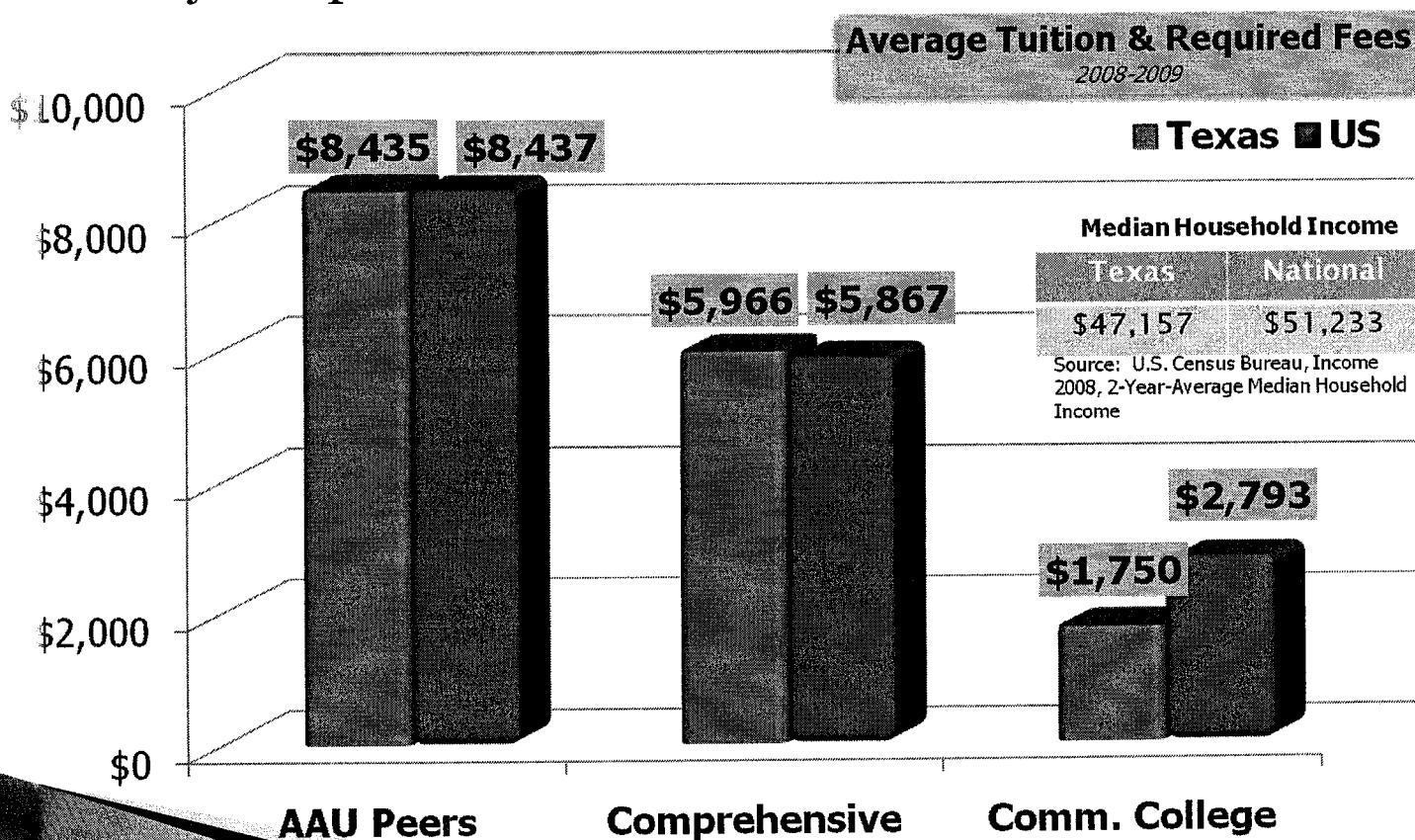
Dan Weaver

Assistant Commissioner for Business and Support Services

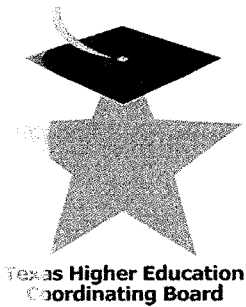
Dan Weaver has been with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board since June 2006 and has served multiple roles since joining the agency. He currently serves as Assistant Commissioner for Business and Support Services which oversees all state financial aid and loan programs as well as day-to-day business operations of the agency.

After completing his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from The University of Texas at Austin, Dan worked for more than 20 years in the private sector in a variety of disciplines and operational roles primarily in the aircraft and material sciences industries. His breadth of functional experience in engineering, marketing and sales, operations management and business development enables Dan to tackle complex business and organizational issues and bring about sound strategies for implementation. Prior to joining the Coordinating Board, Dan returned to school and earned a Masters of Business Administration from the McCombs School of Business at The University of Texas at Austin.

Tuition and fees at Texas' 4-year institutions match national averages, while community colleges remain relatively inexpensive



Source: Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board, *2008-2009 Tuition and Fee Rates: A National Comparison*, March 2009.



Written Testimony for the Joint Hearing of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and House Committee on Higher Education

Interim Hearing – August 19, 2010

Charge #9: Higher Education Legislation Introduced by the 81st Texas Legislature

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Panel #6: Tuition Trends in Texas

I. Tuition Deregulation

- a. Prior to 2003, the Texas Legislature retained regulatory authority to set both statutory and designated tuition rates, with a cap placed on the designated tuition at a rate not to exceed the statutory tuition rate. In the fall of 2003, about 60 % of four- year universities had reached the designated tuition cap of \$46 per semester credit hours (SCH).
- b. In 2003, the 78th Texas Legislature passed legislation (HB 3015) which amended Texas Education Code (TEC), Section 54.0513 to allow governing boards of public universities to set their own designated tuition rates as “necessary for the effective operation of the institution.”
- c. Since tuition deregulation, universities have pursued increases in designated tuition to fund instruction and academic support, student services, plant operation and maintenance, as well as debt service obligations. Coordinating Board data, as reported by the universities, shows the statewide average total academic charges for a student taking 15 SCH has increased by 72 percent from fall 2003 through fall 2009. This includes designated tuition, statutory tuition, mandatory fees, and average college and course fees. In the four year period preceding tuition deregulation, total academic charges had increased by 53 percent (about 13% per year).
- d. HB 3015 also added TEC, Sections 56.011 and 56.012, which require universities to set-aside at least 20 percent of tuition charges to a resident *undergraduate* student in excess of \$46 per SCH. Institutions must set-aside at least 15 percent of

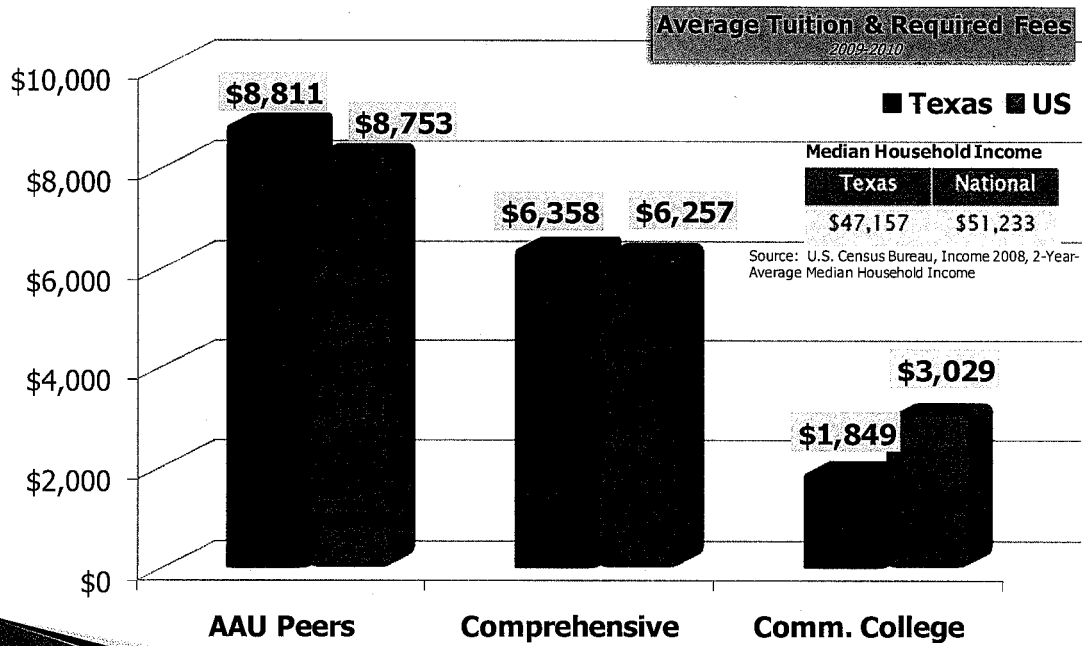
the amount of resident *graduate* designated tuition charges in excess of \$46 per SCH.

- e. Statute requires institutions give priority to students who have financial need and whose cost for tuition and required fees is not met through other non-loan financial assistance programs.

l. National Tuition and Fee Trends

- a. A report by the Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board on tuition and fee comparisons shows Texas' universities are slightly above the national averages, while community colleges remain relatively inexpensive.
- b. It is expected tuition and fees will continue to rise if state and federal resources do not keep pace.

Tuition and fees at Texas' 4-year institutions match national averages, while community colleges remain relatively inexpensive



Source: Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board, 2009-2010 Tuition and Fee Rates: A National Comparison, March 2010.