

**Council of Academic Deans Meeting
March 23, 2021**

Summary and Action Items

1. **Department of Geography Name Change Proposal** – The Council endorsed changing the name of the Department of Geography to the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies.
2. **Biology 1330 and 1331 and DFW Rates** – Dr. Chris Hailey and Dr. Kambra Bolch began a conversation with the deans regarding the DFW rates in BIO 1330 and BIO 1331, and the possibility that departments/schools might begin to evaluate whether degree programs might require BIO 1320 and BIO 1321 as acceptable alternatives for BIO 1330 and BIO 1331.

***for BIO majors:** BIO 1330, Functional Biology or BIO 1331, Organismal Biology

***for non-BIO majors:** BIO 1320, Modern Biology I, Molecules, Cells, and Physiology or BIO 1321, Ecology, Evolution and Society

BIO 1330 enrolls close to 1,300 students in a fall semester with a 40% DFW rate; BIO 1331 enrolls about 200 students in a fall semester with a 50% DFW rate; BIO 1320 has a DFW rate of 14%.

Dr. Bolch asked the deans to have discussions with their departments/schools about the necessity of requiring BIO 1330 versus BIO 1320 and updating degree plans and advising plans accordingly.

3. **Online Proctoring and Student Concerns** – Dr. Vedaraman Sriraman and Mr. Dana Willett presented a proposal to the deans regarding moving forward with a second online proctoring vendor. Mr. Willett provided the Council with the background regarding the necessity of considering a second vendor. TXST currently contracts with Examity; the Council approved moving forward with contracting with a second vendor, Proctorio.

4. **Three-Percent Bonus** – Dr. Debbie Thorne and Ms. Tammy Sharp reviewed and outlined the eligibility and timeline requirements for faculty for the 3% non-recurring bonus for all merit-eligible faculty for FY22 (see March 10, 2021 email from Provost). To receive the bonus, faculty members must meet standards for merit eligibility as established by policies at the college, school, and/or department level. In late May, colleges will finalize the list of faculty who are eligible for the 3% bonus.

5. **Summer Camps Update** – Dr. Mary Ellen Cavitt provided a brief update on the current number of summer camps scheduled for summer 2021. Dr. Bourgeois noted that this week President's Cabinet will be discussing a holistic approach to in-person events such as summer camps. If departments have not yet contacted Dr. Cavitt regarding a camp that will occur this summer, please do so.

6. Facilities Post-Pandemic Planning – Dr. Bourgeois referenced an article from *The Chronicle of Higher Education* titled **Safe Facilities During the Pandemic and Beyond**. Dr. Bourgeois wanted to begin a conversation about post-pandemic space issues. He asked the deans to begin this conversation with their department chairs/school directors.

7. Undergraduate Admissions Report – Mr. Gary Ray provided the Council with an undergraduate admissions report. Mr. Ray announced that an MOU between TXST and San Antonio ISD was recently approved, which will attract SAISD graduates to TXST. This will also assist with our 60x30 Plan efforts. Mr. Ray also mentioned our TXST-ACC Dana Center Grant, a transfer alliance grant, has been extended because of our significant work as a result of receiving this grant.

261 students have been identified as eligible for the funds from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Reskilling Grant Program. A letter will soon be sent to these students introducing this opportunity.

A second round of Bobcat Cares Emergency Grants for spring 2021 was administered and awarded all 7,159 eligible students who did not receive a grant in the first round (total was 15,284 students in first and second rounds). These grants ranged from \$300-\$800 per student.

Mr. Ray announced that a total of 10 faculty members have published in *The Conversation*.

The TXST Next campaign will go up in Houston and DFW airports on April 5, 2021 through May 31, 2021.

Fall 2021 Apply Texas applications: US freshmen are down 9%; US transfers are down 8%; undergraduate readmits are down 5%; international freshmen are down 11%; international transfers are down 28%

As of March 5, 2021, 42.2% of the Texas high school class of 2021 has completed a FAFSA. Texas applications are lagging behind last year's pace by -8.9% or 14,739 completions.

Virtual Bobcat Day is scheduled for April 14-15, 2021.

The University Registrar implemented promotions for summer 2021 and fall 2021 registration, which begins March 29, 2021. The Registrar's staff will be using Zoom to assist students in registering, trouble-shooting, and creating a complete schedule of classes.

Mr. Ray mentioned that there has been a significant increase in the number of campus tours requested and there is a high demand for the one-day Confirmation Day during New Student Orientation. All new students complete virtual NSO, with the option to attend Confirmation Day.

Week 13 admissions report:

- summer 2021 – freshmen applications are up by 81 or 25.1%; acceptances are up by 22 or 25.3%; NSO registration is down by three.
- summer 2021 – transfer applications are up by 72 or 18.6%; acceptances are up by 17 or 9.8%; NSO registration is down by two.

- fall 2021 – freshmen applications reached 28,581 which is a decrease of 1,885 or 6.2%; acceptances are up by 162 or 0.9%; NSO registration is up by 283 or 10.5%
- fall 2021 – transfer applications are down by 140 or 4.8%; acceptances are down by 344 or 19.3%; NSO registration is down by 34 or 6.1%

8. **Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report. For summer 2021, doctoral applications are up by 75, due to the students who have been accepted into the physical therapy cohort; master’s applications are down slightly by 16 and acceptances are down by nine.

For fall 2021, master’s applications are up by 333 and acceptances have also increased by 60.

All Graduate College scholarships committees have submitted their scholarships decisions and notifications are currently being sent. Last year The Graduate College created an online suite for New Student Orientation; this year, The Graduate College is planning to keep the asynchronous Canvas Course but substitute the virtual orientation event with an in-person one.

9. **COVID-19 Updates** – Dr. Bourgeois announced that President’s Cabinet had not yet met this week and therefore he did not a COVID-19 update. Regarding ARPA federal stimulus money, Dr. Bourgeois mentioned that TXST is still awaiting guidance from the Department of Education on how these funds must be expended. President’s Cabinet will also discuss health modifications and the timeline for staff return to campus.

10. **Spring, Summer, and Fall 2021 Classes** – No update provided for this agenda item.

11. **Budget Planning** – Dr. Debbie Thorne referenced a March 17, 2021 email sent to the deans and provided further guidance and explanation on the first and second round additional requests for summer instructional funding. In light of permanent budget reductions and diminishing temporary funds, schools and departments are asked to review the fall 2021 schedule of classes for class sizes, number of sections, student demand trends, and other factors. This type of review was successfully implemented to meet the reduced budget established for summer 2021.

12. **February 2021 Board of Regents Meeting Follow-up** – Dr. Bourgeois provide a brief update of approvals TXST received at the February 2021 Board of Regents meeting: 1) Freshman Admission Standard (TXST using a test optional approach for freshmen admissions for the freshman class of 2022); 2) Design Development Documents for the Film and Television Studios Building; and 3) Tolling of Tenure Clock.