

**Council of Academic Deans Meeting
June 22, 2021**

Summary and Action Items

1. **August 2021 Activities Calendar** – Mr. Gary Ray presented the Council with the August 2021 activities calendar, which includes commencement, new student orientations, late registration/schedule changes, residence hall move-in, Bobcat Preview, New Student Convocation, faculty orientation activities, college/department meetings, University Convocation and Annual General Faculty Meeting, and the LBJ Picnic.

2. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Gary Ray provided the Council with an undergraduate admissions report.

For summer 2021, 13,374 students are enrolled, which is a 5.94% decrease over summer 2020 enrollments (14,219). Summer 2021 enrollments are higher than summer 2019 enrollments (12,850).

For the summer 2021 Bobcat Cares program, 6,279 students applied and 100% of them received grant awards ranging from \$500 to \$1,250. The awards totaled just under \$6 million. The current plan is to award approximately \$40 million via the Bobcat Cares program in fall 2021 and approximately \$6.5 million in spring 2022.

Based on recent guidance from the U.S. Department of Education, DACA students (undocumented) and international students were eligible to apply for summer emergency grants and remain eligible for future grants.

As of June 22, 2021, 28,685 students have registered for the fall 2021 semester; this is compared to 33,070 students last year (13.3% decrease) at this same time; 1,155 continuing students have not registered for the fall 2021 semester.

Registration for New Student Orientation is strong and growing, with 7,021 freshmen registered to date, an increase of 4.8% over fall 2020.

Departments are asked to monitor class enrollments and add new sections to meet demand as new students continue to register throughout the summer. Departments/colleges are encouraged to implement communication plans and initiatives that encourage students to register for classes.

As of June 21, 2021, university made merit scholarship offers to 7,542 first-year students and 33% have accepted the award, an increase over the 26% acceptance rate last year. Compared to fall 2020, 488 more students have accepted merit scholarships for fall 2021.

In Apply Texas, statewide domestic freshman applications are down 8% and community college applications are down 9%.

50.9% of the Texas high school graduating class has applied for a FAFSA, which is down 3.9% over last year.

3. **Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report, with an emphasis on increasing master’s-level enrollments. The Graduate College launched reports in Slate to assist graduate advisors in assessing current student registration rates and communicating with students who have not registered for fall 2021. The Graduate College is working with University Marketing on a targeted social media campaign and reaching out to un-registered students, as well.

4. **Knack: Peer Mentoring** – Dr. Gene Bourgeois indicated Texas State has been asked about potential interest in Knack, a tutoring and peer mentoring online solution, that is under review by The Texas State University System. Dr. Mary Ellen Cavitt will learn more about the service and its benefits, especially in light of Council comments on existing campus offices/services, student success outcomes, and cost/benefit analysis.

5. **AA/PPS No. 04.02.01 – Development/Evaluation of Tenure-Track Faculty Work Group** - Dr. Debbie Thorne discussed the annual reappointment policy for tenure-track faculty. A committee will be formed to review the policy and process, with representation from each college with tenure-line faculty, Faculty Senate, and Council of Chairs. The Council discussed the number and timing of reappointment reviews, workload associated with completing the reviews, possibility of combining annual evaluation and reappointment review, faculty with years of tenure-earning credit upon hire, and other suggestions for the committee’s consideration.

6. **COVID-19 Updates** – Dr. Bourgeois reported that Dr. Emilio Carranco is optimistic about current statistics in Texas and surrounding counties for reported cases per day and positivity rates. Texas State’s current positivity rate is less than 1%. In the U.S., 62% of those individuals 12 years or older have received at least one vaccination. In Texas, the percentage is 56%, with surrounding counties reporting 68% (Travis), 66% (Williamson), and 60% (Hays). The university will continue COVID-19 testing and tracing protocol in fall 2021, including residential space on campus for students in isolation or quarantine. Updated health and safety measures for fall 2021 will be more finalized in late July. A communication plan to encourage vaccinations is in the planning stages. Vaccinations will be offered during Bobcat Preview in August 2021.

7. **Fall 2021 Classes** - The memo from the Provost sent before each long semester regarding course syllabi and class implementation will include the expectation for seating charts, updated health and safety measures, and other information.

8. **Budget Planning** – Dr. Thorne announced that departments may still consider adding courses in summer II and update SharePoint for instructional funding requests. Departments are asked to monitor class enrollments and add new sections to meet demand for fall 2021 as new and continuing students register throughout the summer. The university’s top priority is student success and academic progression. Hiring documents and contracts should move forward to Faculty and Academic Resources, including those on temporary budget requests with fully subscribed courses or evidence of appropriate workload in fall 2021. Budget specialists are asked to ensure that temporary budget requests do not include faculty/graduate assistants who are going to be paid by

electronic course fees. Much like the program implemented for research coordinators, early discussions are underway for a budget specialist program to create a community of practice, training and development, and feedback to the Provost's Office.

OFF AGENDA

Dr. Thorne discussed the importance of ensuring personnel requests via email include all required information per the division's [hiring freeze protocol](#) (Step 1). The Provost's Office reviews and processes dozens of requests each week. Requests without required information will be returned to the originator. Departments and offices are encouraged to involve budget specialists in these requests.

Dr. Bourgeois is continuing conversations with Mr. Eric Algoe regarding the university's future plans for electronic course fees and will provide an update as appropriate. A decision will be made on whether to subsume electronic course fees into general tuition charges.

Dr. Cynthia Hernandez shared plans on reframing "retention" committees and activities to a "student success" nomenclature, including the recognition that all divisions, offices, and employees have goals and responsibilities for student success. She discussed the important relationship between academic affairs and student affairs and opportunities for examining and integrating services/practices for stronger outcomes. Dr. Hernandez will be establishing a faculty advisory council to her office.

Dr. Vedaraman Sriraman and Dr. Bourgeois discussed plans for summer 2021 commencement, which will be held in Strahan Arena on August 6, 2021. Faculty members are encouraged to attend and will be asked to submit and fulfill the RSVP. Faculty will be part of the processional and will be seated on the arena floor in the area typically occupied by the ceremonial brass. The conferral of degrees will happen one time, with all degree levels included. Students will be issued 6 guest tickets and will sit by degree level, but not in alphabetical order. Students will pick up diploma covers as they check in for the ceremony. Doctoral candidates will be hooded on the arena floor. Faculty Senate is asked for a decision on whether to include a mace bearer.

Dr. Bourgeois communicated President Trauth's request for consultation on the need for continuing the President's Council for Women in Higher Education in its current format. Dr. Thorne and Mr. Algoe currently co-chair the council. Female deans and others will be asked for feedback. The council was established in the mid-1990s especially to ensure women were competing successfully for positions in senior administration.