

Council of Academic Deans Meeting
October 5, 2021

Summary and Action Items

1. **Availability of Enrollment Data for Colleges** – Dr. Beth Wuest and Dr. Marc Turner discussed operations of the Office of Institutional Research (IR), including its role as the official reporting office for the university, the timeline for availability of official data, the reestablishment of a data management council, and plans for data definitions and other guidance. Dr. Turner will arrange meetings with each college and other offices to identify priorities for reports, data needs and uses, accreditation, and other support from IR.
2. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Gary Ray provided the Council with an undergraduate admissions report. He reported that U.S. Census data indicates 3.9 million Texans age 25 and older have earned some college credit but do not have a college credential. Texas State's \$1.5 million reskilling grant will end spring 2022. For fall 2021, 208 students received an award between \$500-\$2,500 for a total of \$458,000. Through this grant, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has targeted undergraduate students who have been out of college for one long semester or six months (often related to COVID-19), and who have earned 50 percent or more of the required degree credits.

Mr. Ray also provided the Council with the freshman and transfer admissions report for spring, summer, and fall 2022 (week 39). Thus far, the number of applications and acceptances have increased from last year for both groups.

An email was recently sent to all students reminding them of upcoming spring 2022 registration, which begins on October 18, 2021.

The number of transfer students from Austin Community College (ACC) is significantly down (40%) for fall 2021. ACC is a major feeder of transfer students for TXST. The university is expanding its outreach and partnerships with other community colleges.

3. **Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report for spring 2022. She mentioned that applications continue to come in steadily for spring 2022. Dr. Golato reported that master's level applications are significantly up in the College of Science and Engineering with around 158 more applications than last year at this time. The majority of these applications are in Computer Science and predominately international students.

In order to remain competitive, President's Cabinet approved a pilot program for 13 graduate programs offered fully online. For these programs, non-resident students will pay a total cost comparable to the tuition and fees paid by in-state students. The pilot will be considered by The Texas State University Board of Regents at the November 2021 meeting.

4. COVID-19 Updates – Dr. Gene Bourgeois provided an update that Dr. Emilio Carranco presented to the President’s Cabinet on October 5, 2021. The Delta COVID-19 variant surge continues to decrease. There is a 1.2% positivity rate at TXST; 1,829 COVID-19 tests were administered and resulted with 22 positive cases. The State of Texas, Williamson County, and Hays County all have declines in average weekly and daily cases as well as in positivity rates. There is currently one student in isolation and zero students in quarantine. There are 75 active cases at the university, which is a decrease from 197 cases the previous week.

For Hays County, the percentage of positive cases for those between 10 to 19 years old was 21% last week; three weeks ago it was 28%; the percentage of positive cases for those between 20 to 29 years old was 5% last week; three weeks ago it was 9%.

During the university’s first round of booster vaccinations, 128 people received the Pfizer booster shot. A mass vaccination event is being planned for the Round Rock Campus in mid-October.

Students will be encouraged to get tested before going home for the Thanksgiving break and before finals and the end of the semester. There is some optimism TXST will not see a significant surge of COVID-19 after the Thanksgiving holiday. Messaging will be sent to faculty regarding instruction mode flexibility at the end of the semester and final exams.

5. Spring 2022 Classes – For the spring 2022 semester, flexibility will be emphasized but there are no current plans to go virtual with classes for the first two weeks of the semester. COVID-19 testing for students living in residence halls might be required, with all other students, faculty, and staff encouraged to test before coming back to campus in January 2022. Spring 2022 classes, activities, and operations will be implemented in the same fashion as fall 2021.

If faculty members are contemplating changing their instructional modalities 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 decisions must be made before that date.

OFF AGENDA

Dr. Bourgeois announced that the Centennial Band Celebration and Capital Campaign Kickoff is this Friday, October 8, 2021. It will mark the opening of the public phase of the capital campaign as well as launching the new university’s new brand campaign, TXST NEXT.

Dr. Bourgeois mentioned that staff at the TSUS are exploring President Biden’s requirement of vaccinations for individuals paid by federal government contracts as well as support staff. This does not include grants.

Dr. Debbie Thorne announced that unlike last year, no traditional paper forms will be used for the tenure and promotion process. All processes and documentation will reside in the Faculty Qualifications system. Deans will receive instructions on what documentation to send forward to Faculty and Academic Resources after department/school and college tenure and promotion processes conclude in early 2022.