

**Council of Academic Deans Meeting  
September 7, 2021**

**Summary and Action Items**

1. **Compliance Reporting** – Mr. Bobby Mason and Ms. Alexandria Hatcher provided an in-depth review of mandatory reporting requirements for sexual misconduct in a presentation entitled, “Wait, I Can Get Fired?” Council members are asked to share the presentation with all reporting units and to seek guidance from the [Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX](#) as needed. The office is dedicated to providing resources and support that empower the university community, as well as upholding law and policy and conducting investigations. Key points from the presentation include:

- TX Senate Bill 212 requires university employees who witness or receive information about sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking against a student or employee to report to the institution’s Title IX coordinator. Significantly, the bill creates a criminal offense for failure to report an incident or making a false report.
- A report must include all information concerning the incident known to the reporting person, including whether the alleged victim expressed a desire for confidentiality.
- Reporting must be timely and is expected within two days after learning of the incident.
- Mandatory reporters include faculty, staff, administrators, student employees while acting in the course and scope of their employment; this scope is not limited to on-campus duties. There are “confidential employees” designated by the university as exceptions to the mandatory reporting requirement.
- Report via the [Title IX Reporting Form](#).
- Most sexual misconduct victims in a university community confide in a faculty member first, although approximately 80% never disclose the misconduct to anyone.
- Access the [TSUS Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedures](#) or Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX for more information.

2. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Gary Ray presented the report on undergraduate admissions, Bobcat Cares emergency grants, retention rates, and other initiatives.

- To date, Financial Aid and Scholarships has received 19,351 Bobcat Cares emergency grant applications. The application will remain open until Thursday, September 9, 2021. A final round of text reminders to students is going out today.
- Census Day for fall 2021 is September 8, 2021, the 12<sup>th</sup> day of class. Final enrollment numbers will be on the Daily Registration Report on Thursday, September 9, 2021.
- The Daily Registration Report for September 7 includes 37,964 students (up 74 or +0.2%).
- Credit hours are down 0.4% or 1,725 SCH.
- Continuing UG student registrations are down 770 or -3.2%
- There are 6,633 freshmen enrolled – (+778 Y2Y or 13% over fall 2020) or 5% or +318 over fall 2019 record. (5,855). Top 10% ranked freshmen are up 26% or 171. Top 25% ranked freshmen are up 293 or 12.3%
- There are 3,123 new transfers registered vs. 3,059 in 2020. (+2% or 64)

- The university enrolled the largest number of new students—both undergraduate and graduate—for the fall 2021 semester, surpassing 11,000 for the first time. (11,052) (2019 – 10,887)
- Retention rates of 2020 freshman class and new transfer students have improved.
- The fall 2020 freshman class has a 77.9% rate to date. This rate compared to 77.2% last year
- The fall 2020 new transfers have a one-year retention rate of 84.5%, which compares to 84.1% last year.
- The impact of ReUp Education campaign includes:
  - 344 stop-outs enrolled since June 2020 launch
  - 239 enrolled this fall
  - 53 graduated from Texas State

3. **Graduate Admissions Report** – As of today, Dr. Andrea Golato reported 4,402 graduate students enrolled for fall 2021, up 1.5% over fall 2021.

4. **COVID-19 Updates** – Dr. Gene Bourgeois provided a COVID-19 status update to the Council:

- Texas State University currently has 257 active cases, and positivity rate of 4.8%. We had a significant increase in active cases from 131 last week to 415 this week. The positivity rate at Texas State is currently 9.5%. Although there are a significant number of active cases at Texas State, there are no identified clusters of transmission on campus (even in the residence halls).
- Contact tracing at Texas State has adjusted its processes in order to prioritize cases. Bobcat Trace protocols will continue to be adjusted as needed.
- There is no evidence of transmission clusters in classrooms, offices, or residence halls. Currently, there are six students in isolation on campus; other students have gone home for the isolation period.
- Faculty are asked to require a Bobcat Trace notice from students in order to excuse absences; this will increase reporting to Bobcat Trace and resulting notification procedures.
- Texas State has been authorized to implement a [recognition and incentive program](#) for faculty, staff, and students who are vaccinated.
- Feedback on the university's COVID-19 response occurs frequently through meetings and direct communication with Faculty Senate, Council of Academic Deans, Council of Chairs, town halls, individual faculty, individual students, and other stakeholders. These communications provide vital information that is shared with President's Cabinet and Dr. Emilio Carranco, the university's Chief Medical Officer. Improvements, campus-wide emails, changes and updates to the Texas State Roadmap and Frequently Asked Questions, and other changes are the direct result of feedback and dialogue.

5. **Fall 2021 Classes** – Classes must be implemented in the instruction mode that appears on the Schedule of Classes in [Catsweb](#). The [University Registrar](#) defines the most common instruction modes as follows:

- FTF- At least 85% of the section is taught face-to-face (in-person)
- INT- At least 85% of the section is taught via the internet
- HYB- 50-85% of the section is taught via the internet, the other portion is taught face-to-face (in-person)
- ITV- Section is taught via two-interactive video

Faculty have discretion and flexibility to implement classes according to the definition and parameters of instruction modes. For example, the face-to-face course instruction mode means 85 percent or more of the faculty-student interaction occurs in-person. The remaining 15 percent may occur in other formats, including Zoom.

6. **Budget Planning** – No discussion was held on this item.

## **OFF AGENDA**

Provost Bourgeois introduced Dr. Tahir Ekin, Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Information Systems and Quantitative Methods, who will serve as Presidential Fellow this academic year. Dr. Ekin will work on projects related to his statistics and data analytics expertise, including those related to student success and other university priorities.

Dr. Debbie Thorne announced she has been asked to implement three surveys in fall 2021 as critical feedback to President's Cabinet on the university's COVID-19 plans. The Council was asked to encourage faculty, staff, and students to participate in the surveys in September, October, and November 2021.

Dean Mary Brennan inquired about the law effective September 1, 2021 that allows many Texans who are 21 years or older to carry handguns in public without going through training or getting permits. The new law does not replace the "campus carry" law effective August 1, 2016 that authorizes a valid license holder to carry a concealed handgun on or about their person on university campuses. [UPPS 01.04.45](#) has information on the university's rules, regulations, and provisions regarding the carrying of concealed handguns by license holders.