

**Council of Academic Deans Meeting  
September 21, 2021**

**Summary and Action Items**

1. **Teaching Faculty Appointments Proposed Policy** – Dr. Lynn Ledbetter presented the Council with a new draft policy entitled, “Teaching Faculty Appointments” and provided some history as to what led to the creation of this policy, including practices at peer and aspirant institutions, a survey of current lecturers and senior lecturers, and the university’s commitment to recruitment, support, and retention of credentialed faculty with a primary focus on teaching. The proposal would create new non-tenure line faculty titles that are eligible for promotion (e.g., assistant professor of teaching). The Council was receptive and supportive of this new policy and deans were asked to share and discuss this draft policy with their college councils. The proposal will be presented for discussion at the upcoming Joint CAD, Council of Chairs, and Faculty Senate meeting on November 2, 2021.

2. **Introduction of Dr. David Byrd, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs** – Dr. Cynthia Hernandez introduced Dr. David Byrd at the new Associate Vice President for Student Affairs.

3. **Second Year Report of the Managing Textbook Costs Committee and Plans for the Next Year** – Dr. Vedaraman Sriraman and Mr. Dana Willett provided the group with a copy of the Second Year Report of the Managing Textbook Costs Committee and discussed plans for next year. The committee is focused creating greater faculty awareness of open educational resources and affordable learning materials, making low-cost materials easy to identify in the schedule of classes, providing incentives for faculty to adopt or develop affordable materials, tracking student savings, and pursuing low-cost or no-cost course materials in the General Education Core Curriculum. Through a variety of strategies, Texas State students saved over \$1.69 million in textbook and instructional materials costs in the past year.

4. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Gary Ray presented Team Texas, which is an alliance partnership with between Austin Community College and TXST. The grant sponsors are the Transfer Alliance Grant (Dana Center) and the Transfer Equity Initiative (American Association of Community Colleges), and the goal is to improve overall transfer rates, with a focus on improving transfer equity and reducing achievement gaps, particularly for Latinx and African American students. Team Texas will identify and place 100 students (2-year project) into one of the transfer pathways and 300 students by the end of the second year. The partnership focuses on six career pathways, including business, computer science, education, engineering, nursing, and social work.

Mr. Ray also provided the Council with the freshmen and transfer admissions report for spring 2022 (week 39). Thus far, applications and acceptances are up for both groups.

5. **Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report for spring 2022. Dr. Golato noted an increase in applications and a decrease in the total number of acceptances, but mentioned there is no concern due to the timing departmental admissions decisions.

6. **COVID-19 Updates** – Dr. Bourgeois provided an update that Dr. Emilio Carranco presented to the President’s Cabinet on September 20, 2021:

- State of Texas – average daily case count decreased from 12,950 to 12,559; decrease in positivity rate from 16.2% to 16.1%
- Williamson County – average daily case count decreased from 335 to 290; decrease in positivity rate from 14.4% to 10.6%
- Travis County – average daily case count decreased from 522 to 349; decrease in positivity rate from 10.1% to 9.7%
- Hays County – average daily case count increased slightly from 119 to 129
- Hospitalizations across the state have decreased.
- College campuses have much lower positivity rates than their surrounding communities.
- As of September 13, 2021, TXST administered 2,024 COVID-19 tests resulting in 70 positive cases for a positivity rate of 3.5%; approximately 400 additional tests administered due to the new COVID-19 test site at the Student Recreation Center. Active
- COVID-19 cases continue to drop at TXST.
- When a student has reported to Bobcat Trace that they have tested positive for COVID-19, an email with a link will be sent to the faculty member. The link will contain the name of the student who has tested positive and will allow for the faculty member to enter information on close contacts in the classroom to assist contact tracers.
- Contact tracers regularly review positive cases for signs of clusters, including those in classrooms. To date, no classroom clusters have been identified.

5. **Spring 2022 Classes** – If faculty members are contemplating changing their instructional modality for their spring 2022 classes, they need to be in conversation with their department chair/school directors right now and make a decision soon. Students begin registering for spring 2022 classes on October 18, 2021.

## **OFF AGENDA**

- TXST received \$250M in federal awards for students and there were no instances of noncompliance or other matters that were required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*. There were also no deficiencies identified in internal control. Dr. Bourgeois acknowledged our Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships for their outstanding work.

- Bobcat Cares – \$40,225,800 was the total amount awarded to 21,004 students who applied for the Bobcat Cares funding.

- TXST has been selected to receive funding in the amount of \$988,687 under the Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program (STEM). The project title is *Generación STEM* and it will promote Hispanic and low-income student success through individualized support, transfer navigation, and STEM career preparation with Dr. Paula Williamson as the program contact.