

**Council of Academic Deans Meeting
September 29, 2020**

Summary and Action Items

1. **Distinguished Alumni Recognition and Engagement with Students** – Mr. Cesquinn Curtis and Mr. Reed Rallojy discussed with the Council the details of the plan to engage the 2020 Distinguished Alumni and Young Alumni Rising Star honorees with students virtually this year. They asked the deans to submit ideas for the honorees to participate such as guest speaker in a class or student organization.
2. **Big Ideas Virtual Week, Step Up for State, and Big Ideas Round II** –
Big Ideas Virtual Week – Dr. Dan Perry announced that this week Big Ideas Virtual Week began; this event is a five-day event that explores each Big Idea while showcasing alumni, industry partners, faculty, and students.
Step Up for State – Dr. Perry announced that the online fundraising event, Step Up for State, occurs on October 7 and 8, 2020.
Big Ideas Round II – Dr. Perry announced the second-round process has begun for submitting proposals for projects that align with the five approved Big Ideas areas and a new sixth Big Idea in humanities and creative arts under the theme of Human Expression has been added. Proposals are due October 30, 2020. He asked the deans to submit names to him directly of individuals who can serve on proposal review committees.
3. **Transfer Math Alignment Issues and Updates** – Dr. Dann Brown and Dr. Kambra Bolch presented issues and updates to the Council regarding the Texas Transfer Alliance and the Central Texas Math Alignment Project.
4. **Nontenure Line Faculty Career Path Proposal** – Dr. Janet Bezner and Dr. Natalie Ceballos discussed a draft policy regarding an instructional faculty career path, which would provide opportunities for instructional faculty to seek advancement and promotion within the university.
5. **In-person Commencement in December** – Dr. Andrea Golato expressed concerns with the in-person commencement ceremonies under study for December 2020.
6. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed.
7. **Graduate Admissions Report** – Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed.
8. **COVID-19 Updates** –
 - Dr. Bourgeois provided updates given to the President’s Cabinet by Dr. Emilio Carranco on September 28, 2020:
 - state, local, and on-campus conditions are trending positively (San Marcos, Hays County, Williamson County)
 - TXST campus - the number of cases per day and the COVID-19 positivity rate are down from last week
 - as of today, there are 105 active COVID-19 positive cases on campus

- TXST has entered into a contract with Curative Inc. to bring free COVID-19 testing to our campus; it is a PCR test that is collected with an oral swab; the company claims it is capable of providing 500 tests a day; 542 COVID-19 tests were provided by the Student Health Center in the previous week
 - number of students on campus currently in isolation and quarantine is down:
 - 30 students in isolation
 - 24 students in quarantine
 - Note that in addition to the numbers above, there are 51 available living units for students in isolation and 107 available units for students in quarantine
 - to date, based on contact tracing efforts, there is no evidence of transmission of COVID-19 in residence halls nor in any classrooms
- Dr. Bourgeois asked the deans to submit feedback to the feasibility/plausibility of canceling Spring Break in spring 2021.
 - Dr. Bourgeois requested that student stories and testimonies about the positive impact of CARES and GEER funding be sent directly to Mr. Gary Ray.

9. **Budget Planning** – Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed.

10. **Summer 2021 Classes** – Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed.