

**Council of Academic Deans Meeting
October 12, 2021**

Summary and Action Items

1. Virtual Programming in Education Abroad and Study in America – Dr. Vedaraman Sriraman, Ms. Rosario Davis, and Mr. Dana Willett provided the Council with an overview of virtual programming for study abroad and study in America. Two examples were presented to the Council: 1) Dr. Alexis Stokes presented her online Global Online Learning Experiences (GOLE) program, “Around the World: 5 Continents in 5 Weeks” and 2) Dr. Kasia Romo provided a similar presentation for her study in America online fashion merchandising program, “New York.”

Dr. Bourgeois thanked both faculty members and Dr. Sriraman’s team on expanding these types of opportunities as they align with a goal from the Task Force on Internationalization to get more students and faculty engaged in global and international experiences. These experiences also align with the university’s teaching and learning culture, as they are interactive, intentionally designed, and incorporate real-time engagement.

2. Required Diversity and Inclusion Training for Faculty Search Committees – Dr. Debbie Thorne and Dr. Scott Bowman announced the implementation of the new training course, “Diversity and Inclusion Training for Faculty Searches.” The course is based on the university’s [Toolkit and Best Practices for Inclusive Excellence in Faculty Hiring and Retention](#) that has been in use by search committees for several years. The toolkit and training course are designed to ensure recruiting and hiring actions and decisions are aligned with the university’s shared values and policies, create strategies for strategically and intentionally recruiting faculty who broaden the makeup and perspectives of disciplines, and provide an environment where all university community members are included, welcome, and valued. As of October 15, 2021, all members of faculty search committees will be required to complete the training in Canvas.

3. Support for College Policy and Procedure Statements – Dr. Thorne and Dr. Beth Wuest discussed an opportunity for Institutional Effectiveness to provide direct support to colleges in maintaining current policy and procedure statements. Representatives from each college will be needed for the project, which will include initial priority for college policies on tenure and promotion and annual faculty evaluation, followed by policies on faculty merit and faculty workload. Ultimately, select college policies will be made available on the university’s [Policies and Procedures Statements website](#).

4. Phi Kappa Phi Invitation for Fall 2021 – Dr. Heather Galloway and Dr. Andrea Golato announced that Phi Kappa Phi (PKP) student invitations are underway. Dr. Galloway emailed the deans a draft letter that can be used to send to students in their respective college inviting them to join PKP; the deadline to join is November 6, 2021, and the initiation will be held on November 20, 2021. Dr. Golato briefly discussed some of the benefits for students that join PKP. The cost for students to join is \$85.

5. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Ray provided the Council with an undergraduate admissions report. He announced that Bobcat Day is October 16, 2021 and thus far, 915 students have registered. Mr. Ray mentioned that TXST had a high demand for campus tours on Monday, October 11, 2021 because it was a federal holiday.

Mr. Ray announced that University Marketing is preparing a marketing campaign to implement upon the approval of the new BS degree in Mechanical Engineering, which is on the agenda for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) on October 21, 2021.

Mr. Ray reminded the Council that registration for the spring 2022 semester begins on October 18, 2021.

Mr. Ray announced that the class prediction forecasting tool pilot begins on November 1, 2021 for the summer and fall 2022 semesters. The University Registrar will be seeking departments/schools to serve in a pilot study of the new enrollment forecasting tool.

Mr. Ray announced five changes to the THECB's eligibility for its reskilling grants:

1. any stop out student is eligible; the program is no longer limited to those who have at least 50% program completion
2. the deadline to apply has been moved to September 30, 2022, and applies to summer 2022 and fall 2022
3. available to all students, not just undergraduate students
4. will be retroactive for fall 2021
5. a third round of grants have been announced and TXST has been invited to participate

Mr. Ray briefly reviewed the freshman and transfer admissions report for spring, summer, and fall 2022 (week 42).

6. **Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report for spring 2022. Dr. Golato noted that there are more applications right now than there were last year at this time. She announced that more graduate programs are making significant progress in reviewing applications; therefore, more admissions decisions have been made. Dr. Golato briefly discussed several recent and upcoming recruiting events.

7. **COVID-19 Updates** – Dr. Bourgeois announced that Dr. Emilio Carranco reported to the President's Cabinet on October 11, 2021 that numbers continue to be very positive. All numbers, including positivity rates, hospitalizations, and case counts have decreased from the week before. The Delta surge has ended and the continued increase in the number of people vaccinated has helped. There are currently 61 active cases on our TXST campus. Out of 1,751 COVID-19 tests administered at TXST last week, there were 18 positive cases, which is a 1% positivity rate. There are no students in isolation or quarantine. Hospitalization rates have declined precipitously in the State of Texas.

Dr. Bourgeois retracted a statement that he made at last week's CAD meeting regarding mandatory testing for the spring semester for students living in residence halls. President's Cabinet has decided to wait before making this decision for the spring 2022 semester.

There continues to be no evidence of COVID-19 transmission on our TXST campuses. Contact tracing is now being done in 24 hours.

Dr. Bourgeois announced that 4,226 students and 1,020 faculty and staff participated in the Vaccination Incentive Program.

Communications regarding flu shots being administered on campus will be sent soon.

8. **Spring 2022 Classes** – If faculty members are contemplating changing their instructional modality for spring 2022 classes, they need to be in conversation with their department chair/school directors right now. Students begin registering for spring 2022 classes on October 18, 2021 and these decisions must be made before that time.

OFF AGENDA

Dr. Bourgeois briefly announced that President Trauth will provide a budget update at the University Leadership Assembly that will address issues such as compensation, equity raises, and new academic programs.

Dr. Bourgeois briefly reviewed the upcoming university planning process, which will result in a 2023-2029 University Plan. The next plan is expected to include fewer new academic programs, an emphasis on graduate programs, a commitment to a promotion-eligible pathway for non-tenure line instructional faculty, and continuation of efforts to reach NRUF eligibility.

Dr. Thorne reminded that deans that [AA/PPS 04.02.20, Tenure and Promotion Review](#), allows personnel committees and college review groups to meet virtually or face-to-face, but voting must be implemented to ensure confidentiality.

Dr. Thorne announced that FY21 Staff Performance Awards will likely be paid on the December 2021 supplemental payroll and that more information will follow.

Dr. Bourgeois announced that the launch of the TXST NEXT brand campaign and the launch of NEXT IS NOW capital campaign were both very successful.

Dr. Vedaraman Sriraman made an announcement regarding summer 2022 study abroad. The TSUS Office has asked TXST for feedback on creating some flexibility for out-of-country travel that may be constrained right now due to current system policy and ongoing COVID issues and travel advisory levels from the U.S. Department of State. In general: Would TXST support modifying current system policy with an exception for COVID and related variants to level 3 countries and/or just adding students to be included in the waiver consideration, like faculty and staff, that allows component institutions this flexibility for approving travel to level 3 countries?