

**Council of Academic Deans Meeting
April 27, 2021**

Summary and Action Items

1. **Differential Tuition for Online Programs** – Dr. Vedaraman Sriraman, Dr. Andrea Golato, and Mr. Dana Willett presented the Council with a proposed pilot program to leverage differential and fixed tuition at TXST to attract both in-state and out-of-state students to 100% online graduate programs. CAD endorsed and Dr. Bourgeois approved moving this proposal forward to Mr. Eric Algoe, VPFSS, for review.

2. **Council on Funded Research** – Dr. Walt Horton and Dr. Melinda Villagran discussed the leadership and governance of the Council of Funded Research (CoFR), including the role of CoFR as a communication partner for the university's research community. Dr. Villagran announced a proposal where the chair of CoFR be placed on a two-year rotation beginning next year. There would be the potential to extend the assignment for a year with three years as the maximum. The next chair of CoFR will be Dr. Aimee Roundtree. CAD endorsed the proposal.

Dr. Villagran also provided a brief update of the success of the virtual 2021Health Scholar Showcase.

3. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Gary Ray provided the Council with an undergraduate admissions report. May 1, 2021 is the national college decision day.

As of April 26, 2021, TXST has awarded 6,609 merit scholarships to first-year students, and 3,261 (49%) test-optional students' decisions are included in the total. Students have until May 1, 2021 to confirm acceptance. There are still 59 first-year student applications that need a holistic merit review. 1,974 have accepted their award, which is an increase of 11% from last year. 568 students have declined their offer.

We released information on 1,665 students to ReUp to begin recruiting these stop-out students back to TXST; ReUp will begin contacting these students. ReUp has recruited 52 students who are persisting from spring 2021 to summer 2021, there are 26 new students who have already registered, 69 students have been admitted and are working through the admissions/class selection process, and 25 students are in the application status.

Currently, there are 28 students enrolled this semester that have been identified to receive funds from the reskilling grant, which amounts to \$51,000.

Fall 2021 Apply Texas applications: US freshmen are down 8%; US transfers are down 3%; undergraduate readmits are up 3%; international freshmen are down 7%; international transfers are down 26%

As of April 16, 2021, 46.1% of the Texas high school class of 2021 has completed a FAFSA. Texas applications are lagging behind last year's pace by -5.7% or -10,781 completions.

Week 18 admissions report:

- summer 2021 – freshmen applications are up by 97 or 28.2%; acceptances are up by 27 or 28.7%; NSO registration is down by 10 or 19.2%
- summer 2021 – transfer applications are up by 118 or 23.1%; acceptances are up by 30 or 12%; NSO registration is up by 22 or 12.3%
- fall 2021 – freshmen applications are down by 1,637 or 5.2%; acceptances are up by 81 or .4%; NSO registration is down by 151 or 3.1%
- fall 2021 – transfer applications are up by 18 or .5% (one month ago this number was down by 210 so there has been good progress); acceptances are down by 282 or 12.4%; NSO registration is down by 65 or 6.3%

Fall 2021 undergraduate registrations are down year over year. Unlike previous years, the university is not preloading the majority of freshman schedules and freshman registration will happen during NSO sessions. Continuing undergraduates appear to be delaying advising, class selection, and registration. The integration of Banner 9 with other university systems delayed class registration and applications processing for approximately one week.

Another round of applications for the Bobcat Cares Emergency Grant will begin on June 1, 2021 and run through June 15, 2021; students will begin to receive notices on May 25, 2021. There will be a third opportunity for students to apply in the fall 2021 semester; students will begin to receive notifications on August 16, 2021. Applications will be accepted from August 23, 2021 through September 9, 2021. Projected award totals: summer, \$3,000,000; fall, \$20,000,000

4. Graduate Admissions Report – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report. Graduate enrollment is up in both new students and significantly more in continuing students. Registration of new students at the master's level is up by 22 students; there is an increase of over 200 students who have been admitted to the university.

The colleges with the most numbers of new master's enrollments include Applied Arts and Health Professions and for doctoral students it is Education.

The Graduate College is now focusing efforts on getting students to register.

5. COVID-19 Updates – Dr. Bourgeois provided the following update:

State of Texas – average cases per day dropped to 1,943 bringing the positivity rate from 5.3% to 4.8%. Hays County had an average of 43 cases per day for a positivity rate increase from 6.7% to 7.2%. Williamson County had an average of 54 cases per day for a positivity rate decrease from 6.1% to 4.4%. There is a decline in COVID-19 testing on campus; 842 tests at TXST resulted in 31 positive cases, which resulted in a decrease in the positivity rate from 6.3% to 3.7%. There are 79 active cases at TXST with one student in isolation and three students in quarantine.

Dr. Carranco continues to implore the TXST community to get vaccinated.

6. **Summer and Fall 2021 Classes** – No update was provided for this agenda item.

7. **Budget Planning** – Dr. Bourgeois announced that the one-time recapture of 50% of the current M&O balances in Academic Affairs (over \$6 million) to support academic initiatives that span the division, including high performance computing, large capacity storage, development of centers and Big Ideas, and other faculty research initiatives, including start-up, will not happen. Discussion was held amongst the Council regarding the history of M&O, carryforward balances, and the operational, investment, and stewardship approaches to budgets and expenditures. With the decision to no longer recapture these funds, Dr. Bourgeois and Dr. Thorne are operationalizing a decentralized approach for deans to manage M&O funds with each academic unit in their colleges and to enhance local decision-authority and shared governance.

OFF AGENDA

Dr. Sriraman announced a change that has been made to the format of our make-up commencement ceremonies for spring 2021. Holding outdoor commencement ceremonies presents challenges in terms of inclement weather. Earlier this semester, it was announced that Saturday, May 15, would be reserved as a “make-up” day in case of inclement weather and that any impacted ceremonies would be accommodated at Bobcat Stadium on Saturday, May 15. We understand the importance of an in-person ceremony and are concerned that Saturday may also be at risk of weather implications. Therefore, if inclement weather is forecast for either part or all of a day, all ceremonies scheduled for that day will be moved indoors to Strahan Arena at the University Events Center at their originally scheduled dates and times. Any decision to relocate a ceremony will be announced by 10:00 a.m. of the previous day. Candidates will be notified via email and information regarding ticketing, parking, etc. for the relocation will be posted to the commencement website.