

Joint Council of Academic Deans and Faculty Senate Meeting
April 5, 2022

Summary and Action Items

1. Update on cost analysis and timeline for implementation of NLF Teaching

Appointments policy – Dr. Jennifer Jensen and Dr. Debbie Thorne discussed progress on the development of a new faculty title series for non-tenure line, promotion-eligible teaching/instructional faculty. To implement the new job titles and career progression, the policy, associated budget, and operational changes will be a top priority for Academic Affairs on the 2023-2029 University Plan. Given the need for additional budget and significant internal processes and decisions, the earliest the new faculty title series will be implemented is fall 2024 (FY25). Representatives from the Non-tenure Line Committee of the Faculty Senate and the Provost's Office will be meeting with other Texas universities who have similar job titles to learn about their processes, successes, and recommendations. The cost analysis will depend on the number of current lecturers and senior lecturers who choose the new title series, the rank at which current faculty are placed (assistant, associate, professor), and number of faculty expected to be promoted each year.

2. Faculty Senate representation on College Councils – Dr. Lynn Ledbetter initiated a discussion with the deans regarding Faculty Senate representation on College Councils as another way of supporting shared governance and transparency. Discussion was held amongst the deans. Dr. Jeff Helgeson mentioned that he would bring this issue up with the Council of Chairs at their April 8, 2022 meeting. Deans will discuss with their College Councils but there appears to be overall support for this measure, including the concept of a monthly “extended” college council meeting that includes faculty senators.

3. Undergraduate Admissions Report – Mr. Gary Ray provided the Council with an undergraduate admissions report. He provided the following updates:

- Retention: Fall class registration opened on Monday, March 28, 2022 and as of April 4, 2022 there are 17,869 vs 17,889 (-0.1%) students registered. The continuing undergraduates are up 352 or 2.3%. All freshmen were released to begin to register on last Friday, where 56.7% registered (3,511) vs 45% last year (2,443). Mr. Ray thanked everyone for all their efforts regarding retention of our students.
- Parent's Portal – Mr. Ray discussed how today's families crave insight into how their student is succeeding on campus. Texas State has 64,000 parents receiving regular updates through the Parent's Portal. On average, 57% of emails sent through the portal are opened. Research shows that student persistence can increase by up to 15% when students share key aspects of their academic and financial record with parents.
- To date, registration for the April 9, 2022 Bobcat Day is 2,213 and over 5,000 students, family members, and other supporters are expected to attend.
- Freshman class housing contracts are up 735 YTD (16%); 5,182 vs 4,447.
- Fall merit awards as of April 4, 2022: Currently, 9,027 freshmen have accepted a merit award and committed to TXST for fall 2022; this year, award offers are 46% higher (9,479 vs. 6,512); the overall scholarship acceptance rate is higher than the previous year (27.1% vs 24%), and the total number of accepted scholarships in 2022 versus 2021 is +1,007.

- New Student Orientation (NSO) registrations for fall 2022 have now passed last year's count after launching two weeks later this year:
 - FTIC 3,594 vs. 3,402; up 192 or 5% (3,825 registered as of Tuesday, April 5)
 - Transfer applications are at 758 vs. 582; this is an increase of 176 or 30% (809 as of April 5); There are four initiatives to increase the number of transfer students at TXST:
 - 1) strategic partnerships and MOUs
 - 2) transfer scholarships
 - 3) Bring Bobcats Back – readmitting stop-out students
 - 4) Amazon Career Choice Program
- Two new general articulation agreements are in progress with Coastal Bend Community College and Harmony Public Schools.
- NSO registration is up for both summer and fall semesters.
- Dr. Bourgeois asked the deans to continue to be monitor class enrollments especially in lower-level course sections and developmental education classes and ensure they are sufficiently available for students.

4. **Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report. Dr. Golato noted that programs are still admitting for summer 2022 and there is an increase in master's applications and acceptances. For fall 2022, there is an increase in master's applications and a decrease in acceptances, but committees are still making admissions decisions and the increase in master's applications is not even across colleges. The McCoy College of Business Administration is experiencing an increase in their master's applications due to the Data Analytics and Information Systems and Marketing Research and Analysis programs; the College of Science and Engineering is experiencing a significant increase in master's applications in Construction Management and Computer Science, even with incomplete student applications.

She noted the importance of committees making final decisions soon for financial aid reasons as well as the fact that students tend to accept offers from programs that communicate early. If students are not admitted, they cannot register. She is working with the Graduate Council on strategies for graduate advisors and faculty to help encourage students to register.

OFF AGENDA

Dr. Bourgeois announced that all candidates for tenure and promotion to associate professor in tenure-line positions who are eligible at the Provost/President level in the College of Applied Arts, McCoy College of Business Administration, College of Education, and College of Fine Arts and Communication are approved and recommended for the same to the TSUS Board of Regents. Deans can pass this information to their faculty.

Dr. Bourgeois encouraged attendance at next week's Town Hall with TXST's presidential finalist, Dr. Kelly Damphousse.

Dr. Thorne indicated that the process for temporary budgets requests will be announced soon, with the understanding these requests regularly change due to ongoing fall 2022 registrations throughout the summer, particularly with freshman and transfer students. As classes are monitored and fill, academic units are encouraged to add sections and instructors to meet student demand and academic progression goals.

Dr. Thorne discussed the importance of spending electronic course fees (ECF), particularly on faculty salaries directly tied to teaching online/hybrid courses. At this point in FY22, approximately 25% of the ECF distributed to academic units has not been spent, encumbered, or indicated for summer 2022 expenditure. The Provost's Office is working with Budget, Financial Planning, and Analysis on a method for allocating and expending ECF as well as covering faculty salary deficits each year. Planning has been challenging since there was a significant increase in online/hybrid courses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A key consideration is whether departments will continue with online/hybrid courses or return more to face-to-face instruction in the future.