

**Joint Council of Academic Deans, Faculty Senate, and Council of Chairs Meeting  
September 24, 2020**

**Summary and Action Items**

1. **The Conversation** – Mr. Elias Martinez introduced The Conversation, an independent and not-for-profit organization of which TXST is now a member institution. The Conversation provides an opportunity for scholars to share reliable academic expertise with the general public to create more visibility of all the scholarly work performed at TXST and to enhance their visibility as public intellectuals. Mr. Bruce Wilson and Mr. Eric Zack from The Conversation provided the group with an overview of what being a member means for TXST.

2. **Idea of adding an external observer to Personnel Committee meeting discussions of tenure and promotion (similar to the external observer on College Review Groups)** – Discussion of this topic was held amongst the group. Quality control, fairness, number of incidents or problems, role of the observer, and influence on the PC vote were discussed. The Faculty Senate will discuss the feedback received in this meeting.

3. **Creation of a general harassment policy (excluding sexual harassment, which is already covered in policy) that would include bullying and cyberharassment** – Discussion of this potential policy was held amongst the group, including content, stakeholder input, and ownership of the policy. The Faculty Senate will discuss the feedback received in this meeting.

4. **Follow-up regarding planning for Summer 2020 budgets and planning for FY2022 budgets**

- Dr. Bourgeois mentioned that TXST is experiencing more than a 2.5% and closer to an 6% budget shortfall due to unbillable SCH, lower enrollment, and increased financial aid among other reasons. He said that more designated tuition is currently being used for scholarships to help meet the increasing financial needs of our students. He also stated that over \$6 million in COVID-19 expenses such as new equipment, testing, and sanitization supplies are not being covered by the CARES Act funding.
- Summer budget funding for summer 2021 was reduced by approximately 10% (instructional) and 40% (administrative for 9-month faculty) in the budget reduction process for FY21.
- Dr. Bourgeois mentioned that in the next biennium, it is expected that the Legislature will cut budgets by an additional 5%. At this point, it is unclear if the budget reduction will occur over the biennium or in each year of the biennium.
- **Electronic Course Fees** – Dr. Debbie Thorne announced that management of ECF budgets is now handled by her and Ms. Cindy Waggoner from Faculty and Academic Resources. She stated that TXST plans to roll ECFs into its next tuition and fee request to the Board of Regents in November 2021.

5. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Gary Ray provided the Council with the fall 2020 census report, which includes 37,849 as the overall TXST enrollment for fall 2020 (a decrease of 382 students or 1.0%).

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

7. **COVID-19 Updates** – Dr. Bourgeois provided the following update which was presented to the President’s Cabinet by Dr. Emilio Carranco on September 21, 2020:

- conditions locally and statewide are stable; currently there is an 8% positivity rate in the state of Texas
- the Student Health Center is averaging 14 new cases per day with a current total of 149 active cases
- 519 tests have been administered at the Student Health Center with a 6.2% positivity rate
- 43% of all positive rates are in the residence halls although there is no tracing evidence of transmission in any classroom or in any residence halls; contact tracing shows social gatherings as the cause of the spread of positive transmissions.
- nine students since the first day of class have been referred to the Office of the Dean of Students for non-compliance including not wearing face coverings and not complying with physical distancing of at least six feet indoors and outdoors as required.
- Dr. Bourgeois mentioned that he had recently met with the Student Government (SG) President and Vice President and they believe that students are being compliant and are hearing positive feedback about our safety measures from students on campus. They also reported that they are receiving feedback that students want more face-to-face instruction for spring 2021, including more faculty engagement in online asynchronous classes. SG leaders also expressed concern about new students being able to have the full Texas State experience during the pandemic.
- Dr. Bourgeois expressed his appreciation to all academic units for all the work being done to the spring 2021 Schedule of Classes. He reiterated that the fall 2019 SOC will be rolled over to fall 2021.

8. **Budget Planning** – Dr. Thorne agreed that requests for temporary funding for next fiscal year (FY22) will be implemented earlier this academic year. Requests for changes to temporary funding for spring 2021 will be handled via one process (to be announced) instead of individual email requests.

9. **Summer 2021 Classes** – Dr. Bourgeois stated that planning for summer 2021 has begun and mentioned that online delivery and availability of courses continues to be very beneficial to students. The summer 2020 SOC will be rolled over to summer 2021. A study conducted by Dr. Bill Chittenden, Presidential Fellow, found course availability for degree progression and online delivery were critical to the success of summer 2020 enrollments. The summer schedule should be enrollment driven.