

**Council of Academic Deans Meeting
June 15, 2021**

Summary and Action Items

1. **Step Up for State** – Dr. Dan Perry and Mr. Sam Regonini provided the Council with the fall 2021 plans for Step Up for State, which is scheduled for October 27-28, 2021. Project selection for the 2021 giving event will focus on projects that build sustainable engagement with donors year-over-year and have the ability to raise \$10,000 during the event.

2. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Ms. Stephanie Anderson provided the Council with an undergraduate admissions report. Summer 2021 enrollment is down 6% compared to summer 2020. Today is the deadline for applications for SSII.

Fall 2021 – at this point, admissions are up 1%; the deadline for fall 2021 applications is August 1, 2021; transfer admissions are up 5.9%; the Office of Undergraduate Admissions continues to work through transcripts that are being received after the spring semester; readmits and second baccalaureate degree-seekers are up as well. The office is implementing a phone call campaign for students who made inquiries but did not complete the application process. The office will work with colleges to bolster communications and

To increase enrollments and our yield rate of students, the following is being done:

1. virtual NSO is on-going with one day supplemental sessions being conducted through July 1, 2021. There are an average of 170 students who register and approximately 78% attend the supplemental on-campus sessions.
2. one-time Bobcat Recognition Awards in the amount of \$1,000 (“melt scholarships”) to students who have committed to TXST but not yet signed up for NSO; 575 students have received this scholarship.

The allocation of funds toward additional scholarships are working to bolster enrollment. This year 2,014 students have received a scholarship compared to 1,696 last year (up 16%).

State-wide and at TXST, there is a decrease in the number of admits for students in the 2nd quarter of their graduating classes. These are primarily high-need students.

The application deadline for Bobcat Cares funding closes tonight at midnight. There were 6,096 applications and this round of funds is for students who enrolled for summer 2021.

For fall 2021, Dr. Bourgeois announced \$40M will likely be available for the one-time Bobcat Cares emergency aid grants and not the \$20M that had been previously anticipated. Students could receive up to possibly \$2,000 – \$2,500 in one-time emergency aid but they must be enrolled in the fall 2021 semester. There is potential for approximately \$6-7M in funding for spring 2022.

3. **Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Eric Paulson provided the Council with a graduate admissions report. Summer 2021 application/admit numbers have not changed much. Dr. Paulson mentioned that the quality of applications for fall 2021 is much higher and there are positive gains in registrations by continuing master’s students, continuing doctoral students, and new doctoral students.

4. **COVID-19 Updates** – Dr. Bourgeois announced that several offices such as the Office of University Marketing and the Office of Undergraduate Admissions are working to increase messaging regarding the importance of vaccinations. Faculty are asked to encourage their students to get vaccinated.

5. **Summer and Fall 2021 Classes** – Dr. Bourgeois briefly discussed a handout distributed to CAD earlier in the day regarding spring 2021 to fall 2021 graduating, persisting, and non-continuing students. Discussion was held about identifying and communicating with continuing students who have not registered for fall 2021.

Dr. Bourgeois reminded departments/schools to continuously monitor the number of empty seats in course sections for fall 2021 classes. Dr. Bourgeois mentioned that 2,250 freshman students have registered but reiterated that TXST could have another 4,000 freshman students and 2,000 transfer students registering for fall 2021 as the summer unfolds.

6. **Budget Planning** – Dr. Debbie Thorne announced that departments may still consider adding courses in summer II and update SharePoint for instructional funding requests. Departments are asked to monitor class enrollments and add new sections to meet demand for fall 2021 as new and continuing students register throughout the summer. The university’s top priority is student success and academic progression. Hiring documents and contracts should move forward to Faculty and Academic Resources, including those on temporary budget requests with fully subscribed courses or evidence of appropriate workload in fall 2021. Budget specialists are asked to ensure that temporary budget requests do not include faculty/graduate assistants who are going to be paid by electronic course fees.

OFF AGENDA

- Dr. Bourgeois mentioned that the decline in summer 2021 enrollment is not due to study abroad programs being offered or canceled.
- Dr. Bourgeois announced the following approvals at the May 2021 Board of Regents meeting:
 1. all curriculum items were approved including several distance education programs and adding the Bachelor of Science with a major in Mechanical Engineering; Coordinating Board approval for this program is the next step
 2. naming of Adolfo Barrera Drive on the Round Rock Campus; naming of Elvin Holt Drive on the Round Rock Campus; renaming Angelina Hall to First Five Freedom Hall; renaming San Gabriel Hall to Maria Elena Zamora O’Shea Hall

3. conferring of the following awards: TSUS Regents' Teacher Award to Dr. Ann Burnette, Dr. Celeste Domsch, and Dr. Rachel Romero; TSUS Regents' Professor Award to Dr. Duane Knudson and Dr. Patricia Shields; TSUS Regents' Staff Excellence Award to Dr. Emilio Carranco; TXST received all but one of these prestigious awards granted at the system level.

- Dr. Bourgeois announced that TXST is receiving \$29.9M in the TEXAS Grant, which is a \$2.7M increase from FY21.
- To enhance employee morale and demonstrate appreciation, there will be free access to performing arts event in fall 2021, with additional perks under discussion by President's Cabinet.
- Dr. Bourgeois announced that the CRO search will be extended and Dr. Walt Horton will continue to serve in this capacity until October 31, 2021.
- Dr. Vedaraman Sriraman provided the Council with a brief update on the pilot to generate additional graduate enrollments in online programs.
- Dr. Bourgeois announced that \$5M in legislative funding has been approved for the Community Health and Economic Resiliency Research (CHERR) Center and will be headed by Dr. Melinda Villagran.
- Dr. Bourgeois mentioned there is no update on TRBs.
- Dr. Mary Brennan announced that the on-campus interviews will begin soon for the new Associate Vice President and University Librarian.
- Dr. Cynthia Hernandez announced that she will be forming a new advisory group to create interaction between the divisions of Academic Affairs and Students Affairs. She will be reaching out to CAD members individually for representatives to this advisory group.