

Council of Academic Deans Meeting
May 10, 2022

Summary and Action Items

1. **Document Accessibility Discussion** – Mr. Ken Pierce, Mr. Whitten Smart, and Mr. Evan Pickrel provided an update to the Council on compliance mandates originating from the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). They recommend using HTML and reducing the number of documents on websites, noting that GATO templates are vetted for accessibility standards. PDFs present accessibility concerns although there are paid vendors, including AbleDocs, which remediate PDFs and provide other services. Dynamic Forms, which have better accessibility than AdobeSign, are starting to be used on campus. The Council asked if there was a possibility of a university service agreement with AbleDocs. Mr. Evan Pickrel is the point of contact for questions related to document accessibility.

2. **Office of Disability Services** – Dr. Cynthia Hernandez and Mr. Gavin Steiger discussed the role and scope of the Office of Disability Services (ODS), including the lack of funding to support co-curricular and extra-curricular student activities. ODS' budget pays for course-related accommodations, with approximately most of its expenses devoted to deaf and hard of hearing services.

3. **Staff Development Day** – Dr. Bourgeois mentioned the upcoming Staff Development Day scheduled for May 24, 2022. He asked the Council to encourage and support staff participation either virtually or in-person.

4. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – The data provided is as of May 9, 2022 unless otherwise noted. Mr. Gary Ray provided the Council with an undergraduate admissions report. We are at week 19 of 37 and have received 33,366 first-year applications. June 1, 2022 is the fall 2022 application deadline. The university has received 6,406 freshmen housing contracts, which is an increase of 1,104 or 20.8%; this number is +437 over the final 2021 count of 5,969.

With 121 days from fall 2022 census day:

Total Enrollment	24,219	23,565	-654 or -2.7%
UG Enrollment	21,162	20,771	-391 or -1.8%
Graduate Enrollment	3,057	2,794	-263 or -8.6%
FTIC Preloads	1,165	266	-899 or -77%

Apply Texas Application Dashboard for all universities as of May 9, 2022:

- domestic freshman applications are up 8% vs TXST 11.5%
- international FTIC are up 9% vs TXST up 66%
- domestic transfer applications are down -47% vs TXST -10.1%
- international transfer applications are down -32% vs TXST up 2.5%
- readmits are down -65% vs TXST -16%
- 2-year colleges applications are down -36% (-38% last week)

Freshmen one-year retention tracking:

- 2022 74.9% or 4,640 – 1,545 not registered
- 2020 68% or 3,716 – 1,703 not registered
- 2019 77% or 4,697 – 1,409 not registered
- 2018 78% or 4,656 – 1,267 not registered
- 2017 79% or 4,523 – 1,175 not registered

Transfer one-year retention tracking:

- 2022 68% or 1,575 – 731 not registered
- 2020 67% or 1,498 – 743 not registered
- 2019 69% or 1,831 – 835 not registered
- 2018 73% or 2,023 – 735 not registered
- 2017 71% or 2,045 – 840 not registered

New Student Orientation, Summer 2022:

- FTIC 5,195 vs 6,056; up 861 or 16.6% (today's NSO count is 6,265)
- Transfers 1,149 vs 1320; up 271 or 25.8% (today's NSO count is 1,364)

Fall merit awards as of May 9, 2022:

- Offered 9,832 first-year students merit awards (37% with test scores and 63% test optional)
 - acceptance rate is slightly lower than last year (33.8% vs 33%)
 - merit acceptances are up by 915 over the same date last year
- from May 1 to 15, there will be direct contact with students about unaccepted offers; will cancel awards on May 15.

Summer 2022 Applications and Admissions:

- First-year students applied 462; up 16 or 3.6%
- First-year students accepted 136; up 10 or 7.9%
- Freshmen NSO 44; down 2 or 4%

- Transfer apps 559; down 111 or -16%
- Transfer accepts 310; down 11 or 3.4%
- Transfer NSO 229; up 12 or 5.5%

Fall 2022 Freshman Class:

- First-year students apps 33,366; up 3,429 or 11.5%
- First-year students accepted 24,380; up 3,761 or 18.2%
- First year NSO 6,056 vs. 5,195; up 861 or 16.6%

- Transfer apps 3,567; down -402 or 10.1%
- Transfer accepts 2,347; up 95 or 4.2%
- Transfer NSO 1,049 vs. 1320; up 271 or 25.8%

5. **Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report. She announced that applications for the fall 2022 semester are slowly decreasing. There is a 120% increase in international applications from last year. Registrations for the fall semester are improving slightly every day. Communications with students about registering are continuing.

OFF AGENDA

Dr. Bourgeois announced that the online master's degree program in Long-Term Care Administration (for fall 2022) has been approved to be added to the consent agenda for the upcoming TSUS Board of Regents meeting.

Dr. Bourgeois announced that Dr. Emilio Carranco reported to President's Cabinet that there is a slight increase in COVID-19 cases across the state. Dr. Carranco recommends continuing Bobcat Trace and keeping the COVID-19 Dashboard active. The new COVID-19 webpage is under development and will be housed on the Student Health Center website.

Dr. Debbie Thorne discussed a recent review by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) of the university's personnel policies and procedures. The review was focused on Texas Labor Code and best practices in workforce diversity, job advertisements, hiring procedures, performance evaluations, disciplinary actions, workplace accommodations, Equal Employment Opportunity, sexual harassment, and compensation. The university will respond to the TWC's feedback and updates will be shared in the future, including policy changes.