

**Council of Academic Deans Meeting
December 8, 2020**

Summary and Action Items

1. **SACSCOC** – Dr. Bourgeois announced that TXST received a great report from the SACSCOC Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee and congratulated Dr. Beth Wuest and all who provided standards, information, and actions to show and demonstrate compliance. Dr. Wuest provided a brief overview of the upcoming SACSCOC On-site Reaffirmation virtual visit scheduled for March 30-April 1, 2021.
2. **Career Exploration and Advising** – Mr. Ray Rogers attended the meeting for a discussion amongst the deans regarding career exploration and advising. The discussion included concerns and challenges faced by the Office of Career Services, ideas for better integrating career planning into student experiences, especially early in their academic careers, strategies for tailored services and stronger collaboration with colleges and departments, and how to ensure career advising is included in TXST’s strategic goals and plan.
3. **Employment Law Virtual Training** – Ms. Tammy Sharp announced that the TSUS Office of General Counsel is sponsoring a series of virtual training sessions on employment law topics from January 27-29, 2021. This training is specifically geared to deans, chairs/directors, and other administrators. Council members were encouraged to attend and/or ensure appropriate college and office representatives attend. Please contact Ms. Sharp with any questions.
4. **Overview of Changes Made to the Standing Recommendations of Continuity of Education Work Group** – Dr. Vedaraman Sriraman and Mr. Dana Willett provided the Council with a summary of key changes and new recommendations that were effected to the Continuity of Education recommendations from summer 2020. Highlights include the opportunity to move spring 2021 class sections to larger classroom spaces, consider course design alternatives beyond the hybrid approach (teaching in-person and via Zoom simultaneously), enhance faculty roles in contact tracing via seating charts, ensure regular and substantive faculty-student interaction in all course modalities, teach each class section according to its designated modality, clarify the distinction between “accommodation” and modification” for students, and support online proctoring in class sections coded as INT or HYB.
5. **Commencement Update/Instructions** – Ms. Kristin McDaniel provided the Deans with a brief overview of and instructions for the upcoming in-person commencement ceremonies.
6. **Faculty Workload Related to the Pandemic** – Dr. Janet Bezner mentioned that the Senate had been receiving questions regarding additional faculty workload based on the current scenario due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was announced that an overload can be approved by the chair/director and dean on a case-by-case scenario, using practices outlined in AA/PPS 04.01.40, Faculty Workload. Dr. Debbie Thorne announced Faculty Development will provide support in January 2021 to faculty who want to write COVID-19 impact statements for their annual evaluation

submissions. Impact statements may also be used to describe invisible labor, explain the significance of scholarly efforts, and advocate more effectively in a variety of areas.

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

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

9. **COVID-19 Updates** - Dr. Bourgeois provided an update from Dr. Emilio Carranco:

- Conditions in the nation and state are worsening.
- State of Texas – average COVID-19 positive cases per day was 10,789, which is an increase from 8,234 from the previous week; positivity rate increased to 14.2% from 11.1%
- Williamson County – average COVID-19 positive cases per day was 177, which is an increase from 48 from the previous week; positivity rate increased to 11.3% from 6.7%
- Hays County – average COVID-19 positive cases per day was 82, which is an increase from 20 from the previous week; positivity rate increased to 9.4% from 7.7%
- The Student Health Center and Curative Inc. administered 1,308 total COVID-19 tests last week; 43 positive results which brings the positivity rate to 3.3%
- There is a total of 11 students in isolation or quarantine; four students are in isolation and seven students are in quarantine. This is an increase from the previous week where four students were in isolation or quarantine.
- Dr. Bourgeois reviewed the recent changes to CDC guidelines regarding quarantine. TXST is adapting the new guidelines of allowing the quarantine period after exposure to COVID-19 to decrease from 14 to 10 days. If you travel internationally, you must test 1-3 days prior to departure and test 3-5 days after returning from travel. If you have a positive test, you must stay at home for seven days and if you have a negative test you are asked to self-monitor for seven days.
- There is a possibility of a second Curative Inc. site on our campus for the spring 2021 semester.
- The university will be adding two more measures to its health and safety principles, for a total of twelve (12).
- Brief discussion was held amongst the group regarding the email sent to faculty, staff, and students regarding the expectation of testing prior to returning to campus in January 2021.
- Dr. Bourgeois announced that he will be meeting with the Student Government President regarding EP grades for the fall 2020 semester. If warranted, there is an option for students to pursue the administrative W (withdrawl).

10. **Budget Planning** – Dr. Thorne briefly announced that Ms. Cindy Waggoner is currently working with the academic budget specialists regarding temporary requests for the spring 2021 semester.

11. **Spring, Summer, and Fall 2021 Classes** – No update provided for this agenda item.

OFF AGENDA

- Dr. Bourgeois announced the TSUS legislative priorities:
 1. formula funding sufficient to cover enrollment growth and inflation
 2. institutional enhancement funding to better align with peer institutions
 3. funding for Texas Grants and Texas Educational Opportunity Grant (TEOG) programs
 4. tuition revenue bonds (TRBs) to support capital projects/buildings
 5. relief due to foregone tuition associated with the Hazlewood program
 6. funding for health insurance premium contribution rates
 7. assistance with natural disaster recovery efforts for building, centers, etc.