

**Council of Academic Deans Meeting
October 13, 2020**

Summary and Action Items

1. **Summer School Survey Executive Summary** – Dr. Bill Chittenden provided the Council with the Executive Summary of the Summer School 2020 Survey Report. He explained that the President had charged him as Presidential Fellow with exploring the reasons behind the increase in reportable student headcount and SCH in summer 2020. Discussion was held amongst the group about the most important factors, including making progress toward degree completion, ability to progress more quickly, and availability of online classes.
2. **Tenure and Promotion Policy** – Dr. Debbie Thorne stated that the recent full review of the Tenure and Promotion Review policy had generated extensive comments, therefore the Provost is recommending a committee be charged with assessing and recommending changes to the policy. At this time, a pen-and-ink change is recommended in sections 04.03.a and 05.02.c to allow remote and confidential voting procedures for tenure and promotion decisions by the personnel committee and college review group. IT recommends that units use Qualtrics or another option is the Zoom polling feature with confidential voting.
3. **Student Evaluations of Teaching – Spring 2020** – Dr. Thorne reminded the Council that faculty have the discretion to include or exclude spring 2020 results in their annual evaluation documents and tenure and promotion files, without prejudice.
4. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Gary Ray provided several examples of strategies in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions is using to generate and increase 2021 applications. Some of these efforts include the upcoming virtual Bobcat Day, options for fall 2020 admitted students to defer admission into any 2021 semester, reviewing recent stop-outs, and working with ReUp Education services. He also distributed a handout entitled Apply Texas Applications for All Texas Universities, which outlines current submitted applications in comparison to last year.
5. **Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report.
6. **COVID-19 Updates** – Dr. Bourgeois provided updates given to the President’s Cabinet by Dr. Emilio Carranco as of October 11, 2020:
 - slight worsening in the COVID-19 positivity rate in the state and Williamson and Hays counties
 - COVID-19 testing:
 - Curative Inc. – performed 951 tests last week with 26 of those tests resulting in positive cases (2.7% positivity rate)
 - Student Health Center – performed 241 tests last week with 4 of those tests resulting in positive cases (1.66% positivity rate)
 - Dr. Carranco reports that to date, based on contact tracing efforts, there is no evidence of transmission of COVID-19 in residence halls nor in any classrooms.

- Dr. Bourgeois mentioned that there was an email that was sent to the President recently regarding a request for clarification on whether students who are in isolation or self-quarantine due to COVID-19 are exempt from completing class assignments. Dr. Bourgeois announced that his position is that students are not exempt from completing their course work unless they can provide documentation that they have experienced illness and severe symptoms preventing them from completing coursework, as is the case normally with student illness. The Student Health Center is not exempting students either.

7. **Budget Planning** – Dr. Thorne announced that shortly she will be giving the deans their lump sum amount for summer 2021 budgets based on analysis of enrollments and expenditures from prior summer terms and budget reductions taken to the division's summer budget allocation.

8. **Summer 2021 Classes** – There was no update provided for this agenda item.

OFF AGENDA

- Dr. Bourgeois mentioned he was pleased to see the announcement from VPIT regarding TXST has accepted an invitation to join the prestigious Association of Research Libraries (ARL). Texas State will become the 125th member of ARL, effective January 1, 2021. This is a milestone achievement in our institution's history.
- Dr. Mary Brennan provided the Council with a brief update on the work of the 2020 Elections Task Force. Some of the work includes encouraging people to register to vote and providing voter education, organizing two town halls for local and state candidates, and preparing for Election Day and Post-Election preparation. As more information is available, Dr. Brennan will share with CAD.