

**Council of Academic Deans Meeting
November 24, 2020**

Summary and Action Items

1. **Council on Funded Research** – Dr. Melinda Villagran provided an update on the council’s priorities and activities, including an emphasis on mentoring, collaboration, and assessment of faculty research needs. The council acknowledges the pandemic presented many challenges and also revealed opportunities, including the use of technology to enhance collaborations.

Dr. Villagran reported that 45 Texas State faculty are participating in the NIH-supported National Research Mentoring Network. Via the Translational Health Research Center, the Faculty Research and Productivity (FRAP) Network has been launched to encourage interdisciplinary mentoring and collaboration amongst faculty who study underrepresented and/or marginalized populations.

Dr. Bourgeois emphasized the importance of creating a list of faculty conducting research on marginalized and underrepresented communities and issues.

2. **State of the Research Mission** – Dr. Walt Horton presented statistics, highlights, and goals of the university’s research and scholarly mission. For FY20, restricted research expenditures are tentatively \$30.9 million and total research and development expenditures are tentatively \$70 million. Reaching an all-time high, 665 proposals requesting \$211 million were submitted in FY20. The pandemic brought a full stop to research activities for over three months and required the development of 180+ standard operating procedure documents to ensure health and safety measures. The pandemic disrupted sponsor release of research funds and the review process for submitted proposals. Dr. Horton reviewed awards, partnerships, centers, and infrastructure that exemplify the diverse and widespread nature of research and scholarly activity at the university. There are plans to reorganize the research foundation to better support the research mission and public/private partnerships. Dr. Horton described Texas State as the heart of the Texas Innovation Corridor, with characteristics and priorities consistent with a climate of growth and vitality in the research, innovation, and scholarly missions.

3. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Gary Ray provided the Council with an undergraduate admissions report.

Mr. Ray announced that more Texas State faculty are writing for *The Conversation* and their work gaining significant attention in various media outlets. He reported on several efforts to improve transfer pathways through articulation agreements and degree alignment with community colleges. Mr. Ray indicated that the enhanced scholarship program will be launched during the first week of December 2020. ReUp has secured 110 students for re-admission to Texas State.

4. **Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report.

Reaching an all-time high, graduate students submitted 97 proposals requesting \$4 million in external funding in FY20. Dr. Golato reported that graduate students received \$850,000 in external funding in FY20, up 32% over FY19. The two research coordinators in The Graduate College held 535 appointments with graduate students to explore funding opportunities and develop competitive

proposals. She also reported the Ph.D. program in computer science will have its first graduate in December 2020.

5. **COVID-19 Updates** - Dr. Bourgeois provided an update from Dr. Emilio Carranco:
 - The current surge in the nation and state is very concerning.
 - Texas has a positivity rate that decreased from 12.4% to 11.3%; there are currently 8,407 new cases per day in Texas, which is up from 7,800 last week.
 - Williamson County's positivity rate has gone from 5.0% to 5.7%; there are currently 100 new cases per day, which is up from 62 cases last week.
 - Hays County's positivity rate has gone from 7.3% to 7.7%; there are currently 51 new cases per day, which is up from 42 last week.
 - Travis County's positivity rate is 6.5%; there are currently 261 new cases per day.
 - The Student Health Center and Curative Inc. administered 1,862 total COVID-19 tests last week, which is an increase from 1,598 tests administered the previous week; 39 positive results, which is a decrease in the positivity rate from 4.1% to 2.1%.
 - Dr. Carranco reports that to date, based on contact tracing efforts, there is no evidence of transmission of COVID-19 in residence halls, classrooms, or other places on campus
 - There is a total of 12 students in isolation or quarantine, down from 26 last week.
 - Dr. Bourgeois reviewed highlights from the Town Hall meeting held on Monday, November 23, 2020.
 - Dr. Bourgeois provided the following announcements: 1) the academic calendar for spring 2021 is not changing; 2) the university is holding in-person commencement ceremonies in December 2020 that meet health and safety standards; 3) volunteers are needed for commencement; 4) faculty and staff participation in commencement is on a voluntary basis; 5) spring break will continue as scheduled on the spring 2021 academic calendar; and 6) departments are encouraged to work with the University Registrar to move class sections into larger classrooms for the spring 2021 semester.
6. **Budget Planning** – No update provided for this agenda item.
7. **Spring, Summer, and Fall 2021 Classes** – No update provided for this agenda item.