



Newsletter

Texas Association for Institutional Research

Volume 2007-2008, Issue 2, June 2008

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A Letter from TAIR President – Joseph Meyer

Your TAIR Executive Committee met on April 3, 2008 in Waco to begin making plans for TAIR Summer Workshops and the 2009 Annual TAIR Conference in Lubbock, Texas. Members of the TAIR Executive Committee and their contact information are listed on the TAIR website and on page two of this TAIR Newsletter. Please contact any of them to share your ideas for improving TAIR, to volunteer for any committees, or just to thank them for serving as TAIR Officers.

Issues discussed at the recent meeting in Waco included a review of the Treasurer's Report for the Annual TAIR Conference in Galveston. It showed that despite a budget of nearly \$50,000 that was almost twice the size of budgets at previous TAIR Conferences, we covered costs without dipping into reserves. A small increase in TAIR registration fees, a record attendance, over \$6,000 in sponsorships provided by private companies, and contributions of time and talent by numerous members of TAIR made the TAIR Conference a resounding success.

Evaluations of the 2008 TAIR Conference in Galveston were also reviewed in Waco with a focus on lessons learned and how to apply those in Lubbock. The ratings were quite positive about the variety of sessions offered, the quality of the food, the comfort of the hotel accommodations, and the fun of the special event. A lengthier report on the conference evaluation can be found later in this TAIR Newsletter and on the TAIR website.

Appointments to non-elected TAIR committees were announced in Waco and the people serving in these appointed positions can be viewed at the TAIR website and on later pages of this TAIR Newsletter. Members of the TAIR Executive Committee decided to keep the Publications Committee inactive for three reasons: (1) The TAIR Newsletter and TAIR listserv are providing for adequate communication among TAIR members; (2) based on a small number of publications in the past, we believe that TAIR members do not have a lot of time to devote to additional publishing activities; and (3) the TAIR Executive Committee Member at Large for Technology is already performing some of the most important duties of the Publications Committee by putting the conference brochure and proceedings on the TAIR website. There is also a proposal to modify TAIR membership requirements and categories to bring them into closer agreement with our organizational purpose and make it easier for institutions of higher education to transfer memberships when employees leave. And, there was a discussion about appropriate uses of member information, especially as it applies to the use of TAIR membership lists by conference sponsors for advertising. Because these and other concerns may result in the need for updates and clarifications to the TAIR Constitution and Bylaws, we will probably reactivate the Constitution and Bylaws Committee that has been inactive in recent years. If you are interested in serving on that committee, please contact me. Any changes that are recommended by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee and supported by the TAIR Executive Committee will be distributed to TAIR members and brought up for a vote at the annual Business Meeting as required by the TAIR Constitution and Bylaws.

Last but not least, a conversation was held about possible topics for summer 2008 workshops. We hope to see many of you in Austin for the Voluntary System of Accountability workshop that is being co-sponsored by TAIR and the Council of Public University Presidents and Chancellors. It will be held at the Austin Airport Hilton Hotel on June 5, 2008. If we don't see you there, we will see you for later summer workshops during August 2008 in the Waco area or at the 2009 TAIR Conference in Lubbock where the red color of the TAIR logo will fit nicely with the Red Raiders who are hosting us. Cowboy Up!

TAIR Officers and Editor

President

Joseph Meyer

Texas State University-San Marcos
San Marcos, Texas
(512) 245-2386
joe.meyer@txstate.edu

Vice President / Program Chair

Allen Clark

University of North Texas
Denton, Texas
940-565-2085
aclark@unt.edu

Secretary

Trish Norman

University of Texas System
Austin, Texas
(512) 499-4435
tnorman@utsystem.edu

Treasurer

Cathy C. Vale

University of Texas – Pan American
Edinburg, Texas
(956) 361-7175
cvale@utpa.edu

Members-at-Large

Brian Cordeau, Technology

University of Texas at San Antonio
San Antonio, Texas
(210) 458-4705
Brian.Cordeau@utsa.edu

Paul Illich, Professional Development

McLennan Community College
Waco, Texas
(254) 299-8636
pillich@mclennan.edu

Immediate Past President

Ruben Garcia

Texas Workforce Commission
Austin, Texas
(512) 491-4965
ruben.garcia@cdr.state.tx.us

Newsletter Editor

Linda Perez

University of the Incarnate Word
San Antonio, Texas
(210) 829-3933
linda@uiwtx.edu

TAIR 2009 Program Subcommittee Chairs

VP and Program Chair Allen Clark, Univ. of North Texas
Concurrent Sessions Kristi Fisher, U.T. Austin
Evaluation Dewayne Gragg, Navarro College
Financial Review Danica Frampton, St. Edward's Univ.
General Sessions Amy Bawcom, Univ. of Mary Hardin-Baylor
Local Arrangements Kerri Ford, Texas Tech. Univ.
Program Brochure Mary Barton, Univ. of North Texas
Registration/Secretary Trish Norman, UT System Office
Resource Fair Rick Leyva, El Centro College
Roundtables Susan Thompson, Texas State Univ.-San Marcos
Special Interest Groups Sue Herring, Baylor Univ.
Workshops/Prof Develop Paul Illich, McLennan Comm. Coll.
Technology Brian Cordeau, UT San Antonio

Appointed Committees

TAIR Data Committee:

David Preston -Brazosport College, Co-Chair
Maryann Ruddock – UT Austin, Co-Chair

Public 4-Year: Cindy Dutschke-Texas A&M, Mary Barton-U. of North Texas, Larry Redlinger-UT Dallas. **Public 2-Year:** Karen Laljiani-El Centro College, Velda Villareal-Alamo CCD, Tom Martin-Collin County CCD, Darline Morris, Texas State Tech College. **Private 4-Year:** John Kalb-Southern Methodist University, Leona Urbish-Rice Univ, Kathleen Morley-Baylor Univ

Professional Development Committee:

Paul Illich-McLennan Community College, Chair
Tom Martin-Collin County CCD, Soon Mertz-Austin Community College,
Joy Evans-McLennan Community College
Jana Marak, Baylor University

Awards Committee:

Ruben Garcia-Texas Workforce Commission, Chair
Fonda Vera-Richland College, Rita Caso-Sam Houston State Univ, Jo Lynn Loyd-Amberton Univ, Tom Corll-Central Texas College

Financial Review Committee:

Danica Frampton – St. Edward's University,
Julie Thomas – Southwest Texas Junior College

Election Results

Voting was conducted during the annual TAIR conference in February. The following election results at the annual business meeting.

Vice President/President Elect

Allen Clark, Univ. of North Texas – Denton



Secretary
Trish Norman, UT System



Member at Large, Professional Development
Paul Illich, McLennan Community College

TAIR Nominating Committee

Ruben Garcia, Texas Workforce Comm Gabriela Borcoman, Tx Higher Ed Coord Brd



Brenda Cole,
South Texas College



Lawrence Redlinger,
UT Dallas



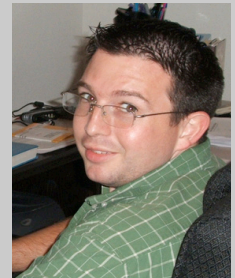
Fonda Vera,
Richland College



Incumbent TAIR Officers

President

Joseph Meyer, Texas State Univ-San Marcos



Member at Large, Technology
Brian Cordeau, UT San Antonio



Treasurer
Cathy Vale, U.T. Pan American

Appointments

Electronic List Manager – Brian Cordeau

Historian – Karen Laljiani

Liaison to Air – Joseph Meyer

Newsletter Editor – Linda Perez

Webmaster – Garrett Gowens

30th Annual Conference Attendees

2-year public	88
4-year public	91
4-year private	33
Other	<u>24</u>
Total	236

2008 Awards

Best Electronic Fact Book:
University of North Texas

Best Printed Fact Book:
University of Texas - El Paso

Best Mini Fact Book:
Houston Community College System

Appreciation of Service:
Darlene Morris, Secretary
Teresa Isbell, Member at Large, Professional Dev
Gerry Dizinno, Immediate Past President,
President, and Vice President

TAIR 2008 Evaluation

Once again, thank you to all TAIR members for helping make the 2008 conference in Galveston a huge success. 236 TAIR members attended the conference this year, an increase of 24% from last year's conference in South Padre. In addition to having record breaking attendance numbers, we had a 68% increase in number of concurrent sessions: 42 concurrent sessions compared to last year's 25. This year also marks a milestone in the number of sponsorships from vendors, which helped offset costs and keep satisfaction with meals and refreshments high.

Thirty-four percent (34%) of this year's attendees responded to the Overall Conference Survey. As in past TAIR conferences, satisfaction with the general sessions, concurrent sessions and roundtable sessions remains high. Overall satisfaction with the conference showed 97% excellent or good responses (66% excellent and 31% good). Satisfaction with the Special Events remained high also. Planning the special event around Galveston's Mardi Gras parade and ending with a delicious dinner at the famous Fisherman's Wharf proved to be a great success.

The evaluation of logistics and accommodations remained high as well. The areas with the highest satisfaction rating (very satisfied) were the conference registration, TAIR website conference information and conference location. Hotel facilities and services were up this year as well. The comments about the hotel staff and facilities were very positive, even though fire alarms disrupted some of the workshops.

A very special thanks is in order to Scantron Corporation for sponsoring the evaluation process this year. Scantron not only supplied the concurrent session surveys and overall conference surveys, but scanned the surveys and printed a results report at the end of the conference just in time for Executive Committee's wrap up meeting. Full results can be found on the TAIR website.

Thank you for your responses as the survey results will continue to be of great value in planning for the 2009 TAIR conference in Lubbock!

TAIR 2009 Conference Theme

Congratulations to Kristi Fisher for submitting the winning TAIR Conference Theme of "**Cowboy Up! Leading the Charge on Accountability and Assessment**".
Kristi's theme was selected as the top choice by the TAIR Program Committee.

A Letter from your Vice President, Allen Clark

I would like to start out by saying that I had a fantastic time in Galveston at the 2008 TAIR Conference. I would like to thank each of the TAIR members who volunteered their time to make this a most enjoyable conference. I would also like to thank each of you who took time to prepare and present a concurrent or roundtable session. It is such a pleasure to belong to an organization where the members are so generous in sharing their knowledge.

The Conference Planning Committee is hard at work to make the 2009 TAIR Conference just as rewarding as the 2008 TAIR Conference. We have a wonderful group working in all aspects of conference planning. This group takes great pride in their work and you will see this in the quality of the conference at Lubbock. We met at the beginning of April in Waco to discuss all of the responsibilities associated with planning the conference. The Baylor IR staff were so generous and accommodating to us while we met on their campus. I would like to express a special appreciation to Kerri Ford who got up at 3:00 a.m. to catch a flight to Dallas and then drove down to Waco. This made for a very long day for Kerri, but it was great to hear about the exciting opportunities in Lubbock.

By this time you have received a call for proposals. I would like to encourage each of you to consider what you do well in your office and share this with your peers at the Lubbock Conference. I have found from our prior conferences that there is so much to learn from each one of you. Last year we had over 40 Concurrent Sessions and approximately 15 Roundtable Sessions. The conference evaluations indicated that you preferred to have more concurrent sessions and one less guest speaker as a conference format. We intend to use that format, but it will take many of you volunteering to be a presenter for this to be successful.

I would like to say a word about Lubbock. This town is home to many colorful hardworking people. It has a wonderful history and I guarantee that the Lubbock community will be working hard to insure that we have a wonderful time. The Texas Tech IR Staff is working to make sure that you have a great experience during your stay, and they are looking at a couple of very entertaining special events. So, please mark your calendar for the first week in March to attend the 2009 TAIR Conference in Lubbock Texas. We are going to have a great time and you will not want to miss it. Finally, please remember that the TAIR activities and conference are planned by volunteers just like you. I had several people catch me at last year's conference to tell me that they would like to become more involved. Those people are now hard at work insuring you have a most pleasant time at the Lubbock conference. So, if you have considered becoming more involved in TAIR, please take a look at the Executive and Planning Committee member list in this newsletter and give one of us a call. We would welcome your assistance.

See you in Lubbock!

Allen Clark
TAIR 2009 Conference Chair

TAIR Travel Grants

TAIR wants to be sure that funding is not the reason that you or your staff will miss TAIR 2009 and will be awarding eight travel grants at \$250 each to help cover expenses. Travel grants are available to both active members and those becoming new members in 2009. http://www.texas-air.org/Tair/DOCS/Travel_Grants.htm

TAIR Summer Workshop

June 5, 2008

VSA Workshop Co-hosted by Council of Public University Presidents and Chancellors (CPUPC) and the Texas Association for Institutional Research (TAIR)

TAIR and the Council of Public University Presidents and Chancellors (CPUPC) will be co-hosting a summer workshop focusing on the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA). The workshop is scheduled for **June 5th at the Airport Hilton in Austin**. Please note that the workshop is designed for representatives from 4-year institutions seeking introductory as well as detailed information related to the implementation of VSA. A detailed agenda, hotel/travel information, and a link to the online registration system is located at the following address: <http://www.texas-air.org/conference/SummerWorkshops/>

The VSA workshop, which begins at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m., will cover a range of VSA-related topics including: the role of the National Student Clearinghouse, the college cost estimator, the role of the Coordinating Board, and three different student learning outcome assessments. Registration is now open and we encourage everyone to register as soon as possible. For questions related to the workshop please contact Rissa Potter (rpotter@cpupc.org) or Paul Illich (pillich@mclennan.edu). For technical questions related to the workshop website, contact Brian Cordeau (Brian.Cordeau@utsa.edu).

Additional workshops that will appeal to 2-year and 4-year institutions are planned for Waco, Texas in early August 2008.

TAIR-L Address Change

I would first like to thank David Preston for his many years of service in making the TAIR-L listserv such a valuable resource. The listserv has been an effective medium for communicating important information to all of our members. In expanding the Member-at-Large for Technology role starting June 3rd the TAIR-L address will change from tair-l@listserv.brazosport.cc.tx.us to tair-l@texas-air.org. This gives us the benefit of having the listserv with the same hosting company as the website.

If you are already subscribed to TAIR-L there is nothing you need to do, we will automatically subscribe you to the new TAIR-L. The only change will be the new address of tair-l@texas-air.org. If you would like to edit your options you can go to the following page: http://texas-air.org/mailman/listinfo/tair-l_texas-air.org. This page will allow you to update your preferences for TAIR-L such as the digest options, email type, and other options. A default password is set up for these options which you can also change via this page.

Other features such as the message archive will also be available from this page which will enable users to review past discussions from the listserv. If you have any questions or comments regarding the listserv please give me a call at (210) 458-4705 or email me at brian.cordeau@utsa.edu.

Thank you for your time,

Brian Cordeau
TAIR Executive Committee,
Member at Large for Technology

Awards Committee News

The TAIR 2009 Awards Committee consists of Ruben Garcia, Past President and Chair, TWC; Fonda Vera, Richland College; Rita Caso, Sam Houston State University; Jo Lynn Lloyd, Amberton University; and Tom Corll, Central Texas College. The committee is charged with selecting and recommending to the Executive Committee the recipient for the TAIR Outstanding Service Award based on nominations from the membership. The committee is also charged with selecting the Best Presentation from the upcoming TAIR conference. The committee will be sending out a call for nominations for the Outstanding Service Award late this summer or early in the fall. However, you don't have to wait that long to submit a nomination; you can send suggestions to Ruben Garcia at ruben.garcia@cdr.state.tx.us at your convenience. Please review the criteria below and include all the required information with your submission. The requirements for TAIR Outstanding Service Award are:

The TAIR Outstanding Service Award will be given to a member who has made a significant contribution to TAIR over an extended period of time. A nominee for the Outstanding Service Award must have been a TAIR member for at least five years and not a member of, nor a candidate for, the Executive Committee during the year nominated. In addition, the Nominee must meet at least three of the four general criteria:

- (a) has been a member of the TAIR Executive Committee or a chair of a conference or presidential appointed committee;
- (b) contributed in some other specific and significant way which has advanced the professionalization of TAIR;
- (c) has made a professional contribution to TAIR by being actively involved in the following:
 - (i) presented contributed papers to the TAIR conference
 - (ii) organized, offered, or acted as a primary participant in workshops or panels at the TAIR conference.

The TAIR Best Presentation Award will be given shortly after the TAIR conference and the winner(s) receive reimbursement of the general registration fee for the AIR Forum as well as having their presentation automatically accepted at the AIR Forum. So, keep that in mind as you prepare to submit your proposals for TAIR 2009!

TAIR 2009 Conference Call for Participation

The theme of the 2009 TAIR Conference is

“Cowboy Up! Leading the Charge on Accountability and Assessment”

TAIR Colleagues and Others:

On behalf of the Texas Association for Institutional Research (TAIR), I am pleased to announce the Call for Participation for the 31st Annual TAIR Conference to be held in Lubbock, Texas from March 2th through 5th, 2009. The theme this year is **“Cowboy Up! Leading the Charge on Accountability and Assessment.”** Please submit your proposals at the link, below, by August 1, 2008:

<http://www.texas-air.org/conference/2009/callforpart.html>

We encourage any institutional researchers, people in related professions, graduate students, and others with an interest in institutional research to submit proposals. The following list includes subjects that you may consider as you prepare your proposal:

- 1) Accreditation (include QEP), Institutional Effectiveness, Assessment Strategies, Accountability (include VSA)
- 2) Data Management, Warehouses, B.I. and reporting solutions
- 3) Retention and Graduation Rates
- 4) Enrollment Management and Forecasting
- 5) Fact Books, web sites, and publications
- 6) Best Practices in IR
- 7) Survey administration, statistical analyses (case studies)
- 8) THECB and IPEDS (current events, rules, reporting, use of data tools, etc.)
- 9) Strategic Planning
- 10) Legislative Issues or “Hot Topics in Higher Education”

We welcome all proposals. Please consider the things that you or your office does well, and plan to share your expertise with your fellow TAIR members at the 2009 TAIR Conference.

TAIR travel grants are available to applicants with accepted proposals who need assistance with their travel expenses. More information about the TAIR organization can be found at our website: www.texas-air.org

You don't want to miss this town with its spectacular history. Put together an abstract describing the innovative things you are doing and share that knowledge with your colleagues in a roundtable, concurrent session, or workshop presentation. Remember that Best Paper earns up to two paid registrations to the national AIR Forum!

Please keep in mind that TAIR is run by volunteers, and it is very helpful to all if we can share the workload. If you have thought about becoming a TAIR volunteer, please give me a call at 940-565-2085 and we can work together to find your place in the TAIR conference process.

Best regards,

Allen Clark Ed.D.,
Chair TAIR Program Committee

Call for TAIR Nominations

It's time to submit your nominations for the following activities:

1. The TAIR Outstanding Service Award
2. TAIR Elective Positions

Outstanding Service Award

This prestigious TAIR Award is presented at the TAIR Annual Conference. The TAIR Outstanding Service Award shall be presented to members who have made a significant contribution to TAIR over an extended period of time.

- A nominee for the Award must have been a TAIR member for at least five years and not a member of, nor a candidate for, the Executive Committee during the year nominated.
- In addition, the nominee must meet at least three of the four following criteria. The candidate has:
 1. been a member of the TAIR Executive Committee, served on Program committees, been appointed by the President to serve on committees or in positions of responsibility consistent with those in Section 6 of the Bylaws;
 2. presented contributed sessions at TAIR conferences;
 3. organized, offered, or acted as a primary presenter in workshops or panels at TAIR conferences;
 4. contributed in some other specific and significant ways that have advanced the purposes of TAIR.

TAIR Elections

Elective positions to be voted on at the TAIR 2009 conference in Lubbock include:

1. Vice-President/President-Elect: Elected individual will serve on the TAIR Board for 3 years:
 - As Vice-President and Program Chair, March 2009-February 2010
 - As President, March 2010-February 2011
 - As Immediate Past President, March 2011-February 2012
2. Treasurer: Elected individual will serve 2 years: March 2009-February 2011
3. Nominating Committee: 4 positions—the term of each member shall be 1 year: March 2009-February 2010
4. Member-at-Large, Technology: Elected individual will serve 2 years: March 2009-February 2011

TAIR needs people who represent all groups within our organization (junior/community and university/senior colleges, public and private, ethnically diverse, etc.). Please nominate one or more persons to any or all of these positions. If you are interested in being a candidate, nominate yourself!!!

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ALL NOMINATIONS:
SEPTEMBER 10, 2008**

**Use the Call for TAIR Nominations Form located at the TAIR
Website**

<http://www.texas-air.org/conference/2009/callfornom.html>