

**Council of Academic Deans Meeting
November 3, 2020**

Summary and Action Items

1. **HR Update** – Mr. John McBride, Ms. Michelle Moritz, Ms. Tammy Coyle, Ms. Vanessa Salazar, Ms. Heather Houston, Ms. Katie Bonner, and Mr. Blake Bissing provided an overview of activities, changes, and upcoming projects in the areas of benefits, compensation and classification, employee relations, master data center, organizational development and communication, and work life. The employment/ talent acquisition function and staff have moved to the Office of Institutional Inclusive Excellence within the division of University Administration. A national search is underway for a new assistant vice president for Human Resources.

2. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Gary Ray provided the Council with the undergraduate admissions report and a report on registrations for the spring 2021 semester, including student headcount and student credit hours. He reviewed a number of initiatives to enhance undergraduate enrollments:

- The November Bobcat Week will be held November 16 to 19, 2020, with digital activities, virtual tours, and virtual events each afternoon.
- The Bobcat Promise program, which guarantees free tuition and mandatory fees for 15 credit hours per semester to new entering freshmen with a family adjusted gross income (AGI) that does not exceed \$50,000, attracted 1,589 new students to Texas State in fall 2020. This increased by 200 students over fall 2019, when the AGI limit for Bobcat Promise was \$35,000.
- Financial Aid and Scholarships distributed an additional \$2.7 million through the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund to 2,683 students. The grants assist currently enrolled undergraduate students with financial need in continuing an uninterrupted path toward a higher education.
- In partnership with *Texas Monthly*, a story and advertisement about one of the university’s Big Ideas will appear in the November 2020 digital version of the magazine.
- Continuing efforts are directed at attracting former Texas State students who stopped out of college (ReUp) and recently admitted students who deferred admission due to the pandemic.

3. **Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report. Dr. Golato announced that the Graduate Council approved the Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic) as an alternative to the TOEFL exam and will consider the Duolingo exam on a limited basis. The Graduate College is hosting a virtual event on November 9, 2020, “Once a First-Gen, Always a First-Gen,” to attract and connect first-generation college students to graduate education.

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

- Overall, there is a national surge of COVID-19 cases
- Texas has a positivity rate that increased from 9.1% to 9.8%; significant increases are occurring in El Paso, the Panhandle, and rural parts of the state
- Williamson County – positivity rate has gone from 2.2% to 3.0%
- Hays County – positivity rate has gone from 15.8% to 17.2%
- TXST – the Student Health Center and Curative Inc. administered 1,186 total COVID-19 tests last week; 5 positive results, which is a decrease in the positivity rate from .9% to .4%
- 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.
- A total of eight students are in quarantine or isolation.

- Free testing will begin at the Round Rock Campus.
- Dr. Carranco is preparing to send an email providing an update on the university's response to COVID-19, information on the dashboard, and advice for the upcoming holidays.
- A work group is being formed to develop a plan for administering and managing vaccinations on campus, including the need for cold storage on campus.
- All study abroad has been canceled for spring 2021 and no official decision has been made for summer 2021 study abroad.

6. **Budget Planning** – Dr. Debbie Thorne announced that she and Dr. Bourgeois will meet with the deans in mid-December to review each college's draft summer 2021 budget request.

7. **Spring, Summer and Fall 2021 Classes** – The University Registrar is working with chairs and directors to locate larger classrooms for spring 2021 classes so that more traditional face-to-face options are available. Dr. Vedaraman Sriraman provided a brief update from the Continuity of Education Work Group, including concerns about student engagement and additional recommendations forthcoming from the work group.

OFF AGENDA

- The Council discussed the importance of calling students who are not registered for the spring 2021 semester, especially freshman who attended virtual New Student Orientation in summer 2020 and may not be aware of the importance of advance registration. Advising centers are planning to make these calls. Dr. Kambra Bolch will provide deans with information on course availability and course needs as registration for spring 2021 continues.
- Dr. Bourgeois discussed recommendations from the Faculty and Staff Morale Work group, including the need for more communication, especially at mid/lower management levels. The Council is encouraged to disseminate CAD summary and action items to faculty and staff. President Trauth and Dr. Bourgeois will hold a virtual town hall on Monday, November 23, 2020 to provide updates on COVID-19, the spring 2021 semester, and budget. The Council discussed the importance of publicly acknowledging the hard work and efforts by faculty and staff during the pandemic.