

**Council of Academic Deans Meeting  
January 26, 2021**

**Summary and Action Items**

1. **NSO 2021 Schedule Preloading** – Dr. Kambra Bolch and Ms. Jaimie Haider presented the Council with a proposed change to the NSO 2021 schedule preloading process. Fewer freshman students will have their schedules preloaded prior to NSO and advising appointments. A schedule will be preloaded for limited groups such as students needing developmental courses, Living-Learning Communities, and students in select schools/departments with highly sequenced major curricula. Dr. Bourgeois approved and the Council endorsed his approval.
2. **Retention Work Group Update** – Dr. Mary Ellen Cavitt presented the Council with an update from the Retention Work Group regarding the six recommendations created by the Work Group in February 2020. The work group has subcommittees addressing Bobcat Preview, academic probation, grades, intervention, and retention, a faculty institute for student success, centralized data, and living-learning communities. Discussion was held amongst the Council.
3. **Review of Promotion-Eligible Clinical, Practice, and Research Faculty** – Dr. Debbie Thorne spoke about TXST hiring more clinical, practice and research faculty. These non-tenure line faculty are eligible for promotion and benefit from feedback on their progression toward promotion. She reminded the deans that as these particular faculty are reviewed during annual evaluations, it is an opportunity to provide appropriate guidance for successfully progressing along the promotion timeline.
4. **Annual Faculty Evaluation, Personnel Processes, and Impact Statements** – Dr. Bourgeois reiterated the importance of impact statements in the context of the pandemic on annual review reports and other personnel documents. TXST encourages faculty to express their stories in light of this current pandemic and the impact on their teaching, research, scholarly, and creative activity, and service. Impact statements are also part of self-advocacy and may be used in a variety of circumstances, including documenting invisible labor and contributions. Faculty Development offered a workshop on impact statements on January 14, 2020 and the recording and supporting materials are available on the office's website.

As a reminder, faculty members have discretion to include or exclude course evaluations from the spring 2020 semester in their annual performance evaluation and personnel documents. Tenure-track faculty may also consider options to toll the tenure clock due to the pandemic. Another reminder regarding this option will be sent later in the semester. At the upcoming Board of Regents meeting in February, the Board will consider a rule change regarding permitting tolling of the tenure clock for one additional year due to extraordinary circumstances at the discretion of the Provost (e.g., pandemic, hurricane).

**5. Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Gary Ray provided the Council with an undergraduate admissions report. TXST is nine days away from the census day. As of January 24, 2021, spring registration is 34,541 which is a 0.7% decrease from last year or -238 students (last year's census day count was 34,734). Continuing undergraduate students has declined by -2.4% or 706 students. The next scheduled drop date for non-payment is on January 27, 2021. Approximately 91.7% of fall 2020 freshman students are registered for spring 2021 and 93.5% of new fall 2020 transfer students are registered for spring 2021.

As of January 25, 2021, the count for new incoming undergraduate students is 1,908 (+12% increase).

Mr. Ray discussed three initiatives that are currently underway: 1) MOU with San Antonio ISD for a “going to college” campaign; 2) three year partnership with ReUp – through ReUp we have 147 students who have spring classes (98 are new students and 49 are returning students); and 3) TXST selected to work on a two year transfer equity initiative with ACC.

Mr. Ray also announced that two additional articles have been published in *The Conversation* (eight total articles).

He also announced that TXST will have digital advertising in the Houston and Dallas airports in March and April 2021 that will reach 100% of passengers.

Mr. Ray is following new executive orders from President Biden, including reaffirmation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, extension of a freeze on federal student loan repayments, and ending the ban on U.S. entry from majority-Muslim countries.

Summer 2021 – freshman applications are up by 24% (54); transfers are up by 31% (17).

Fall 2021 – just passed 24,000 freshman applications

**6. Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report. Since last week, there has been one new application and two new admits for spring 2021.

Spring 2021 – new masters students has increased by 32 or 8.9% and new doctoral students have increased by six; continuing masters students has increased to 269, continuing doctoral students have increased by 28 and continuing special professional has increased by six. Compared to last year, graduate enrollment is up by 9.3%.

Fall 2021 – 256 increase in applications received for masters student; at doctoral level, applications are down by three.

Dr. Golato announced that a graduate fair will be held in February and they are working closely with the Office of Career Services.

Dr. Golato announced that Dr. Patty Giuffre from the Department of Sociology has been selected as the new Assistant Dean in The Graduate College, effective February 1, 2021.

7. **COVID-19 Updates** - Dr. Bourgeois provided an update from Dr. Emilio Carranco as of the week of January 18, 2021:

- State of Texas – average new cases of COVID-19 per day was 14,800, which is a decrease from 19,129 from the previous week; the positivity rate has decreased to 15.4% from 16.2%
- Williamson County – average new cases of COVID-19 per day was 384, which is a decrease from 397 from the previous week; the positivity rate has decreased to 12.9% from 15.6%
- Hays County – average new cases of COVID-19 per day was 148, which is an increase from 120 from the previous week
- The Student Health Center and Curative Inc. administered 1,570 total COVID-19 tests; this resulted in 85 positive cases, which brings the positivity rate to 5.4%.
- There are four students in isolation and eight students in quarantine.
- There continues to be no evidence of widespread transmission of COVID-19 on campus.

Current plan to increase density on campus – As there has been no evidence of transmission in face-to-face classes on either TXST campuses, beginning February 1, 2021, courses coded for face-to-face instructional delivery should transition from online to face-to-face. Co-curricular programming may resume as long as strict mitigation strategies are implemented and adhered to. Standard operating procedures will be required for research, academic and other co-curricular activities. Approvals for non-university affiliated groups who request to use campus space will be postponed.

Vaccinations – The State of Texas is migrating its vaccination strategy to Hub vaccination sites rather than approved vaccine distributors; therefore non-Hub distributors will not receive vaccines any time soon. Vaccine allocations will be prioritized to the Hubs and TXST is not an approved Hub. Hubs are designated by the State of Texas. TXST encourages faculty, staff, and students eligible for vaccinations to take action now to get vaccinated through a Hub or other provider that has the vaccine.

Through an arrangement with St. David's Healthcare, TXST health professional students and faculty were able to get vaccinated.

Education Abroad programs for summer 2021 have been canceled due to uncertain vaccine availability, travel restrictions, quarantine requirements, and related concerns.

Round Rock Campus testing – A new agreement will allow for four days of testing per week on the Round Rock Campus; Monday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m and one Saturday per month.

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

9. **Budget Planning** – Dr. Bourgeois provided a current legislative budget update. It is being reported that for the current biennium, the State of Texas has a \$1B deficit. In terms of the proposed budgets for higher education, non-formula funding has been reduced to 95% of the 2020-21 funding level. Research funding has been kept at 100% of the 2020-21 level. TXST will receive about 6% more from the Core Research Support Fund. Funding for Hazlewood and financial aid programs is being decreased by 5%. President Trauth will present a budget update in April 2021, including updates to the university plan for spending its federal HEERF II allocation.

## **OFF AGENDA**

Dr. Walt Horton announced that he will retire effective August 31, 2021. Provost Bourgeois will immediately convene a search committee, with a college dean serving as chair of the committee.