

Joint Academic Affairs Council, Council of Chairs, and Faculty Senate Meeting  
November 1, 2022

Summary and Action Items

1. **Strategic Plan** – Dr. Bourgeois announced that the 2023-2029 Strategic Plan mission, values, goals, and initiative have been approved by the President’s Cabinet. The next plan will focus on goals and broad initiatives that are most critical to the university’s success and impact. He and Dr. Beth Wuest provided the group with an overview of the planning process, next steps for department, school, and college planning, and how the planning templates should be completed. The templates for unit-level plans will consist of four major parts, including mission statement, planning process, action plans tied to university goals and initiatives, and top priorities. Open forums will be held in late spring 2023 to allow the academic deans, provost, vice presidents, and athletic director an opportunity to share their plan priorities for the next six years.

2. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Gary Ray provided the undergraduate admissions report. Mr. Ray mentioned that we have been receiving questions from the media regarding TXST’s position on affirmative action. Texas State does not use gender, race, or religion in the recruitment and admissions process. We recruit all students who qualify for our general admissions standards. Minority students have steadily increased in the past decade, and Texas State is proud to be recognized as a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) since 2011. With the increasing number of underrepresented students entering Texas post-secondary education, the university is committed to supporting the success of every student enrolled at Texas State University.

The market for college admissions remains very competitive. U.S. college enrollments across all sectors have declined by more than one million students since fall 2019. Enrollment in undergraduate and graduate programs have been decreasing by at least 1% per year since 2012.

TXST is 93 days from the spring census day of February 1, 2023. As of today, the spring 2023 registration count is 26,520 vs. 25,604 this time last year, which is an increase of 916 or 3.6%. Continuing undergraduate enrollment is up 1,161 or 5.1% to date.

Fall 2022 FTIC fall to spring retention is 83.8% (6,151) vs. 78% (4,829) to date. The target is 6,972 for a 95% fall to spring retention rate.

Enrollment	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Difference
National Public Universities	10.4 million	10.3 million	-113,300 or (-1.1%) (-4.2% since 2019)
Texas Public Universities	665,213	667,974	2,761 or 0.42%
Texas Community Colleges	648,893	650,294	1,401 or 0.22%
Texas State University	37,864	38,262	398 or 1.05%

Spring 2023 freshman applications

- 690 apps are down 92 or -11.8%
- 275 admits are up 7 or 2.6%

Spring 2023 transfer applications

- 1,301 apps are down 38 or -2.8%
- 721 admits are up 41 or 6%

Fall 2023 freshman applications

- 12,926 apps are up 4,678 or 56%
- 5,536 admits are up 1,581 or 40%

Fall 2023 transfer applications

- 300 apps are up by 129 or 75.4%
- 127 admits are up by 62 or 95.4%

Saturday, November 12, 2022 is the next Bobcat Day. In 2021, 1,360 students attended. With nearly two weeks to the event, 1,225 prospective students are registered.

Discussions are underway regarding the fall 2023 freshman target. Due to declines in transfer enrollments across the country, the target may be as high as 8,000. Dr. Bourgeois provided context for the target, including the increasing number of college credits new students bring to TXST. Many “freshman” students are entering college with enough credits to be classified as sophomores.

3. **Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the graduate admissions report. Fewer programs have admissions for the spring semester. New and continuing master’s enrollment is down. Some international students who deferred admissions due to the pandemic will begin in spring 2023. If there is any interest from students for Ph.D. admissions for the spring semester, please let Dr. Golato know.

Dr. Golato thanked everyone for all their work with admitting students for the upcoming spring semester as well as working on fall 2023 admissions. She asked that units continue to encourage graduate students to register for the spring semester. She announced that the Three Minute Thesis Competition will be held on Friday, November 4, 2022.

## **OFF AGENDA**

Dr. Andrea Golato shared a recommendation from the Recruitment Task Force to enhance the university’s commitment to international student recruiting by 1) removing the current limit on the budget set for compensating international recruiting agents and 2) increasing the number of agents representing TXST. Agents are compensated one time, which is after the 12<sup>th</sup> class day of a student’s first semester at TXST.

Dr. Bourgeois stated that Dr. Dan Perry will visit a future meeting of the Academic Affairs Council to discuss a proposal for a philanthropy summit. The summit will focus on developing stronger knowledge, skill sets, and capacity for fundraising by deans, AVPs, and others.

Dr. Bourgeois announced that Mr. Eric Algoe has received a proposal by Follett, the company that operates the university bookstore, that would implement a flat fee for students to access course materials, such as textbooks. The proposal does not cover other types of materials such as supplies needed for classes in art, health care, and similar areas. As part of the proposal review process, town hall meetings will be held for the university community to ask questions, seek clarification, and provide feedback.

Dr. Debbie Thorne led a discussion about the personnel committee guidelines originally proposed by Faculty Senate. As part of a deliberative process, the guidelines have been reviewed by the Academic Affairs Council and the Council of Chairs on several occasions. To ensure university-level guidance on faculty review and advisory groups to departments/schools and colleges, a new AA/PPS will be drafted and circulated for comment in the coming months. Academic units will retain flexibility to develop local policies/guidelines that reflect the unit’s faculty composition, mission, goals, and initiatives.