

**Council of Academic Deans Meeting  
May 11, 2021**

**Summary and Action Items**

1. **Recommendations from the DEI Training Task Force** – Dr. Ben Martin presented the Council with the recommendations from the DEI Training Task Force. The Council supported the recommendation that DEIA training be required for all employees.

2. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Gary Ray provided the Council with an undergraduate admissions report. The Department of Education recently released new guidance on our Bobcat Cares funding and announced that for the first time DACA students (undocumented) and international students are eligible to apply for summer and fall 2021 emergency grants.

As of May 11, 2021, 24,219 students have registered for the fall 2021 semester; this is compared to 27,896 students last year (13.2% decrease) at this same time; 1,450 continuing students have not registered for the fall 2021 semester (last week the number was at 1,799); as mentioned before, freshmen will not have their schedules pre-loaded; students will have their schedules created after meeting with an academic advisor.

As of May 10, 2021, 6,379 first-year students have been awarded a merit scholarship; 3,141 test optional students' decisions are included in this total (49%); 2,406 students have accepted the award (33%); compared to this time last year we had 1,898 (7% or an increase of 477 acceptances).

47.3% of the Texas high school graduating class has applied for a FAFSA.

Week 20 admissions report:

- Summer 2021 – freshman applications have increased by 105 or 29.3%; acceptances have also increased by 33 or 33.7%; NSO registration is down by 6 or 10.5%
- Summer 2021 – transfer applications have increased by 123 or 21.5%; acceptances have also increased by 57 or 19.5%; NSO registration is up by 26 or 11.9%
- Fall 2021 – freshman applications are down by 1,609 or 5.1% (the State of Texas is down by 8%); acceptances have increased by 250 or 1.2%; NSO registration is down by 67 or 1.2%
- Fall 2021 – transfer applications have increased by 44 or 1.1%; acceptances are down by 104 or 4.2%; NSO registration is down by 79 or 6.3%

3. **Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report. The Graduate College is still receiving about 50 applications per week for the fall 2021 semester, and some applications are still coming in for summer 2021. Advisors are processing applications as they are received.

There have been some gains in new student enrollment. Dr. Golato thanked everyone for their recruiting efforts.

4. **COVID-19 Updates** – Dr. Bourgeois provided a brief update from Dr. Emilio Carranco (following numbers are from two weeks ago):

- The COVID-19 situation continues to improve; case counts continue to drop; in general positivity rates are falling or are stable.
- State of Texas – average cases per day decreased from 1,931 to 1,557; the positivity rate decreased slightly from 4.7% to 4.3%
- Hays County – average cases per day is 30 compared to 42; no update on the positivity rate but it was at 6.7% two weeks ago
- Williamson County – average cases per day decreased from 50 to 45; the positivity rate stayed the same at 4%
- TXST – 23 positive cases resulted from 406 COVID-19 tests; the positivity rate is 5.7%, down from 3.2% but there has been a significant decrease in testing on campus; there are 58 total active cases; four students are in isolation and four students are in quarantine

5. **Summer and Fall 2021 Classes** – Planning assumptions for fall 2021 (to be approved soon at the President’s Cabinet level) – all indoor activities and events will be at full capacity (meetings, co-curricular student activities, classes); outdoor events will be at full capacity including all athletic events; there will be no limit of the number of guests and no social distancing requirements; buses will go back to full service without restrictions; communications will continue regarding vaccinations; TXST cannot require students to get vaccinated unless they participate in academic programs that require them to be vaccinated because of licensure or clinical placement requirements imposed by external entities; anti-viral spraying will continue weekly in the fall semester; hand sanitizer stations will remain in place; as of May 15, 2021 we will not require face coverings outdoors or for any outdoor events/activities including gatherings at Sewell Park but TXST will continue to recommend them for outdoor activities; vaccinations will continue until early fall if we continue to receive them

6. **Budget Planning** – Dr. Debbie Thorne announced that she has sent an email to all deans regarding justification codes for temporary funding requests for FY22. She asked the deans to have their departments/schools review the use of justification codes in the temporary funding requests, particularly for instructional replacements related to faculty development leave, non-tenure line workload release, fellowships, and other types of leaves. The Provost’s Office secured funds to cover these replacement costs, which are validated by leave-related justification codes.