

**Council of Academic Deans Meeting
January 12, 2021**

Summary and Action Items

1. Undergraduate Admissions Report – Mr. Gary Ray provided the Council with an undergraduate admissions report. He reported that the number of high school seniors completing the FAFSA is down over prior years.

As of January 10, 2021, spring 2021 registration is flat at 33,821 enrolled students. Continuing undergraduate enrollments are down 2.6% or -745 to date. Approximately 90.6% of the fall 2020 freshman class has registered for spring 2021 (4,918); last year, we closed January 2020 with 90.8% of fall 2019 freshman students registered. Approximately 91.5% of fall 2020 transfer students have registered for spring 2021.

To date, the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships has awarded fall 2021 merit scholarships to 3,894 first-year students, and 14% or 515 have accepted the award. Students have until May 1, 2021 to accept the award. He also reported that 56 \$2,000 awards have been awarded to new freshmen and 189 \$1,000 awards have been awarded to new transfer students.

Mr. Ray reported that two students recruited by ReUp Education graduated in fall 2020. Approximately 175 applications for spring 2021 have been submitted by former students recruited by ReUp. Texas State (TXST) submitted a grant to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to support efforts to enroll former students.

2. Graduate Admissions Report – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report. Total graduate enrollment for spring 2021 has increased by 9.4%, which is partially attributed to continuing masters and doctoral students.

There is an increase in masters and doctoral applications for fall 2021 compared to this time last year for fall 2020 admissions. The retention rate for graduate students continuing in spring 2021 is doing well, especially compared to rates over the last couple of years.

3. COVID-19 Updates - Dr. Bourgeois provided an update from Dr. Emilio Carranco as of the week of January 10, 2021:

- State of Texas – average new cases of COVID-19 per day was 18,900, which is an increase from 14,700 from the previous week; the positivity rate has increased to 20.5% from 20.2%
- Williamson County – average new cases of COVID-19 per day was 339, which is an increase from 222 from the previous week; the positivity rate has increased to 16.7% from 12.4%
- Hays County – average new cases of COVID-19 per day was 130, which is a decrease from 209 from the previous week

- The Student Health Center (SHC) and Curative Inc. administered 1,654 total COVID-19 tests; this resulted in 66 positive cases, which brings the positivity rate to 4%
- There are no students in quarantine or isolation.
- Hospitalization rates and capacity constraints across the state are very concerning.
- As of January 5, 2021, TXST has been approved as a provider of the COVID-19 vaccines.
- By January 15, 2021, the Mass Vaccination Planning Work Group hope to have the mass vaccination plan completed.
- Half of the Grand Ballroom and half of the LBJ Ballroom in the LBJ Student Center will support the vaccination plan; one ballroom will be where the vaccine is administered and the other ballroom will be the waiting/observation room after the vaccine is administered.
- The SHC is developing a Qualtrics process for the registration of persons through priority groups established by the state of Texas.
- There is a call for staffing non-clinical assistance once vaccines begin to be administered.
- There will be antigen testing at the LBJSC Ballrooms on January 17, 2021 and January 18, 2021, particularly for student moving back into the residence halls. One thousand tests will be able to be administered each day.
- There will be a second Curative, Inc testing site located in the SHC parking lot for the spring semester.
- Brief discussion was held regarding the recent University Star article on the FDA's warning about Curative COVID-19 and KorvaLab false test results, namely false negatives.

4. **Spring, Summer, and Fall 2021 Classes** – Dr. Bourgeois announced that there will be no change to the spring 2021 calendar. This includes the final exam and spring break schedules.

Dr. Bourgeois also reiterated that faculty have the option to choose if they want to conduct their classes online for the first two weeks of the spring semester in order to gradually increase campus density, if they choose to do so they must communicate this to their students.

EP grades will not be allowed for the spring 2021 semester.

Final fall 2020 grades – comparison from fall 2019 to fall 2020

- A grades increased from 39.9% to 44.9% - this represents a 12.5% increase in A grades as a percentage of the total grades awarded.
- B and C grades decreased slightly.
- D grades decreased from 6.2% to 5.1% - this represents a 17.7% decrease in D grades as a percentage of the total grades awarded.
- F grades decreased from 5.1% to 4.9% - this represents a 4% decrease in F grades as a percentage of the total grades awarded.

A definitive decision regarding study abroad and study in America for summer 2021 will be issued by February 15, 2021. A decision regarding summer camps will also be needed.

Commencement – in-person commencement will occur on May 13, 2021 and May 14, 2021 at Bobcat Stadium. May 15, 2021 will be reserved as a make up day in case of cancellation due to weather on May 13 or May 14. Commencement times will be 10:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m. There will be no virtual commencement ceremony as the commencement ceremonies will be live-streamed. Candidates will receive 7 guest tickets.

For spring 2021, TXST will maintain the changes made for fall 2020 fee structure. The spring 2021 fee structure can be found on the [Student Business Services website](#).

It is estimated that TXST may receive \$51.5M from the \$20.2B approved by President Trump to be distributed to institutions of higher education under section 314A1 of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund.

Dr. Bourgeois announced that the Texas legislative session opened today, January 12, 2021. He and other Cabinet members including President Trauth will meet with TXST's legislative delegation that represents TXST regarding TXST's legislative agenda.

Requests for guest lectures – Dr. Bourgeois announced that academic units can continue to plan for events in March and April for students, faculty, and staff as long as the same COVID-19 protocols/restrictions are followed. In-class lectures using health and safety measures are fine. For indoor events, please send the request including event information to the Office of the Provost for the Provost's consideration.

Dr. Bourgeois announced that fall 2021 will be similar to fall 2019 via a return to face to face classes and on-campus services, work, and activities, based on current estimations of the response to the pandemic, including vaccination plans.

5. **Budget Planning** – Dr. Thorne announced that summer 2021 budgets are due February 5, 2021 through Share Point.

OFF AGENDA

Dr. Mary Brennan announced that she will be reaching out to all deans and chairs/directors regarding participating in the Life Anew Restorative Justice Process.

Dr. Brennan announced that inauguration activities will be virtual.

Dr. Vedaraman Sriraman announced that Ms. Micky Autrey will be retiring on January 31, 2021. Due to changes in the scope of the position, the position will be advertised as Assistant Vice President for Curriculum and Academic Programs; this will be an internal search limited to TXST faculty members. Dr. Michael O'Malley will serve as chair as this search committee.

Dr. Beth Wuest announced that the QEP is close to publication and provided the Council with a brief update, including the importance of widespread knowledge of the QEP's plan to enhance opportunities for undergraduate students with research, inquiry, and creative expression.