

**Council of Academic Deans Meeting  
January 11, 2022**

**Summary and Action Items**

1. **Inclusive Postsecondary Education Program** – College of Education and University Advancement – Dr. Michael O’Malley and Dr. Dan Perry presented a draft proposal to provide an individualized plan of study and four-year non-degree college experience for students with intellectual and developmental differences. The Inclusive Postsecondary Education Program (IPSE) will result in a certificate of completion and operate as a self-supporting initiative. IPSE students will focus on career development, self-determination, self-advocacy, financial literacy, and independent living skills that prepares them for employment in the community. Students will live on campus through American Campus Communities and engage in internships, service learning, and other activities. The planning advisory committee includes participants from the colleges of Applied Arts, Education, and Liberal Arts and welcomes suggestions and recommendations on the program.
  
2. **TXST Regents’ Student Scholar Award Process** – Dr. Cynthia Hernandez discussed The Texas State University System (TSUS) Regents’ Student Scholar program, which is designed to recognize and reward outstanding students who have achieved highest honors in academic and co-curricular endeavors with a \$5,000 scholarship to use for fees, textbooks, and other educational expenses. The President submits one student nomination to the TSUS Chancellor. The Council made recommendations on the internal selection process with respect to the number of student nominations, timing of deans’ nomination letters, and qualifications of successful student nominees.
  
3. **Feedback on Draft Tenure-Track Reappointment Calendar** – Dr. Debbie Thorne provided the Council with an update on the committee examining AA/PPS 04.02.01, Development/Evaluation of Tenure-Track Faculty, including the committee’s draft recommendations. Members of the committee are taking the draft recommendations to their college councils, Faculty Senate, and Council of Chairs for discussion and feedback.
  
4. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Gary Ray presented the undergraduate admissions report and discussed initiatives designed to enhance recruiting, services, persistence, and graduation. According to the National Student Clearinghouse Report, fewer U.S. high school graduates are going directly to college:
  - Class of 2020 –a decline of between 4-10%, depending on the high school category
  - Class of 2021 – 2.7% decline or 13.1% since fall 2019.

The Virtual One-Stop Task Force meets on January 19, 2022 to review reports and recommendations on services, technology, and other factors for developing a successful virtual one-stop center.

Texas State University will award over \$6.5 million in federally-funded emergency assistance to students for the spring 2022 semester through Bobcat Cares to help currently enrolled and eligible students lessen financial insecurity caused by the pandemic. Application period is from January 18, 2022 to February 1, 2022 at <https://www.txstate.edu/cares.html>.

Enrollment Management and Marketing has a number of new partnerships and grants, including

- Amazon Career Choice – begins January 2022
- THECB Reskilling Grant - 1.5 million in scholarships for stop-outs and displaced workers
- THECB Completion Grant – 250K provides \$1000 grants to support the retention and persistence of enrolled students to meet their academic goals.
- Coastal Bend Community College MOU – first meeting set for January 12
- Idea Public Schools MOU – opening new campuses in Austin

As of January 10, 2022, 33,531 students have registered for spring 2022, which is 88.5% of fall headcount. The university's average retention rate is 91% by census day, which is 23 days away; will need 925 more students to register to reach 91% by census day. Spring 2021 census day headcount was 34,550.

The fall 2021 freshman retention rate going into spring 2022 is currently 92.3%, which is higher than the past few years. The fall 2021 transfer retention rate going into spring 2022 is currently 91.9%, which is consistent with past rates.

Acceptances for spring 2022 have increased for first-year students (109%) and decreased for transfer students (-6%). Registration for spring 2022 New Student Orientation is higher than spring 2021. Advising will be scheduling virtual advising sessions. First-year students will have NSO modules to complete in Canvas.

For fall 2022, TXST first-year student applications have increased by 13 percent (additional 3,015), with acceptances up by 32 percent (additional 3,980). Applications from transfer students have decreased by 30 percent (338), with acceptances up by 2 percent (8).

For fall 2022, 4,868 freshman merit awards have been made, with 58 percent awarded to assured admissions (2,835) and 42 percent awarded to test-optional students (2,033).

5. Graduate Admissions Report – Dr. Eric Paulson provided the Council with a graduate admissions report. He reported that overall graduate student enrollment for spring 2022 is currently down by approximately 92 students, but there is an increase in new and continuing doctoral enrollments. Applications at the master's level for spring 2022 admissions are up by 13.9 percent, especially due to increases applications for master's programs in computer science, data analytics, and construction management. Dr. Paulson described The Graduate College's four-phase communication campaign to remind and encourage students to register for the upcoming semester.

6. **COVID-19 Updates** – Dr. Bourgeois updated the Council on responses to the President’s message and Provost’s message about the university’s decision to start the spring 2022 semester with two weeks of remote/online classes and class activities (from Tuesday, January 18, 2022 through Sunday, January 30, 2022). Several offices are working on initiatives to ensure faculty are prepared for two weeks of remote/online learning and to bolster student engagement in coursework and learning activities, co-curricular and extra-curricular opportunities, and other facets of campus life.

The Council discussed changes in the CDC guidelines for isolation and quarantine as well as the possibility of developing consistent responses to external concerns and complaints.

7. **Spring 2022 Classes** – Dr. Thorne announced the email with information on spring 2022 classes and syllabi will be sent to faculty and staff this week.

## **OFF-AGENDA**

Dr. Bourgeois notified the Council that the university is examining the use of the extension studies tuition and fee structure to implement the plan to increase affordability and enrollments by out-of-state students in 13 online graduate programs.

In response to the recent Carnegie Classification announcement, the university is working on an analysis of the most critical factors for moving to R1 status. While Texas State University improved its position and relatively standing, it remains classified as a R2 institution. The analysis will help inform initiatives to be considered in the strategic planning process, including PhD and doctoral degree priorities, adding more post-doctoral associates and research staff with doctorates, and other strategies.

Dr. Shreek Mandayam, who becomes the Associate Vice President for Research and Federal Relations on July 1, 2022, is visiting Texas State on a regular basis and would like to meet with college councils over the next few months. He is available to visit with departments/schools and talk with candidates interviewing at Texas State. Colleges, departments, and schools are encouraged to reach out to him to set up meeting times/dates.