

**Council of Academic Deans Meeting  
February 9, 2021**

**Summary and Action Items**

1. **Family Campaign 2021** – Dr. Dan Perry provided the Council with the 2021 Family Campaign timeline. The launch of the campaign begins on February 25, 2021 and concludes with the Family Campaign Celebration on April 29, 2021. Team leaders will be provided with information on their responsibilities, including options for collective giving by offices.

2. **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Undergraduate Research Conference and Thesis Forum** – Dr. Heather Galloway reminded the Council of the upcoming 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Undergraduate Research Conference and Honors Thesis Forum scheduled for April 21-23, 2021. This is a virtual event; undergraduate students from all academic areas are invited to submit abstracts for asynchronous presentations. Students may also request a spot for a synchronous presentation as space allows. All asynchronous presentations are eligible to win cash prizes, which includes the \$2,000 Scott Emerson Health Innovation Award. The deadline for abstract submissions is March 29, 2021.

3. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Gary Ray provided the Council with an undergraduate admissions report. As of Census Day, spring registration is at 34,550, which is down 0.5% or 184 students. Continuing undergraduate students continues to be a concern at -2.0% or -601 students.

The final drop of student class schedules for non-payment happened on February 3, 2021. As expected, the last drop was small at only seven students, a difference of one from spring 2020.

The fall 2020 freshman class spring registration is currently at 91.6%. Last year, we closed February 2020 with 90.8%.

The percentage of students from fall 2020 who returned to TXST for spring 2021 is at 99.5% versus last year's percentage of 98.4%.

TXST posted 169 more degrees in December 2020 for a total of 3,086 versus 2,917 from a year ago. There were also 119 COVID-19 related withdrawals for spring 2021.

New or returning undergraduate students registered on Census Day was 1,880 for spring 2021 versus 1,740 last year. This is an increase of 140 students or 8%.

As of February 8, 2021, 4,015 merit scholarships have been awarded to first-year students for fall 2021, and 932 test-optional students' decisions are included in this total. Students have until May 1, 2021 to confirm their acceptance. So far, there have only been two declines among many who have accepted. As of February 3, 2021, 190 transfer students have been awarded a one-time transfer merit scholarship, which range from \$1,000 to \$3,000.

There has been improvement in Texas students completing their FAFSA. As of January 29, 2021, 38.6% of the Texas high school class of 2021 has completed a FAFSA. But, it is a 6.8% decrease from last year's pace.

All New Student Orientations for fall 2021 went live on February 8, 2021 and are all virtual. There may be a possibility for a one day in-person session (no overnight); this opportunity is only being offered to students as they are invited to sign up for NSO.

Summer 2021 applications have increased by 60 for freshmen and acceptances have increased by 16. Transfer applications have increased by 56 and acceptances have increased by 6.

Fall 2021 applications have decreased by 2,400 but acceptances have increased by 697. Transfer applications have decreased by 63 and acceptances have decreased by 106.

**4. Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report. For spring 2021, master’s and doctoral research and special professional programs are doing well.

For summer 2021, the increase in doctoral applications is because of the DPT program. Master’s programs in Education and Liberal Arts are doing very well.

For fall 2021, there is an increase of 302 master’s applications. Programs in the McCoy College of Business Administration, Applied Arts, and Science and Engineering are doing very well.

Staff in The Graduate College continue to process applications and are communicating with students regarding incomplete applications.

**5. COVID-19 Updates** - Dr. Bourgeois provided an update from Dr. Emilio Carranco as of the week of February 8, 2021:

- State of Texas – average new cases of COVID-19 per day was 11,814, which is a decrease from 13,657 from the previous week; the positivity rate has decreased to 11.7% from 14%
- Hays County – average new cases of COVID-19 per day was 98, which is an decrease from 174 from the previous week
- Williamson County – average new cases of COVID-19 per day was 327, which is a slight increase from 325 from the previous week; the positivity rate decreased to 12.3% from 13.1%
- The Student Health Center and Curative Inc. administered 1,933 total COVID-19 tests (does not include tests from RRC); this resulted in 67 positive cases, which brings the positivity rate to 3.8%
- The total number of active cases is 195, which is a decrease from 228 the prior week.
- There are nine students in isolation and 10 students in quarantine
- To date, there is no evidence of transmission of COVID-19 in classrooms, labs or offices and no transmission between residence halls
- New variants and the efficacy of existing vaccines is a concern amidst conflicting reports
- TXST has been invited to participate in the Texas Cares project, which is an antibodies research project. The Student Health Center (SHC) would be a partner in this to assist participants. There will be no cost to volunteers. When approved, more information will be provided by Dr. Carranco and the SHC.

- Spring Break and the week after Spring Break – workgroups created should focus on student outreach and education during these two weeks
- Dr. Bourgeois mentioned that he is willing to support an academic program/area or research lab wanting a mandate for required testing for their students as part of their inclusion in activities. This is not a general approval but there are unique circumstances in certain activities, including instructional, clinical and lab experiences, and rehearsals, where testing may be required.
- All Study Abroad and Study in America programs have been canceled for summer 2021; exchange programs are not canceled. Research travel for faculty will be approved on an individual basis with the appropriate safety protocols at the time of travel. TSUS policy indicates that students may not travel to countries with a US Department of State Travel Advisory Level 3 or higher and faculty and staff may not travel to those with Travel Advisory Level 4.
- The President’s Cabinet approved summer camps but is asking that divisions have conversations about appropriate Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) in place for participants and for other staff or TXST employees and venues these staff and employees may be associated with. SOPs need to include protocols and guidelines for overnight camps, if applicable.

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

7. **Budget Planning** – Dr. Debbie Thorne expressed her appreciation for the stewardship and diligent work toward the submission of college summer budget requests.

Dr. Thorne will be discussing with the Provost the available temporary budget and requests for FY2022.

## **OFF AGENDA**

- The Texas State University System *Rules and Regulations* Committee approved a change relating to tolling of tenure clock for one additional year due to extraordinary circumstances such as a global pandemic, as declared by the World Health Organization, or other widespread state or federal natural disaster. It will be moved to the consent agenda for the upcoming Board of Regents meeting.
- Dr. Beth Wuest provided a SACSCOC update regarding the upcoming reaffirmation on-site virtual visit. We have received the names of our review team and the schedule for the visit is still be worked on by SACSCOC. There is a possibility of a meeting at the RRC but that has not been confirmed yet. She asked the deans to be available on March 30-31, 2021 for an unexpected meeting called by the review committee.

Dr. Wuest also announced that deans would receive a copy of the QEP soon; the QEP, the compliance report, and focus report can be currently viewed at viewed at [www.txstate.edu/sacscoc2021/](http://www.txstate.edu/sacscoc2021/)