

Academic Affairs Budget Committee
November 17, 2020

Summary and Action Items

Dr. Bourgeois provided a brief update on the recent presentation made by Comptroller Glenn Hegar to the Council of Public University Presidents and Chancellors on November 16, 2020. Comptroller Hegar provided an overview of Texas' fiscal outlook as we enter the 87th Legislative session. At the beginning of the session, the Comptroller's office will issue its biennial revenue estimate (BRE) of the funds likely to be available from taxes and other revenue sources over the next two years. The Texas Constitution makes the BRE a cap on legislative spending for this period.

Next, Dr. Bourgeois opted to discuss planning for future summer budgets at TXST. Dr. Bill Chittenden provided the Council with an early preview of his Presidential Fellow project.

Council of Academic Deans Meeting

1. **Off-Site Equipment Inventory** – Dr. Bourgeois reminded the Council about procedures outlined in UPPS 05.01.01, Texas State University Property and Equipment, regarding inventory control and off-site use of university property and equipment. He reiterated the importance of maintaining the required log for departmental property and equipment for off-site use by university employees. The log needs to be completed, up-to-date, and accurate.

2. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Gary Ray provided the Council with an undergraduate admissions report.

Mr. Ray also reported on the newly approved 6500 Plan, which is an aggressive scholarship initiative for fall 2021 TXST students. This plan will help TXST reposition itself to recover enrollment lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This scholarship optimization plan, along with deferred admissions opportunities and the recent changes to student eligibility for the Bobcat Promise program, are designed to help reach enrollment targets and percentage of students in the top 25% of their high school class for TXST in fall 2021.

Mr. Ray also reminded the Council that Virtual Bobcat Week has begun, with more than 600 participants pre-registered.

He mentioned that 433 new students have signed up for the deferral program, which defers 2020 admittance to TXST to an upcoming semester in 2021; out of the 433 students who signed up, 186 have applied for admissions to an upcoming 2021 semester.

Mr. Ray noted that FAFSA applications are currently down 16% nationwide, although many cities in Texas are currently down by higher percentages. In a recent study of 3,000 high school seniors, a majority are concerned about financing a college education, obtaining access to high school counselors and teachers on navigating the application process, and performing well in online/remote classes.

He reminded the Council of the importance of spending work study allocations. The university may see a reduction in work-study funding if allocations are not used.

3. **Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report.

4. **COVID-19 Updates** – Dr. Bourgeois provided an update from Dr. Emilio Carranco:
- Conditions in the nation and state continue to worsen and deteriorate.
 - State of Texas – average number of COVID-19 new cases per day has increased to 7,800 from 6,800 the previous week; the positivity rate increased to 12.4% from 11.3% reported the previous week.
 - Williamson County – average number of COVID-19 new cases per day has increased to 62 from 37 from the previous week; the positivity rate increased to 5.0% from 3.5% reported the previous week.
 - Hays County – average number of COVID-19 new cases per day is 42.7 which is an increase from 28 from the previous week; the positivity rate is 7.3%.
 - TXST – total active cases increased to 130?? from 73 from the previous week; monitor the dashboard daily for updates.
 - The Student Health Center and Curative Inc administered 1,598 tests last week resulting in 66 positive cases, for a positivity rate of 4.1%, an increase from the week before.
 - Dr. Carranco reports that to date, based on contact tracing efforts, there is no evidence of transmission of COVID-19 in residence halls, classrooms, or other places on campus.
 - There are 13 students in isolation and 13 are in quarantine; this is a decrease from 40 in the previous week.
 - University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University and Sam Houston State University are all experiencing an increase in positive COVID-19 cases.
 - Curative Inc. will extend their testing services for TXST through February 2021.
 - Dr. Carranco will continue to extend messaging to students, faculty, and staff to consider quarantining if leaving or traveling soon as well as recommending testing before leaving; Dr. Carranco strongly recommends that students quarantine before returning to campus in January for the start of the spring 2021 semester.
 - Dr. Carranco also encouraged the President’s Cabinet to add a statement regarding COVID-19 testing to the Bobcat Pledge; he also stressed to the Cabinet the importance of continuing to add or increase classroom situations where at least six feet of distance is possible for students for spring 2021.
 - Since August 24, 2020 16 students have been referred to the Office of the Dean of Students for not complying with TXST’s health and safety requirement.
5. **Budget Planning** – No discussion/update provided for this agenda item.
6. **Spring, Summer and Fall 2021 Classes** – No discussion/update provided for this agenda item.

OFF AGENDA

- Dr. Debbie Thorne reminded the Council that TRACS will no longer be used after the fall 2021 semester for academic courses. In addition to the existing Migration Tool, IT and Academic Affairs will financially support up to 150 course transitions using an enhanced migration service. The enhanced service is reserved for courses in which faculty have made significant investments, especially in TRACS Learning Modules tool, and for course migrations delayed due to COVID-19 circumstances. More information is forthcoming on the process.
- Dr. Bourgeois announced that presidential approval is no longer required for faculty and staff position authorizations; rather the final approval rests with the Provost/VP for each division. However, appropriate budget and personnel staffing justifications are still required. Faculty and Academic Resources will update its forms and website to describe the new process.

- Dr. Peter Tschirhart invited Council members to attend the virtual Honors Research Forum being held November 19 and 20, 2020.