

**Council of Academic Deans Meeting
January 18, 2022**

Summary and Action Items

1. **University Plan 2023-2029** – Dr. Beth Wuest provided the Council with an update on the planning process and opportunities for feedback on the forthcoming University Plan 2023-2029. President’s Cabinet recently approved the timeline for developing the plan, also known as the university’s strategic plan. Dr. Wuest distributed the timeline and discussion was held amongst the Council. The process is currently underway, and the plan officially begins on September 1, 2023. The first step is a review of the university’s current mission and shared values, with opportunities for both individual and group feedback. Council members are encouraged to discuss the mission and shared values with their leadership teams to provide group feedback.

2. **Post-Doctoral Fellowships: Inspiring the NEXT Generation of Faculty (TSUS Foundation Diversity Enhancement Grant)** – Dr. Debbie Thorne announced that TXST submitted a proposal to the TSUS Foundation’s Diversity Enhancement Grant Program to increase faculty diversity. Funding in the amount of \$320,000 is requested to hire five promising postdoctoral fellows from underrepresented groups to spend one year at TXST. If TXST is funded, this program will begin fall 2022. The program will provide intentional support for fellows to pursue academic careers in research universities as well as direct opportunities for fellows and the university community to engage with, work with, and learn from each other.

3. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Gary Ray provided the Council with an undergraduate admissions report. He reported that there is an upcoming meeting for the committee working on a virtual one-stop center. The Bobcat Cares application process begins on January 18, 2022 and runs through February 1, 2022 in which TXST will award \$6.5M in federally-funded emergency assistance to students for spring 2022.

Class schedule drops for nonpayment – 574 students were canceled for nonpayment, which is lower than this time last year; 208 students were extended and 33,336 total students were confirmed having made payment

TXST spring 2022 daily registration – as of January 17, 2022 – 33,978 (89.7%) of fall 2021 headcount; the headcount is 1.1% down; TXST is 16 days from census day, and our average retention rate is 91% by census day; spring 2021 was 34,550 on the 12th day of classes

2021 freshman class spring retention rates (fall to spring) – as of 1/10/22 retention was 92.7% with a headcount of 5,745; 208 students were canceled; this is higher than 2020 and 2019 incoming freshmen retention rates into the following spring

2021 new transfer spring retention rates (fall to spring) – as of 1/10/22 retention was 93.5% with a headcount of 2,157; last year at this time the retention percentage was 93%

Spring NSO Update

- 220 freshmen have registered as of today; final last year was 172
- Freshmen registered 146 today
- Transfers NSO 1,324 registered (2022) (final NSO# was 1,311 for 2021)
- Transfers registered for classes 969 vs. 1048 YTD

Spring 2022 Applications

- First-year students apps of 1,197, up +604 or 101%
- First-year students accepted 511, is up 265 or 107%
- New first-year students enrolled 146 is up 23 or 18% (final spring 2021 = 120)
- Transfer apps 2,204 is down -138 or -5%
- Transfer admits 1,538 is down -103 or -6%

Summer 2022 Apps

- First-year students applied 293 is up 39 or 15%
- First-year students accepted 80 is up 27 or 50%
- Transfer apps 162 is down 21 or -11%
- Transfer accepts 41 is down 1 or 2%

Fall 2022 Apps

- First-year students apps 26,007 – record pace is up 2,889 or 12%
- First-year students accepted 17,212 is up 3,573 or 26%
- Transfer apps 911 is down -412 or -31%
- Transfer Accepts 428 is down 39 or 8%
- 5,112 freshman merit awards have been made, compared to 4,165 this time last year

The number of freshman class applications TXST has received to date for fall 2022 seems to be back on pace to pre-pandemic times. Acceptances have increased due to enhanced processing procedures and timeframes.

4. **Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report. For the spring 2022 semester, overall we are down 87 master's students, but we have an increase in new doctoral students (2) as well as continuing doctoral students (36).

At this time of the year, we are typically half-way through the applications cycle for the fall 2022 semester. The rest of the applications will be received in the next two months. For doctoral students, there is a decline in the applications in Applied Anthropology and Math Education but an increase in Geography and Computer Science. At the master's level, there is an increase in applications for Data Analytics, Counseling, Construction Management, and Nursing and a decrease in Social Work and Anthropology.

Dr. Golato thanked all admissions committee and advisors for their assistance in processing all applications.

5. **COVID-19 Updates and Spring 2022 Classes** – Dr. Bourgeois reminded the group that all students living in residence halls are required to show a negative COVID-19 test prior to move-in. Dr. Cynthia Hernandez reported approximately 2,000 students have already moved into the residence halls.

The university's COVID-19 dashboard shows case counts have declined. It is likely that TXST will see an increase in cases when classes return to face-to-face on January 31, 2022.

Dr. Jaime Chahin announced that the Child Development Center is open and navigating day-to-day despite the challenges due to COVID-19.

There was a brief discussion on the waiting times to get tested on campus and the delay in receiving results due to supply chain issues and testing volume in this area.

OFF AGENDA

Dr. Bourgeois announced that Dr. Nestor Guillen, Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics, was awarded an NSF CAREER award for the current year award cycle.

Dr. Michael O'Malley announced that today, 17 TXST students who are teacher residents assigned this year to Lockhart ISD were presented with \$20,000 stipends. The Texas Education Agency approved and funded the teacher residency program between TXST and Lockhart ISD that embeds these students (teacher residents) with mentor teachers. The program will also support 20 students per year in the next two years. A high-quality teacher residency model is one in which a teacher candidate is paired with an experienced, highly effective mentor teacher for a full-year of clinical training and co-teaching in a K-12 classroom.

Dr. Thorne announced a Faculty Development workshop, "Back to the Future: Re-Engaging Students in the Post-Pandemic Classroom," to be held on Tuesday, January 25, 2022. The workshop will provide insights on student attitudes, behaviors, motivation, and mental health, strategies for providing structure and healthy boundaries for students, pedagogical strategies to activate or re-activate students' cognitive skills and academic resilience, and self-care for faculty.