

**Council of Academic Deans Meeting  
November 9, 2021**

**Summary and Action Items**

1. **Council on Funded Research (CoFR)** – Dr. Aimee Roundtree introduced herself as the chair of CoFR (two-year term). Dr. Roundtree briefly discussed findings/initiatives resulting from a recent survey of associate deans for research as well as upcoming projects which includes a gap analysis for Texas State to reach Carnegie R1 and NRUF status. Dr. Bourgeois then led a discussion regarding TXST seeking NRUF status in 2024-2025 or 2025-2026, which would affect Dr. Roundtree’s work on the NRUF gap analysis. He reiterated what criteria TXST has achieved and what remains to be attained to reach NRUF status. Dr. Debbie Thorne noted she would bring a matter related to post-doctoral associates to CoFR in the near future. He encouraged an analysis of R1 status.

2. **Outside Employment Factors and Foreign Engagement** – Dr. Thorne began the discussion with appreciation for the number of faculty submitting outside employment notices and a few concerns regarding outside employment requests that document significant outside work. Dr. Thorne and Dr. Bourgeois stressed to the deans that more detail and justification be carefully analyzed and documented at the department chair/school director and dean level before outside employment requests route to the Office of the Provost. The Council discussed several effects of full-time faculty holding outside employment that requires a significant number of hours each week.

Dr. Blanda then led a discussion regarding foreign involvement and outside employment. A handout entitled, Outside Employment and Activities, Financial Conflict of Interest, Conflict of Commitment and Inappropriate Foreign Influence, was reviewed. TXST encourages international collaborations and is committed to fostering and supporting the research community in maintain these valuable relationships, but reminds faculty of the need for disclosure when they are approached by a foreign entity or foreign talent program as to avoid any inappropriate foreign influence. A copy of the contract with the foreign entity must be secured; the contract must be in English and close attention needs to be on the deliverables of the contract. The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) has a Quality Assurance Coordinator who is in the process of developing a series of modules to provide more education and information regarding this very sensitive issue. ORSP and Faculty and Academic Resources collaborate and share information on outside employment requests that may need additional review or disclosure.

3. **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) Communication Network Representative** – Dr. Bourgeois asked each dean and direct report to the provost to appoint one person from their college/area to serve as a DEIA Communication Network Representative on the DEIA Communication Network. The goal of this network will be to effectively share and disseminate DEIA information and to raise awareness of DEIA initiatives. Please send the name of the representatives to Stacey Rodriguez by November 22, 2021.

4. **Phi Beta Kappa Application Updates** – Dr. Heather Galloway provided a brief update on TXST’s Phi Beta Kappa application due January 18, 2022. To strengthen the application, she is looking for a few more faculty members who are members of Phi Beta Kappa. She asked the deans for their assistance in identifying faculty who are members.

5. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Gary Ray provided the Council with an undergraduate admissions report. He reminded the group that Bobcat Day is Saturday, November 20, 2021, and there are currently 1,406 students registered for this event. He also announced that on November 12, 2021 there will be a Transfer Information Session at TXST.

Articles published by Texas State faculty in *The Conversation* were read 46,596 times in the month of October 2021. To date, Texas State faculty have published 40 articles that have been read by over 2 million people and received 648 comments.

TXST has awarded nearly 1,500 freshman merit scholarships for fall 2022.

TXST submitted a Round 3 Reskilling Grant application to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in the amount for \$1.5M for November 18, 2021 – September 30, 2022.

ReUp Education continues to recruit students who have stopped out and reports 240 former students active for spring 2022. Of these 240 students, 112 are persisting and 128 are new incoming students.

Mr. Ray announced that HB3348, signed by Governor Abbott in June 2021, allows community colleges to offer up to five four-year baccalaureate degree programs, including nursing, applied science, and applied technology. Austin Community College will be seeking approval to offer its third applied baccalaureate degree focused on manufacturing and engineering technology.

Mr. Ray announced that the University of Austin, a private liberal arts school, is planning to open soon.

Currently, there are 27,001 students registered for spring 2022, which is an increase of 39 students over this time last year.

Mr. Ray announced that the dashboard currently shows an incorrect percentage for persisting students from fall 2021 to spring 2022. The correct percentage is 82.4%, with our goal being at least 91%.

Mr. Ray provided the Week 46 undergraduate admissions report for freshmen and transfer students for spring 2022, summer 2022, and fall 2022. Applications by first-year students for spring 2022 are up by 591 (128%) over last year, with acceptances up 201 (135%).

6. **Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report. She announced that applications for spring 2022 continue to be received by her office and reiterated that graduate programs have different decision-making deadlines. There is concern is that TXSTS is down by 230 graduate students in spring 2022 registrations. A mail merge was sent to students yesterday encouraging them to register by the November 20, 2021 deadline. The Graduate College will encourage graduate advisors by the end of this week to contact current students who have not registered for the spring 2022 semester.

7. **COVID-19 Updates** – Dr. Bourgeois announced that Dr. Emilio Carranco presented a positive COVID-19 update to the President’s Cabinet on November 8, 2021. COVID-19 is at a steady state across the state of Texas; hospitalizations and positivity rates continue to decline. Texas State’s active cases declined from 62 to 50 in the last week. Dr. Carranco continues to encourage vaccinations and booster shots for those eligible and both are available at the Student Health Center.

8. **Spring 2022 Classes** – Dr. Bourgeois very briefly reminded the deans of the large freshman class in fall 2021, new applicants for spring 2022, the number of continuing students who have registered for the spring semester, and the need to monitor and make available more class sections, especially for 1000 and 2000 level courses. As evidenced by closed class sections and student demand, the Office of the Provost will support lecturers to teach additional class sections.

## **OFF AGENDA**

Dr. Bourgeois announced that at next week’s Board of Regents meeting, the Regents will consider a change to the rule regarding foreign travel for educational purposes. This change will allow component institutions more flexibility for travel to level 3 or 4 countries with respect to COVID-19. This change will impact study abroad for summer 2022.

Dr. Galloway announced the Honors Research Forum will be held November 17-19, 2021.

Dr. Blanda reminded academic departments to ensure budget and expenditures associated with research/scholarship and associated travel are held in the departmental M&O account designated for research (account ends in 50). These funds may be counted by ORSP as research expenditures.