

**Council of Academic Deans Meeting
February 8, 2022**

Summary and Action Items

1. **College Fundraising Appeal** – Dr. Dan Perry, Mr. Sam Regonini, and Ms. Nicole Anable announced the Spring 2022 College Campaign, which is a direct response (mailer and email) fundraising campaign targeting college alumni for donations to a top priority of the college. Participation is optional and will require collaboration with Annual Giving. If colleges wish to participate, deans should email Mr. Regonini and Ms. Anable by February 11, 2022.

2. **State of Texas IT Procurement Updates** – Mr. Ken Pierce, Mr. Dan Owen, and Mr. Jose Rodriguez announced SB 475 that requires new state certification for cloud services that store or transmit the data of a state agency. The Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) established mandatory standards and requirements of two certification levels based on service's security categorization (data classification and system impact); DIR will perform the certification process as a result of a legislative mandate for all cloud technology acquisitions. Certifications are required beginning January 1, 2022.

Institutions must confirm a cloud computing service within scope of the TX-RAMP is certified prior to entering or renewing a contract. Institutions must require vendors contracting with the institution for in-scope services to be TX-RAMP certified and to maintain certification throughout the term of the contract.

Discussion was also held on the timeline and process for software requests to pass through IT security, accessibility, procurement, and other offices/standards. IT noted significant growth in the number of software requests and required evaluations and is in the process of developing more visibility into its processes, approved software, and stages of software evaluation.

3. **TXST NEXT Update** – Mr. Elias Martinez provided the Council with a TXST NEXT update including a wide range of initiatives, advertising and promotions, video series, social media campaigns, and different types of engagement surrounding new branding, including assessment of these efforts. He discussed self-serve templates, tools, and resources already available or under development to empower the university community to embrace and use the new brand, including access to LucidPress that allows university offices to easily and quickly create professional design products that reflect the brand's bold look and feel.

4. **FY21 Sponsored Programs Expenditure Report** – Dr. Michael Blanda provided the Council with the FY21 Sponsored Programs Expenditure Report, including an overview of total sponsored programs expenditures, total research and development expenditures, restricted research expenditures, number of proposals submitted, and other metrics for FY21. Approximately 80% of funding comes from federal sources and TXST has set institutional records for total R&D expenditures for 15 years in a row. FY22 first quarter updates were also provided in the report, which are trending in a positive direction. Dr. Blanda discussed the strengths of TXST's research portfolio and a number of initiatives that will drive more growth.

5. Undergraduate Admissions Report – Mr. Gary Ray provided the Council with an undergraduate admissions report. 22,508 students applied for Bobcat Cares (118 students were not enrolled for the spring 2022 semester) with \$7M to award. All eligible students will be awarded between \$250 to \$600 with priority given to students with higher need levels and no prior awards. \$250 to \$300 will be awarded for previous recipients. All awards will be made by Friday, February 11, 2022.

TXST Spring 2022 Daily Registration – as of Census Day, February 2, 2022, 34,248 students are enrolled, which is 90.4% of fall 2021 headcount (down by 0.9%).

2021 Freshman class spring retention rates (fall to spring): final retention for 2021 is 93% which is an increase over the last two years (2020 at 91.38% and 2019 at 90.8%).

2021 New Transfer spring retention rates (fall to spring): final retention for 2021 is 94% which is an increase over the last two years (2020 at 93.2% and 2019 at 93.8%).

First-year student applications have increased by 3,980 or 16%. Approximately 6,664 merit awards have been offered to freshman students, which is up by 67% year over year.

Transfer applications for fall 2022 are still down by 16%, but TXST is expecting more applications due to the newly-announced transfer assured scholarships and collaborations with community colleges.

6. Graduate Admissions Report – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report. Currently for fall 2022, all applications numbers are down for all colleges except the College of Science and Engineering, which due in part to Computer Science and Construction Management. There is also an increase in master's applications in the College of Science and Engineering for summer 2022.

7. COVID-19 Updates – Dr. Bourgeois announced that the situation is improving and there will be more messaging later in the semester around Bobcat Trace.

OFF AGENDA

Dr. Bourgeois announced that Dr. Melinda Villagran and Dr. Larry Fulton were awarded a \$1.5M grant to create an online data science credentialing program.

Dr. Bourgeois announced that Staff Council had recently sent a letter to university administration that included misinformation stating that VPs are not permitting use of remote work in their respective areas. Dr. Bourgeois repeated that he supports remote work and telecommuting based on the characteristics of the position and the employee, the ability to meet department and university goals, and provisions outlined in UPPS 04.04.01.

Dr. Lynn Ledbetter invited the Council to attend a presentation by Professor Sirry Alang, who will be discussing, *Who Fixes Broken Systems? Undoing Legacies of Exclusion in Colleges and Universities*. The session will take place on Tuesday, February 15, 2022, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m., via Zoom.