

**Council of Academic Deans Meeting  
April 6, 2021**

**Summary and Action Items**

1. **Audience Response Systems** – Mr. Whitten Smart began conversation with the Council regarding the subscription costs students are charged to use Top Hat, an audience response system. Since summer 2019, Texas State students have paid \$583,563 for Top Hat. IT will be posting an RFP soliciting audience response solutions to ensure the best possible application and pricing structure is chosen for TXST. A survey will be sent to department chairs/school directors and faculty to gauge potential faculty usage and awareness of audience response systems. The Council discussed the need for broader input and priorities on additional teaching and learning web-based applications (LTI, learning tools interoperability) for integration with the Canvas learning management system.

2. **Endowment Compliance Recommendations** – Dr. Bourgeois discussed recommendations provided to him by the Endowment Compliance Committee. The Provost and VPAA oversees endowment compliance at TXST. Dr. Bourgeois approved the following committee recommendations:

- all academic units must use the Bobcat Online Scholarship System (BOSS) for scholarships beginning the next cycle; and
- all academic units need to follow deadlines/timeslines for awarding scholarships so that scholarship funds are included in students' financial aid packages and paid toward tuition, fees, supplies, etc. Therefore, Dr. Bourgeois is requiring that all scholarship award groups make scholarship decisions by March 15 of every year for incoming students and May 1 of every year for returning students. Please note that scholarships should not be awarded after July 1 for the summer semester or for previous semesters. UPPS 02.05.01, University Scholarship Policy, will be updated to include this new requirement from the Provost.

3. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Gary Ray provided the Council with an undergraduate admissions report. He reported that as of April 5, 2021, the digital ads for the new TXST Next campaign have begun at Houston and DFW airports, and will run through May 31, 2021.

As of April 5, 2021, TXST has awarded 6,163 merit scholarships to first-year students, which includes 2,785 (45%) test-optional students' decisions.

As of April 5, 2021, fall applications to community colleges have declined by 29%; US freshman applications have declined by 8%; US transfers applications have declined by 4%; undergraduate readmit applications have increased by 4%; international freshman applications have decreased by 9%; and international transfer applications have declined by 27%.

As of March 26, 2021, 44.1% of the 2021 Texas high school senior class has completed a FAFSA. This is a 7.7% or 13,206 decline from last year.

Virtual Bobcat Day is scheduled for next week, April 14 and 15, 2021.

Dr. Bourgeois mentioned that he, along with President Trauth and Mr. Algoe, are reviewing proposals for awarding the \$46M HEERF round three of emergency aid grants to students for summer and fall 2021 semesters.

**4. Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report. Fall admissions decisions are still in process. The Graduate College is highly encouraging students of the need to register for classes for summer 2021.

Fall 2021 – There is a significant increase (375) in the number of master’s applications from last year as well as a increase (249) in master’s acceptances.

Awards for endowed graduate scholarships have already been made and sent.

**9. COVID-19 Updates** – Dr. Bourgeois provided an update that Dr. Emilio Carranco provided the President’s Cabinet on April 5, 2021:

- Texas is positioned very well compared to other states and variants are not a problem in the state of Texas. The average number of cases per day in Texas is 2,086, a decline from 2,143 from the previous week, bringing the positivity rate to 4.9%.

- Dr. Carranco did not have any data for Hays County. Williamson County saw a slight decrease in cases per day from 51 to 49 for a positivity rate of 3.9%.

- TXST conducted 961 tests with a result of 42 positive cases for a positivity rate of 4.4%. There are 103 active cases at TXST with three students in isolation and two in quarantine. TXST is not seeing a huge surge in cases after Spring Break.

Vaccinations – On April 2, 2021, 1,170 does of Pfizer were given to TXST and 1,525 members of the TXST community were vaccinated. The total number of vaccinations administered at TXST is 2,775. In May, our vaccination site will be moved from the LBJSC ballrooms to the Student Recreation Center.

Dr. Bourgeois distributed an updated document entitled, “In-person Events, Camps, Library, Research Activities, Travel, Sewell Park, and Camps,” and dated April 1, 2021. The key change to this version is that the president must approve any requests for on-campus events for external groups.

Workplace Modifications – Dr. Bourgeois announced that COVID-19 Temporary Workplace Modifications (TWPM) based on CDC-identified health conditions and risks will expire on May 31, 2021. Individuals who had an approved COVID-19 TWPM will be notified by the ADA Coordinator no later than April 15. Individuals with disabilities may still request accommodations via the ADA Coordinator.

Temporary remote work arrangements also expire May 31, 2021. All employees are expected to return to in-person work and services on Tuesday, June 1, 2021. Instructional modalities for summer 2021 classes will proceed according to the published schedule of classes.

**10. Spring, Summer, and Fall 2021 Classes** –Dr. Bourgeois announced that about 90% of SCH for the summer 2021 semester are internet based and about 10% are face-to-face modality of instruction. Currently for fall 2021, about 70% of SCH has a face-to-face modality, 20% is internet based, and 10% is a hybrid modality.

**11. Budget Planning** – Dr. Debbie Thorne announced that a message was sent by Ms. Cindy Waggoner announcing that decisions and comments on the first round of additional summer funding requests have been made available on SharePoint. Plans for the second round of additional requests for summer are being made and instructions will be sent when the Provost's Office is ready to receive those requests.

The process for temporary funding requests for FY22 will be initiated soon and instructions will be sent later this week.

Dr. Thorne announced that she does not yet have an exact ECF budget number. Department ECF budgets for next year will be no lower than this year. Ms. Cristine Black will contact Dr. Thorne on what the budget will be and it will be rolled out in budget development.

## **OFF AGENDA**

Link Text at Texas State – Dr. Bourgeois distributed a handout the President's Cabinet received and discussed regarding link text in email, web content, and digital documents. Dr. Bourgeois strongly encouraged that everyone review the handout and share with their units to meet accessibility standards.

Dr. Bourgeois announced that a DEI advisory group is preparing messaging recommendations for campus regarding the verdict from the murder trial of Derek Chauvin. There will be messaging sent from President Trauth when jury deliberations begin and the deans are being asked to consider (optional) sending message(s) as a follow-up to the President's messaging customized for each dean's college culture. These messages can include messaging regarding staying safe, emphasis on core values, reiterations on the stance of Black Lives Matter, rejection of hate and bigotry at TXST, knowing your rights, and information on campus demonstration guidelines.

Dr. Bourgeois announced that all candidates for tenure and promotion to associate professor are being recommended for approval to the Board of Regents.