

**Council of Academic Deans Meeting
November 10, 2020**

Summary and Action Items

1. **FY22 Scholarship Funding** – Dr. Barbara Breier and Ms. Kimberly Garrett presented to the Council an initiative from the President to identify a total of \$1M in gift funds to support scholarships for incoming freshmen who are in the top 25% of their high school class. The Bobcat Scholarship Fund will soon be launched to raise scholarship funds for current TXST students. A working committee has been formed to discuss ways to identify potential gift funds and to determine guidelines for their distribution. Dr. Breier discussed recommendations from the working committee for distributions from unrestricted university gifts accounts to support the fall 2021 freshman class.

2. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Gary Ray provided the Council with an undergraduate admissions report. He also reported on a survey performed by two marketing firms of 31,000 high school seniors where 47% reported they have not yet started applying for college; 56% of the participants come from low-income families and 92% of them reported feeling fear and anxiety of attending college due to COVID-19. Their top concern was college affordability.

Mr. Ray congratulated Dr. Bill Chittenden on his recent article in *The Conversation*, which has over 15,000 reads at the time.

Mr. Ray mentioned that next week is Virtual Bobcat Week (November 16-19, 2020).

3. **Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report. She also reported that the recent recruiting event for first generation students was very successful and The Graduate College is already working on following up with these students.

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

- The current surge in the nation and state is very concerning; there are surges in all metropolitan areas of the state including Houston, DFW, and Travis County.
- Texas has a positivity rate that increased from 9.8% to 11.3%; there are currently 6,800 cases in Texas which is up from 5,600 last week.
- Williamson County's positivity rate has gone from 3.0% to 3.5%; there are currently averaging 37 new cases per day, which is up from 36 cases from the previous week.
- Hays County's positivity rate has gone from 17.2% to 7.3%; there are currently averaging 28 new cases per day, which is an increase from 22 from last week; the county is examining its reporting statistics.
- TXST currently has 55 positive cases which takes the positivity rate to 3.6%, which is an increase from .4% from the previous week; testing on the San Marcos Campus has increased; the Student Health Center and Curative Inc. administered 1,527 total COVID-19 tests last week which is an increase from 1,186 tests administered the previous week; 55 positive results, which is an increase in the positivity rate from .4% to 3.6%.
- Dr. Carranco reports that to date, based on contact tracing efforts, there is no evidence of transmission of COVID-19 in residence halls, classrooms, or other places on campus
- There are 25 students in isolation and 15 are in quarantine.
- Contact tracers report more individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 as being unsure of where or from whom they may have contracted the virus.
- There are similar increases at the University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University.
- Curative Inc. may not be providing tests on campus for the spring 2021 semester.

- COVID-19 testing has begun on the Round Rock Campus.
- Dr. Carranco will be meeting with the newly formed mass vaccination work group to begin discussions on how to administer the vaccine on campus when it is available.
- Dr. Bourgeois announced that there will be a Town Hall on November 23, 2020 at 2:30 to provide the campus with an update on budget, the status of COVID-19 on our campuses, fall commencement, spring 2021, and other matters.

Dr. Bourgeois also provided the following announcements: 1) the academic calendar for spring 2021 is not changing; 2) the fall 2020 final exam schedule is not changing and faculty have discretion during the last week of fall classes; 3) there are ongoing discussions about asking students to quarantine before the start of the spring 2021 semester.

5. **Budget Planning** – No discussion/update provided for this agenda item.

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

OFF AGENDA

- Dr. Mary Ellen Cavitt solicited the dean's assistance in finding students who are willing to serve on two committees: 1) TSUS Student Scholar Award Committee and 2) a committee with the THECB.
- Dr. Bourgeois once again announced that all Education Abroad programs for spring 2021 have been canceled but no decision has been made yet for the programs for summer 2021.