

**Council of Academic Deans Meeting
December 7, 2021**

Summary and Action Items

1. **Personnel Committee Guidelines** – Dr. Lynn Ledbetter reviewed the Personnel Committee Guidelines that have been previously reviewed and discussed by the Faculty Senate, Council of Chairs, and CAD. Dr. Ledbetter emphasized that these are guidelines and the Senate understands and recognizes that each college has their own policies, practices, faculty composition, and needs. Discussion was held amongst the group about possible implementation of the guidelines, including who may call meetings of the Personnel Committee and the need for training/documentation on Personnel Committee procedures and committee chair duties. These guidelines will be sent to the Council of Chairs for further review and discussion.
2. **Update on Student Success Executive Committee** – Dr. Mary Ellen Cavitt provided the Council with an update on the Student Success Executive Committee and distributed a handout with the committee’s charge and membership, subcommittee initiatives, and possible future initiatives to increase undergraduate student retention and six-year graduation rates. The initiatives and goals will be a significant priority in the university’s next strategic plan.
3. **Graduate Online Program Tuition for Non-resident Students** – Dr. Bourgeois announced that no budget and tuition increases were presented to the Board of Regents during their November 2021 meeting. Dr. Vedaraman Sriraman provided the Council with an update on the tuition proposal for non-resident students enrolled in selected online graduate programs. This program would allow resident and non-resident graduate tuition to be the same for online programs only. The target launch date is fall 2022 but the proposal will need Board of Regents approval.
4. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Gary Ray provided the Council with an undergraduate admissions report. He reported that we are 58 days from the spring 2022 census day and as of December 6, 2021, 84% of fall 2021 (31,814) students have enrolled for spring 2022 classes.
5. Preliminary graduation numbers for December 2021 – 3,260 degrees and 27 certificates, which is 319 or 10.8% more than December 2020 (2,941 degrees and 36 certificates)
6. 2021 freshman class spring retention rate – as of December 6, 2021, it is 90.6% (5,615 have registered for spring 2022 and 533 have not); 2020 was 86.9% and 2019 was 90.7%
7. November 2021 Bobcat Day attendance was 1,192; prior to the pandemic in fall 2019, attendance was 1,226; there was a significant change in the number of students who arrived on busses arranged by schools and school districts. In November 2019 there were 306 students who came via bus for Bobcat Day and in November 2021, there were 168 students.
8. 3,202 freshman merit awards have been awarded for fall 2022; 2,251 are assured admissions and 951 at test-optional students

Mr. Ray presented week 50 undergraduate admissions report for spring 2022 (freshmen and transfers), summer 2022 (freshmen and transfers), and fall 2022 (freshmen and transfers).

5. Graduate Admissions Report – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report. She reported that overall graduate student enrollment is down by 78 students, but this is still an increase from pre-pandemic enrollments. There is an increase of 141 applications and there is a significant increase in the number of applications in computer science.

As of the morning of December 7, 2021, 272 new master's students have enrolled which is a decrease of 84 from 2020 as well as a decrease from 2019. Dr. Golato mentioned all the outreach that has been made to students regarding the importance of registering. She also mentioned that staff have also been reminding students that the application for Bobcat Cares begins January 18, 2022 and these funds may be used for any educational expense.

6. November 2021 Board of Regents Meeting Follow-up – Dr. Bourgeois distributed the November 2021 Board of Regents Meeting Follow-up report. He announced that our proposal for a tuition increase was not presented to the Board of Regents.

7. COVID-19 Updates and Spring 2022 Classes – Dr. Bourgeois announced that we are monitoring the current situation with the new Omicron variant of COVID-19. Dr. Emilio Carranco will begin sending campus messages regarding COVID-19 and will continue to encourage COVID-19 testing and Bobcat Trace protocols. MD Diagnostic COVID-19 testing and Curative COVID-19 testing on the San Marcos Campus will be closed December 20, 2021 through January 2, 2022. University officials will monitor any surge after the holiday/break along with measures TXST needs to take for the spring 2022 semester. At this time, there is no mandatory testing in place for students living in the residence halls. TXST will continue to encourage testing for faculty and staff as well as face coverings and vaccinations.

OFF AGENDA

Dr. Sriraman reminded the Council of the upcoming commencement ceremonies, to be held December 10 and 11, 2021.

Dr. Debbie Thorne asked the deans to remind their department chairs/school directors about Bobcat Balance, TXST's employee assistance program (EAP). The EAP has significant benefits, including support for elder and childcare, financial planning, access to free counseling sessions, simple legal matters, wellness, and other services. Employees may confidentially work with Work Life staff in Human Resources for assistance.

A question was asked regarding summer budgets. Dr. Thorne reiterated that the guidance and amount for summer budgets will be similar to that of last year. There may be a slight increase to college budgets due to merit increases implemented in FY22. Registration for summer and fall 2022 begins on March 28, 2022.