

**Council of Academic Deans Meeting  
February 15, 2022**

**Summary and Action Items**

1. **Student Retention Data Analysis** – Dr. Tahir Ekin presented a report on the research he has been conducting as Presidential Fellow. The research is focused on a variety of factors that potentially affect student retention, with an emphasis on predictors of the retention of first-time incoming freshmen. Some factors are traditional (e.g., high school rank) and others are emerging as potential influencers (e.g., residence type).

2. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Gary Ray provided the Council with an undergraduate admissions report. As of February 14, 2022, we have 2,144 students registered for the upcoming February 20, 2022 Bobcat Day. In 2020, 2,251 students registered for Bobcat Day and 1,508 attended. The next 2022 Bobcat Day is April 9, 2022 and there are 564 students registered to date.

Through February 4, 2022, only 45.5% of the high school class of 2022 in Texas has completed a FAFSA. There have been 173,323 completions in Texas, a 22% increase equating to 31,521 completions compared to last year. TXST is up 21.9% in students admitted for fall 2022 who have filed a FAFSA.

The number of undergraduates nationwide is now down 5.1% compared to two years ago, which is a loss of nearly one million students per the National Student Clearinghouse.

There are 13 Texas universities that will remain test-optional for fall 2023, including Texas Tech University, University of Texas at San Antonio, Texas A&M University, University of Texas at Austin, and University of Houston. TXST will submit a request to the TSUS Board of Regents in May 2022 to remain test-optional for students entering in fall 2023 and to implement assured admissions for students in the top 25% of their high school classes.

6,910 freshmen have been offered merit awards for fall 2022 (up over 50% as 4,328 offers had been made by February 21, 2021). Of these freshmen student awards, 46% were admitted via assured admissions and 54% are test-optional. The overall scholarship acceptance rate is higher than last year (22% vs. 20%) and the total number of accepted scholarships is up by 688 students.

Early trends for Fall 2022 application to TXST:

- freshman applications from all 50 states and the District of Columbia;
- in-state freshman applications are up 3,322 and out of state apps are down 23;
- international freshman applications are up by 39 (115 vs. 76);
- 50% of admitted students ranked in top 25% of high school class;
- distance gains – most significant increase in applications and admits is with students from 160 to 240 miles away; Houston/Sugarland is up 1,120 admits, Austin/Round Rock is up 616, San Antonio/New Braunfels is up 391 admits; and

- The average transfer GPA is 3.57 and the average number of prior credits is 41.

Fall 2022 freshman and transfer applications and acceptances (compared to fall 2021 same week):

- first-year student applications = 29,058; record pace is up 3,756 or 14.8%;
- first-year students accepted = 20,273; up 4,064 or 25.1%;
- top 10% admitted = 3,348; up 661 or 25%;
- top 25% admitted = 10,071; up 2,003 or 25%;
- transfer applications = 1,479; down 273 or -15.6%; and
- transfer students accepted = 817; down 78 or -8.7%.

**3. Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report. Dr. Golato reported that we continue to receive applications and there is a strong interest in science and engineering. Due to the approaching deadline for merit scholarship nominations, there should be an increase in doctoral student admissions soon. At this point in time, TXST is expecting about 1,000 more graduate program applications for the fall 2022 semester.

On February 16, 2022, The Graduate College will host Pathway to Graduate School event aimed at supporting students who have an interest in pursuing graduate school.

**4. COVID-19 Updates** – Dr. Bourgeois announced that Dr. Emilio Carranco presented a positive report to President’s Cabinet on February 14, 2022. COVID-19 case counts and hospitalizations are declining, as is the positivity rate. Dr. Carranco continues to encourage frequent COVID-19 testing. There are no students in isolation or quarantine. A surge around Spring Break is not anticipated at this time.

## **OFF AGENDA**

Dr. Bourgeois announced that all May commencement ceremonies will continue to be in-person with some social distancing of candidates on the arena floor.