

TACUSPA Times

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

02.04.2011

Greetings from the TACUSPA Board!

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Trisha VanDuser, President

What an interesting year it has been so far, and it is only February! As we returned from a much needed winter break, some of us received more time off due to severe ice and snow storms. I'm sure we are all happy to be back at work though, and excited about what this year has in store.

The TACUSPA Board met for a two day winter board meeting at the beginning of January in Austin, where we will be hosting our October 16-18, 2011 fall conference at the Holiday Inn Austin Town Lake. We are moving forward with our strategic plan and are very excited about what is ahead! We have plans to update our website and keep up with the current technology, while we are currently blogging, tweeting and facebooking! It was great to have some of our graduate fellows and committee chairs join us as well.

TACUSPA elections are right around the corner and we encourage everyone to vote!



This is YOUR association, and in order to stay strong and active, we want your voice to be heard. There are so many ways to get involved with TACUSPA, from volunteering, serving as a committee chair, visiting the blog and facebook page, and attending the fall conference.

Another great opportunity to get involved is the Texas Higher Education Law Conference to be held March 28-29 at the University of North Texas. TACUSPA serves as a co-sponsor and will be meeting for dinner on Monday, March 28 and breakfast on Tuesday, March 29. This is a wonderful way to network, as well as stay current on legal issues.

Speaking of legal issues, the 82nd Texas legislative session is under way and has been interesting, to say the least. Of course, the largest area of concern for most is budgets cuts for next fiscal year. I imagine most of our institutions are preparing as we speak. Other items of interest include the carrying of concealed hand guns on university property, textbook costs and the elimination of textbook sales taxes, methods for measuring student success and degree completion, and many other important issues. I encourage you to keep track of the bills of interest to you and your institution.

As we face challenges this year, we also have the opportunity to make a difference in our students' lives. As an association, it's important to keep in mind our core values of professional networking, development and advocacy, as these are the tenets that allow us to foster our students' success, as well as our own.



Graduate Student Caucus

The Caucus serves as an affinity group for graduate student members. Caucus chairs provide feedback to the Board of Directors regarding meeting the needs of members, assist in marketing to new members, and help ensure that the conference programs meet the needs of the members of their particular groups.

Currently, we have 17 active graduate students and two active committees (Site Visits and Social Media). During the first week of December, two co-chairs for the Graduate Student Caucus were appointed, Karl DeGolier and Ashley Bruner. The VP for Education communicates with the graduate students on a weekly basis. The social media committee is updating the TACUSPA blog two times a month.

TACUSPA to Present at the 15th Annual Texas Higher Education Law Conference

Clay's Bill (Texas Education Code, Section 51.9361)- Student Organization Risk Management Education

Clay's Bill (Texas Education Code, Section 51.9361) was effective September 2008, how will your institution ensure compliance? Texas Education Code, Section 51.9361 requires institutions to provide risk management education to registered/recognized student organizations. Learn the history of this legislation from Clay's family, review research results from private and public Texas institutions (results specific to plans for compliance and current practices), information on Texas Tech's existing programs (Clay R. Warren Memorial Risk Management Retreat) and discuss relevant literature.

Presented by: Elizabeth Massengale, Ph.D., Director, Parent and Family Relations, Texas Tech University

Fellows Program

Graduate students or new professionals in the field (1-3 years) who are current TACUSPA members are encouraged to apply for one of four (4) Fellowships that are awarded prior to the fall conference.

Recently, two fellows attended the Winter Board Meeting in Austin so they could observe how an organization such as TACUSPA operates. They also had the opportunity to get to know members of the Board and what their responsibilities include.

GEAR Committee Chairs Appointed

Rishi Sriram, Ph.D.

Baylor University, Assistant Professor & Program Coordinator

Higher Education & Student Affairs

Educational Administration, School of Education

Rishi_Sriram@baylor.edu * 254.710.3651

Jacqueline Cooper, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Student Affairs

Graduate Advisor, Student Affairs

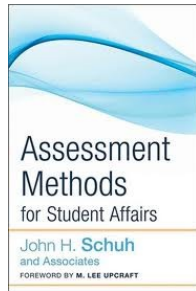
CLAS Department

Texas State University-San Marcos

jc41@txstate.edu * 512-245-7628

Assessment Methods for Student Affairs by Dr. John H. Schuh and Associates

Assessment Methods for Student Affairs, by Dr. John H. Schuh and Associates, is a 2009 publication published by Jossey-Bass. This book features ten distinct chapters. The first chapter focuses on “assessment as an essential dimension of contemporary student affairs practice” and the second chapter emphasizes the “importance of using existing databases”. While the first two chapters of the book establish the importance of assessment and utilizing current resources, the next five chapters focus on the research process. These chapters include: “planning for and implementing data collection”, “selecting, sampling, and soliciting subjects”, “instrumentation”, “data analysis”; and “writing reports and conducting briefings”. The final three chapters of the book focus on “ethics”, a case study titled “using a mixed methods approach to assessment”, and a chapter focused on the future of assessment in student affairs. The book also features great resources for student affairs professionals including: an example of a focus group protocol, a sample methods paragraph, and informed consent checklist.



Positive Aspects of Assessment Methods for Student Affairs

There are several positive aspects of Assessment Methods for Student Affairs. One of the most interesting aspects of the book is the author’s strong emphasis of the usage of existing databases: both internal (i.e. - past and current assessments conducted within the university) and external (i.e. - regional, state, and national assessments). This chapter is an essential for any higher education institution anticipating budget cuts in the next few years. The chapters focused on the research process are very similar to found in educational research textbooks, but these chapters are in a much abbreviated form which is much easier to read and understand. One extraordinary section of the chapters focused on the research and data gathering process is found in the “selecting, sampling, and soliciting subjects” chapter. This section titled, “incentives and rewards”, is very comprehensive and focuses on methods that student affairs professionals can utilize to increase their survey, interview, and focus group response rates. Another beneficial aspect of the chapters focused on the data gathering process is titled “selecting quantitative or qualitative instruments”. This section is an informative resource for student affairs who need help in determining

Book Review

which type of qualitative or quantitative instrument is the best instrument to use for their assessment purposes.

The “writing reports and conducting briefings” chapter provides various tips for the student affairs professional who is preparing to write an assessment report or to present their assessment results. These tips range from: use creativity and acknowledge limitations to accuracy and examine sample reports from other university to gain further insight into the report writing process.

Negative Aspects of Assessment Methods for Student Affairs

One negative aspect of the book is the placement of the ethics chapter. Despite the importance of ethics in higher education, this chapter located at the end of the book. The ethics chapter provides several principles which create a conceptual framework for thinking about ethics in assessment. These principles range from: being just and being faithful to doing no harm and respecting autonomy. One of the most important parts of this chapter focused on informed consent, which features information on institutional review boards and elements of informed consent. Both of these aspects are very important for two-year and four-year institutions in Texas.

The Future of Assessment in Student Affairs

The last chapter of the book presents future projections for the future of assessment in student affairs. These projections range from an increased level of accountability in higher education and more use of technology in collecting data to an increased level human subjects scrutiny and increased use of comparative data and data exchanges.

Conclusion

Assessment Methods for Student Affairs is a good reference book for a student affairs library as well as a great textbook for higher education/student affairs graduate students. For those student affairs professionals who are interested in additional resources on the information presented in each chapter, Schuh provides a comprehensive reference list at the end of each chapter. A majority of the chapters of the book, especially the first chapter, are written in a format that can be easily understood by readers who may be new professionals in the field to senior student affairs professionals. This book presents a variety of ideas, suggestions, and recommendations for professionals who are seeking useful advice about the assessment process.



Submitted by
Dr. Jennifer T. Edwards



TACUSPA Foundation

Dear TACUSPA Membership,

The establishment of a TACUSPA Foundation was a goal of mine when I served as the President of TACUSPA three plus years ago. I began working on this project as the TACUSPA Past President and it has taken three years to get to where we are today. However, it was worth the journey. At the Fall 2010 TACUSPA Conference in Fort Worth, TACUSPA Officers and the inaugural TACUSPA Foundation Board came together to sign the bylaws that will govern the newly formed Foundation Committee. I was honored to be elected as the first chair of the TACUSPA Foundation Board. I know that together we will develop a strong foundation to support the professional development of student affairs professionals across the Great State of Texas. TACUSPA has developed into one of the premier state professional association in the country. The TACUSPA Foundation will ensure that we stay on top.

The goal of the TACUSPA Foundation is to generate funding to support the development of the student personnel profession in Texas. In the coming year, the foundation will implement donor payment plan options, a golf tournament, a silent auction, and much more. The funds generated from these activities will be utilized to fund quality keynote speakers, conference registration waivers, and research grants.

In 2010, the foundation raised \$2,385.00 in donations from TACUSPA fall conference participants. This brings the total funds raised to date to \$4,985.00. Thank you all for your current and continued support! Together we are making a difference for Texas!

- Dr. Thomas Moorman, Chair
Thomas.Moorman@unthsc.edu

2010 Presidents Club Donors (\$100+)

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Marlon Anderson
Darlene Biggers
Mike & Amanda Drum
Matthew & Alicia Huppe
Lisa McDougle
Barry & Jan McKinney
Thomas & Melissa Moorman
Sandi Osters
Keri Rogers & Chuck Mize
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Lisa Perez
Rosemary Prieto
Jennifer Rames
James Renfro
Maria Rodriguez
Grant Shallenberger
Cindy Scarbrough
Jason Simon
Jovita Simon
Mardie Sorensen
Angie Taylor
Lee Tayon
Tommy Thomason
Judy Traylor
Ryan VanDusen
Trisha VanDuser
Kyle Voyles

**Connect with
TACUSPA**

**Award
Nominations**

**Employment
Resources**

Connect with TACUSPA at the Higher Ed Law Conference

TACUSPA will gather for an informal networking dinner on March 28th and for a breakfast at the conference on March 29th.

Stay tuned to TACUSPA's social network media outlets for information about **student scholarship opportunities!**

<http://www.unt.edu/adinistration/conference2011.htm>

TACUSPA Award Nominations- Coming March 2011

The TACUSPA Awards and Recognition Committee will be soliciting nominations for TACUSPA Awards in the spring of 2011. Nomination forms will be available mid-March and will be sent out through the TACUSPA listserv and posted on the website.

The **deadline** for award nominations submissions is **April 30, 2011**.

Start thinking about the staff on your campus who might be eligible for:

Outstanding New Professional Award
Mid-Level Student Affairs Professional Award
Dissertation of the Year Award
Faculty Member of the Year Award
Dr. James (Jim) E. Caswell Distinguished Service Award



We look forward to receiving nominations for all of your amazing staff!

For more information contact:
Molly Albart, TACUSPA Awards and Recognition Chair
molly@uta.edu or 817-272-1104
<http://tacupa.net/awards.html>

Job Hunting? Hiring?



Institutions holding a TACUSPA institutional membership of \$100 or more are eligible to post job opportunities on the TACUSPA website free of charge. Institutions without a TACUSPA institutional membership are welcome to post job opportunities on the website at the rate of \$25 for each 60 day job posting. If you wish to post a position on the TACUSPA website, please forward a PDF copy of the position to Hope Garcia at

Hope.Garcia@unt.edu.

TACUSPA also maintains a list of HR websites for all member institutions to make your job searching a little easier. Best wishes to all our institutions and members on your hiring and job searching endeavors!

FMI: <http://www.tacuspa.net/careerops.html>

Fellows Article Feature



Supporting Student Veterans: An Academic Advising Perspective

Rachel Griffey, M.Ed.

The University of Texas at San Antonio

As a graduate of a student affairs masters program, I assumed that I would land my first job within student affairs upon my graduation. As it turns out, I ended up in academic affairs, serving as an academic advisor. After only a few months on the job, I realized that a lot of the student development theories I learned come into play while advising students in a one-on-one setting. I also realized that academic advisors are on the front line when it comes to student interaction and contact; especially when students first enter into higher education.

According to Noel Levitz (2009), quality academic advising is one of the major factors regarding student satisfaction and retention on campus. According to Light (2001), good advising may be the single most underestimated characteristic of a successful college experience. With this in mind, colleges and universities need to recognize advisors as gatekeepers and utilize them to reach out to students who may not be making contacts elsewhere on the campus.

With the new wave of student veterans on campuses benefiting from the new GI Bill, there are more military transcripts being evaluated, more disabilities being recognized, and more concerns from students about completing their degree in a restricted amount of time. Academic Advisors also see issues with currently enrolled active duty students who might be deployed at any given moment. More than ever, advisors need a solid understanding about the concerns that this specific student population is experiencing.

Schlossberg's transition theory is one of the theories I can apply to student veterans transitioning to a college campus as they move in, move through, and move out of the higher education experience. Schlossberg identified four major factors that influence a person's ability to cope with a transition: situation, self, support, and strategies (Evans et al, 1998). Each veteran has a different transitional experience depending on his or her background, outlook on life, etc... The trigger, timing, locus of control, role change, duration, and concurrent stress levels are all factors in each veteran's transition experience. The quality of support they receive is also a key factor in how they handle the transition. A student veteran's support system might be a combination of family, friends, advisors, veteran's affairs, and student organizations such as the Student Veteran Association (SVA). The strategies or coping modes of student veterans

will vary depending on the kind of support they receive. Most student veterans thrive on information seeking by asking advisors about various resources offered by the university. Some student veterans take direct action by talking with the Veterans Association (VA) and disability services about benefits, or attending a support group hosted by a counseling center.

As academic advisors are often the first and most consistent form of contact that a student veteran might have, it is important that they develop ways to reach this unique student population. One of the ways our office reaches out to student veterans is by creating and maintaining a Blackboard account for student veterans in our college. As the veterans' liaison for the office, I keep the Blackboard updated with current events and announcements within our college, information on transferring military course credits, benefit certification deadlines, contact information for veterans affairs and other resources including the SVA on campus, and a list of veteran professors in the college.

Most of the student veterans I encounter are more mature than the traditional college student, more likely to be familiar with their degree plans and concerned with their academic status. At the same time, many of these students are also more likely to have a disability (both physical and/or mental), have children or a family to support, be concerned about future deployments, and other transitional issues. These characteristics present a great opportunity for advisors to establish meaningful, mentoring relationships with these students. When students make a positive connection with an advisor early on, they are more likely to continue seeking support and relying on the advisor as a source of information. Advisors can link and refer student veterans to other services and resources on and off campus. Unfortunately, students often receive the "run-around" because of a lack of awareness by university professionals when it comes to the functions of various offices. Establishing a sense of consistency regarding university policies, military transcripts, educational benefits, and faculty support can help tremendously when advising student veterans.

Academic advising is a critical piece of the holistic approach to working with student veterans. As an academic advisor and a student affairs professional, I hope that we can better serve those who served us.

References:

- Evans, N., Forney, D., & Guido-Dibrito, F.** (1998). *Student development in college: Theory, Research, and practice*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.
- Light, R.** (2001). *Making the most of college: Students speak their minds*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press:
- Noel-Levitz.** (2009). <https://www.noellevitz.com/NR/rdonlyres/5861D100-6FB0-4DB9-B211-626984EC13CC/0/StudentRetentionPracticesandStrategies09.pdf>

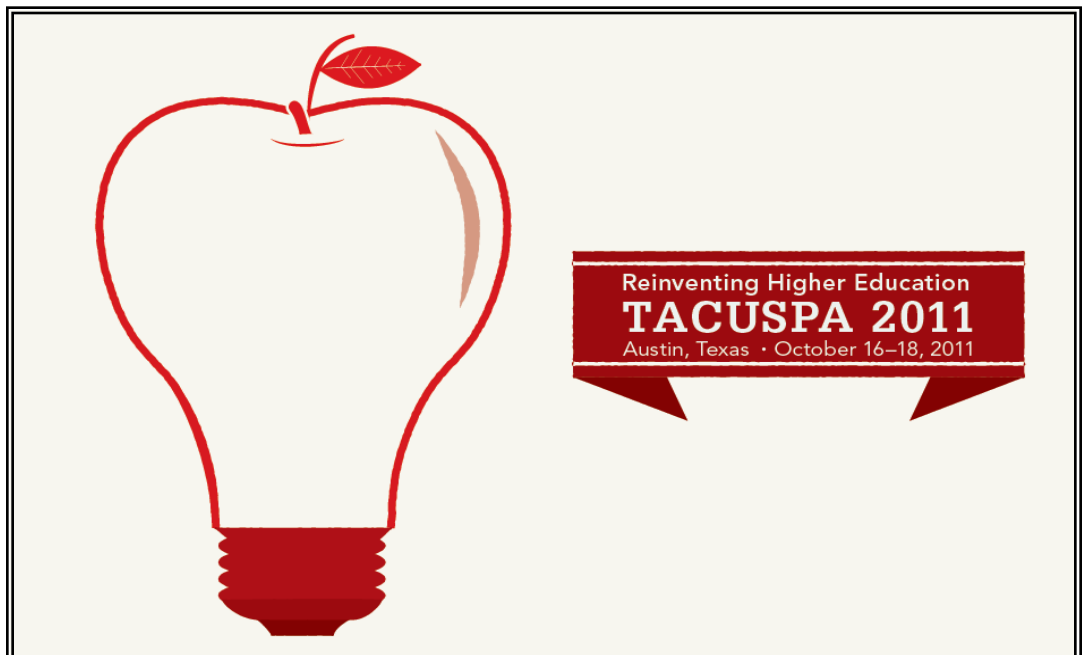
The 15th Annual
Texas Higher Education Law Conference
at the **University of North Texas**
in Denton, Texas
March 28-29, 2011



The Premier Higher Education Law Conference in Texas
Nationally and State Renowned Speakers
Flash drive of Speaker Materials
Continuing Education Credit

Register online at <http://www.unt.edu/adinistration/conference2011.htm>

**Save
The
Date!**



For information, contact Andy.Axsom@unthsc.edu or
Trisha.Vanduser@unthsc.edu

Membership Renewal

Renew your TACUSPA Membership for 2011!

The Texas Association of College and University Student Personnel Administrators (TACUSPA) invite you to renew your membership for 2011 (January 1 - December 31, 2011).

For the first time ever, membership fees can be paid via credit card. Please visit our website www.tacuspa.net and click on "Membership Information" for an overview of the available options.

Please note: Institutional memberships are a great way to include many members from one institution and provide cost savings. In addition, all members receive discounted rates for conferences, are included on the TACUSPA listserv, receive quarterly newsletters, have access to job posting services, and are eligible for research grants, fellowships, scholarships and more!

For more information on TACUSPA, please visit our website at: www.tacuspa.net or contact John Kaulfus at john.kaulfus@utsa.edu or (210) 458-4740.

Competitions, Grants and Scholarships for Members Only!

A number of opportunities for professional development are available for members.

TACUSPA Fellowship Program - Deadline April 15th

TACUSPA Article Competition - Deadline April 15th

Research Development Grant - Deadline April 15th

Graduate Student Scholarship - Deadline September 1st

Watch the TACUSPA listserv for application information!



Quarterly Financial Report

CHECKING ACCOUNT		BUDGET	ACTUAL			
Reconciled through	1/31/2011					
Operations						
	<i>Expenses</i>					
	President	\$8,465.00	\$384.85			
	President-Elect	\$750.00	\$253.80			
	Past President	\$150.00	\$0.00			
	Vice President-Admin	\$275.00	\$141.87			
	Vice President-Mktg&Mbrshp	\$800.00	\$0.00			
	VP Education	\$2,850.00	\$1,500.00			
	Secretary	\$15.00	\$0.00			
	Treasurer	\$6,100.00	\$4,440.02			
	Dir-DataMgmt&Tech	\$5,600.00	\$0.00			
	Reserve	\$1,000.00	\$0.00			
					\$6,720.54	
	<i>Income</i>					
	Balance as of 8/31/10		\$23,111.13			
	2010 Membership Dues		\$3,175.00			
	2011 Membership Dues		\$5,340.00			
	Job Postings		\$100.00			
	Miscellaneous Income		\$500.00			
	Earning Allowance		\$28.90			
					\$32,255.03	
						\$25,534.49
Conference						
	<i>Expenses</i>					
	Fall 2010		\$48,657.54			
	Fall 2011		\$92.01			
					\$48,749.55	
	<i>Income</i>					
	Balance as of 8/31/10		\$47,130.18			
	Fall 2010		\$40,227.34			
	Fall 2011		\$0.00			
					\$87,357.52	
						\$38,607.97
Foundation						
	<i>Income</i>					
	Balance as of 8/31/10		\$2,600.00			
	2010-11		\$2,385.00			
					\$4,985.00	
						\$4,985.00
Checking Balance						\$69,127.46
BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACCOUNT						
	<i>Income</i>					
	Balance as of 9/1/10		\$32,816.24			
	Interest		\$13.77			
					\$32,830.01	
BIA Balance						\$32,830.01
CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT						
	Three Year CD to Mature 8/2011		\$23,041.70			
	Three Year CD to Mature 8/2012		\$22,014.97			
	Three Year CD to Mature 8/2013		\$11,903.15			
					\$56,959.82	
CD Balance						\$56,959.82
BALANCE						\$158,917.29

2010-2011 Board of Directors

Board Meeting Schedule

Mar. 7th

Mar. 27th, Law

Conference

May 2nd

June 6th

July 11th

Aug. 1st

Sept. 12th

Oct. 15th, Austin

Meetings are held via teleconference unless otherwise noted.

Please feel free to contact us with any comments, issues or concerns!

President: Dr. Trisha VanDuser
Trisha.Vanduser@unthsc.edu

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About TACUSPA Times

The TACUSPA Times is published four times per year: November, February, May and August. It is designed to keep the members of TACUSPA informed of current events, opportunities and resources available to student affairs professionals in Texas. Content primarily comes from the executive board members and their respective committees and/or responsibilities. If you would like to suggest an idea, please contact one of the Editors.

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