

Academic Affairs Council Meeting
March 7, 2023

Summary and Action Items

1. **Name Change, Department of Health Information Management** – The Council approved changing the name of the Department of Health Information Management to the Department of Health Informatics and Information Management.

2. **Substantive Change and Reporting--AA/PPS 02.01.41, Reporting Substantive Changes to Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)** – Dr. Beth Wuest reminded the Council of AA/PPS 02.01.41, which defines reporting responsibilities and notification processes regarding substantive changes to an institution's mission, program offerings, delivery modalities, locations, competency-based education, and many other areas. As an institution, we must be committed to notifying SACSCOC to ensure good standing and avoid negative repercussions, including those related to Title IV funding.

Dr. Wuest described several examples of substantive changes that must be reported to SACSCOC. Questions may be directed to Dr. Wuest.

3. **Update to Response to Recruitment Task Force** – Dr. Andrea Golato provided additional information from Dr. Lisa Lloyd regarding President Damphousse's approval to proceed on several Recruitment Task Force recommendations. The additional information is as follows: Ask colleges to review their associate/assistant dean responsibilities and revise, if necessary, to better align with our pillars of the Run to R1 and enrollment growth, especially graduate enrollment. It makes sense for each college to have not only an Associate Dean of Research, but also an Associate Dean of Graduate Studies to serve as a liaison between department graduate coordinators and The Graduate College and provide guidance on recruiting, awarding financial aid and scholarships, review programs, develop new programs, etc.

Regarding the need for more investments, it was mentioned that the answer at this time is not necessarily no, just not right now. Discussion was held amongst the group.

4. **Revisions to AA/PPS No. 04.01.30 Nomination and Evaluation Procedures for Graduate Faculty** – Dr. Golato announced that this policy is currently up for review, and she is the senior reviewer. She mentioned the current policy is quite complex and it is burdensome for departments to nominate faculty and for The Graduate College to process nominations. Dr. Golato is working with a committee to simplify the process of nominating and evaluating standards for graduate faculty.

5. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Gary Ray provided the Council with an undergraduate admissions report. He announced that fall 2023 first-year applications are at 38,476, a 12% or 4,181 increase over last year's final application count (34,294). TXST has officially surpassed the final number of first-year students accepted in fall 2022 (25,288 vs 25,165). TXST needs 1,212 more acceptances to hit the target.

New Student Orientation did a soft opening on Friday (March 3, 2023) and over the weekend, 341 students organically found the NSO sign-up link (236 – FR and 105 TR). The official New Student Orientation invitation went out on Monday to freshmen and transfer students.

Bobcat Day registration for April 15, 2023 is currently at 1,123; we do not start tracking the registration until March 15 (last year, we had 1,286 four weeks out).

The admissions merit review team announced Friday they were all caught up with holistic FTIC scholarship reviews (10,747 files reviewed to date).

Campus tours are 100% booked for spring break week but the Welcome Center will provide for any walk-ins during that week.

We have received freshmen applications from all 50 states and from 70 countries including Nepal (227), India (98), and Nigeria (78).

Tracking Other Fall Strength Indicators

Fall 2023 Y2D	2021	2022	2023	Y2Y Diff	%
Housing Contracts	3,276	4,010	4,076	66	1.6%
Top 25% Apps	NR	12,190	13,772	1,585	13%
Top 25% Admits	8,672	10,854	12,132	1,278	11.8%
International FTIC Apps	58	121	525	404	333%
International FTIC Admits	27	44	183	128	232%
FTIC Merit Accepts	1,074	2,039	2,748	709	34%
Transfer Merit Accepts	0	0	177	177	100%
Top 25 % for Admitted FTIC	49%	49%	48.2%	-0.8%	(0.8%)

Summer 2023 and fall 2023 registration will begin on March 27, 2023.

6. Graduate Admissions Report – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report. For summer 2023, there continues to be a decrease in doctoral applications. She announced that 81 applications have been received for the three programs being heavily recruited for the Run to R1 initiative and 43 students have been admitted. The majority of these students are international students, who require more documentation including an I-20. TXST is hiring additional staff to assist with processing I-20s to help make the process faster. Dr. Golato also mentioned a decrease in master’s applications and admissions for summer 2023.

For fall 2023, there is an increase in doctoral applications especially in the College of Science and Engineering. At the master’s level, there continues to be a significant decrease in applications leading to a decrease in admits as well.

Dr. Golato announced that \$900K in funding for master’s scholarships will be reviewed and allocated via the master’s merit process since there is insufficient time for a RFP to identify a company to help with the optimization of these funds. Dr. Golato asked the deans to encourage their departments/programs to nominate students for these funds.

7. **February 2023 Board of Regents Meeting Follow-up** – Dr. Bourgeois mentioned that Dr. Michael Devlin and Dr. David Lemke were conferred as Regents’ Teachers by the TSUS Board of Regents at the February meeting.

OFF AGENDA

Dr. Kambra Bolch presented the new first year advising model for all new incoming freshmen for fall 2023.

In regard to the pause in the strategic planning process, Dr. Bourgeois reminded the group that the open forums for the deans and the vice presidents have been cancelled for now. He stressed that planning needs to continue along with thinking about the Round Rock Campus, Run to R1, student success, global initiatives, graduate enrollments, and online education. A revised timeline should be released in a few weeks.

Dr. Bourgeois briefly reviewed the FY20 to FY22 total research expenditures for the eight ERUs and Texas Tech University.

Dr. Bourgeois announced the approval of the Academic Computing Committee recommendations (two in Applied Arts, one in Fine Arts and Communication, three in Liberal Arts and three in Science and Engineering).