

**Council of Academic Deans Meeting
April 13, 2021**

Summary and Action Items

1. **Confidentiality and Input Timeline in Employee Searches** – Dr. Debbie Thorne asked the deans for their feedback regarding practices of confidentiality in the search process and at what point groups other than the search committee are able to view candidate files and provide feedback. The Faculty Senate has inquired about perceived changes in practices regarding when individuals outside of the search committee see candidate files and provide feedback. All deans agreed that the practice in their respective college is that all information is confidential and no one outside of the search committee is allowed to provide feedback or view candidate files prior to the top candidates being selected for on-campus finalists/visits. Dr. Thorne will share this feedback with Faculty Senate on Wednesday, April 14, 2021.

2. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Gary Ray provided the Council with an undergraduate admissions report. For summer 2021, as of today there are 65 days remaining until summer census day and enrollment is down 1.1%.

ReUp Education enrolled 147 students for spring 2021 with 48 of these students persisting into the summer semester. The target is to enroll 350 students who have stopped-out by fall 2021.

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships and the Office of the University Registrar created a candidate list for grants for the spring 2021 semester. Financial Aid will use that list to check final eligibility for the first wave of student grants made available before the end of the spring semester. Once those awards are made, the two units will begin to develop the same data reports for summer and fall 2021.

As of April 12, 2021, TXST has awarded merit scholarships to 6,307 first-year students, and 2,943 (47%) test-optional students' decisions are included in the total. Students have until May 1, 2021 to confirm acceptance.

Mr. Ray mentioned that applications to community colleges in the state of Texas are still down 20%; US freshman applications have declined by 8%; US transfer applications have declined by 7%; undergraduate readmit applications have increased by 5%; international freshman applications have decreased by 9%; and international transfer applications have declined by 27%.

As of April 2, 2021, 44.9% of the Texas high school class of 2021 has completed a FAFSA. Texas applications are lagging behind last year's pace by -6.8% or -11,746 completions.

April Bobcat Day begins April 14, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. and ends on April 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Week 16 admissions report:

- summer 2021 – freshmen applications are up by 87 or 25.9%; acceptances are up by 25 or 27.2%; NSO registration is down by 14 (29.2%), possibly due to students wanting face-to-face modality.
- summer 2021 – transfer applications are up by 108 or 23.6%; acceptances are up by 61 or 28.9%; NSO registration has increased by 22 or 16.2%, possibly due to transfer students favoring a more flexible course modality.
- fall 2021 – freshmen applications reached 29,308 which is a decrease of 1,600 or 5.2% over last year; acceptances are up by 151 or 0.8%; NSO registration is up by 233 or 6%; Mr. Ray noted that in the month of March, TXST received 1,894 freshman applications compared to 1,274 last year. This is a 48% increase.
- fall 2021 – transfer applications have increased by 9 or .3%; acceptances are down by 119 or 5.8%; NSO registration is down by 81 or 9.7%

3. **Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report. Few applications are still being received for the summer semester.

For fall 2021, doctoral applications have increased largely due to developmental education and school psychology both in the College of Education. The increase in doctoral admissions is due to both the College of Applied Arts (Criminal Justice and Criminology) and the College of Education.

At the master's level, TXST currently has very strong application and admissions numbers for fall 2021, with programs in social work, business administration, professional counseling, psychological research, and computer science driving a good portion of applications.

Dr. Golato announced that there are strong graduation numbers for spring 2021. There are 15 Ph.D. students who will be graduating.

4. **COVID-19 Updates** – Dr. Bourgeois provided an update that Dr. Emilio Carranco provided the President's Cabinet on April 12, 2021:

Overall, in the state of Texas, conditions are slightly worsening; this may be a result of Easter gatherings. The average number of cases per day in the state of Texas decreased to 1,962 from 2,086 and the positivity rate is 5.5%, which is up slightly from 4.9%. For Hays County, there are 37 average cases per day, which is a significant increase from 20; the positivity rate was not available for Hays County. The average number of cases in Williamson County remained flat at 50 from 49 and the positivity rate staying about the same at 4.1%, just slightly up from 3.9%. TXST administered 1,010 tests in the previous week which resulted in 59 positive cases and a positivity rate of 5.8%. There are 146 active cases at TXST; 12 students are in isolation, and 4 students are in quarantine. Dr. Carranco is concerned about the declining rate of COVID-19 testing.

Dr. Carranco emphasized maintaining a slow re-opening for the remainder of the spring semester. Dr. Bourgeois announced that he is approving more requests for international and domestic travel and more requests for small scale events/receptions with safety protocols in place.

TXST received 1,200 Johnson and Johnson vaccines from the state of Texas on April 9, 2021, but TXST will not be administering them for now given the current news regarding the side effects of this particular vaccine. As of today, TXST has administered 5,745 vaccines. Hays County has announced that they will have open clinics to administer the Pfizer vaccination on April 15, April 19, April 20, May 3, and May 4.

Regarding overnight camps at TXST, Dr. Bourgeois announced that TXST strongly recommends participants to be vaccinated before attending a camp but we cannot require them to do so. TXST can require a negative PCR test but will not be collecting or storing this information; it will be presented only by the participant.

Dr. Bourgeois reiterated that June 1, 2021 is the date that employees should return to work as prior to the pandemic. COVID-19 Temporary Workplace Modifications based on CDC-identified health conditions and risks and temporary remote work agreements end on May 31, 2021. Instructional modalities for summer 2021 classes will proceed according to the published schedule of classes.

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

6. **Budget Planning** – Dr. Debbie Thorne announced that there will be a one-time recapturing of 50% of the current M&O balances in Academic Affairs to support academic initiatives that span the division, including high performance computing, development of centers and Big Ideas, and other faculty research initiatives, including start-up. Discussion was held amongst the Council. This recapture does **not** impact permanent budgets, which will be reset for FY2022 during budget development.