

Academic Affairs Council Meeting  
April 25, 2023

Summary and Action Items

- 1. Curriculum and Distance Education Related Update from the Higher Education Coordinating Board** – The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) policy changes related to new degree programs, distance learning proposals, and formula funding for distance learning are on the agenda for approval at the upcoming board meeting on Thursday, April 27, 2023. Dr. Vedaraman Sriraman and Mr. Dana Willett presented a summary of the proposed changes with a discussion of potential impact for Texas State’s internal workflows, practices, planning, and funding. Additional information will be communicated after the rules are approved and THECB issues guidance.
- 2. Strategic Plan** – Dr. Bourgeois reiterated that academic units and offices should be moving forward with finalizing their six-year strategic plans (2023-2029), with an emphasis on priorities for the next two years. The university will conduct a review of the strategic plan every two years. Dean/college templates are due to Dr. Bourgeois by May 15, 2023. A short feasibility paper should be provided for any new or significantly revised academic programs prioritized by the college (job market need, faculty quality/readiness, curricular components, and budget needs). The feasibility studies are due to Dr. Sriraman by May 21, 2023.
- 3. Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Gary Ray provided the Council with an undergraduate admissions report.

Fall and summer registration (as of April 23, 2023):

Fall	2022	2023	Difference
Overall Headcount	21,417	23,020	+1,603 or 7.5%
Overall Credit Hours	248,174	276,043	+27,869 or 11.2%

Summer	2022	2023	Difference
Overall Headcount	10,868	10,818	(-50) or (0.5%)
Overall Credit Hours	67,739	67,160	(-579) or (-0.9%)

**Milestones this week:**

- We have now passed 41,000 first-year applications (41,053); this is 6,758 more than the final 2022 application record of 34,294. Last year, we received an additional 1,148 apps by the July 15, 2022 deadline. If we match the same number of applications as the previous year, we can project 42,158 total applications, an increase of 24%.
- We are now at 27,610 or **96.8%** of the new FTIC admit target (28,500) to reach the 8,000 freshmen. Last year, we admitted 1,018 more first-year students from April 24, 2022 to September 11, 2022.
- New transfer student numbers are ahead for fall 2022. Applications are up 422 or 13% Y2D and admits are up 6.3% or 136.

Dr. Cynthia Hernandez mentioned that we are up about 300 in housing applications, which is a 5.4% increase from last year. She also mentioned that spring 2023 occupancy is at 96%.

**4. Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report. Eighteen new doctoral students have registered for summer 2023.

For fall 2023, we are 193 down in continuing master's students but 100 students have applied for graduation, which is one reason for the decrease. We are up in continuing doctoral students.

For spring 2023, 28 students have submitted their dissertations and will graduate in May 2023; this on par with our 2019 record.

Dr. Golato announced that the second round of merit scholarships were distributed last week, and a third round will begin soon. She again asked the deans to encourage nominations from their graduate programs.

Dr. Golato provided the following update regarding NRUF standards:

The standard five-year graduation rate for master's students must be at 56% and TXST is at 85%. TXST's three-year graduation rate for master's students is 77.5%

The standard 10-year graduation rate for doctoral students must be 58% and TXST is at 71.1%. TXST's five-year graduation rate for doctoral students is 68.2%

Dr. Golato mentioned the importance of colleges submitting the comprehensive exam form and thesis proposals to The Graduate College, so there is a student record.

## **OFF AGENDA**

Dr. Debbie Thorne mentioned the instructional faculty title series policy will be on the next AAC agenda. The Council will have a follow-up discussion from the document distributed at the April 4, 2023 AAC meeting.

To provide more variety and choice, Dr. Mary Ellen Cavitt encouraged colleges to consider courses that may be added to the general education core curriculum.

Dr. Bourgeois announced President's Cabinet recently discussed that employees must be current with required ethics and compliance training in order to be eligible for merit.