

Academic Affairs Council Meeting
May 2, 2023

Summary and Action Items

1. **Academic Advising and Course Availability Updates** – Dr. Kambra Bolch provided the Council with a demonstration of the new [First-Year Advising for New Student Orientation](#) website as well as the [MyMajors](#) tool now available to assist with onboarding new freshmen. The website outlines the three steps for freshmen to move through the NSO and advising and enrollment process. Dr. Bolch recognized the work of Mr. Kristopher Infante on this project.

The Texas State-branded version of MyMajors will help students connect with best-fit major options at TXST. Students complete a 15-minute assessment that will show them a list of 10 TXST majors that most align with their history of academic achievement, aptitude, work interests, and personal preferences. Students receive a detailed report of their results that is shared with First-Year Advising and will be used in advising-related conversations. All Texas State undergrads, academic advisors, and other campus partners will have access to the tool.

Dr. Bolch also reminded the deans of closed classes for fall 2023 and ask that they continue to monitor closed sections with their department chairs/school directors.

2. **Faculty of Instruction Title Series Follow-Up** – As a follow-up to the April 4, 2023 AAC discussion, Dr. Debbie Thorne and Dr. Matt Brooks asked for feedback on key content and dates proposed for implementing the Faculty of Instruction policy. The Council agreed:

- Department/school guidelines for initial appointment of promotion-eligible faculty of instruction by December 15, 2023 (key parameters in university policy).
- Existing TXST FTE-based lecturers/senior lecturers submit decisions to chair/director and dean to transition to promotion-eligible title series by March 15, 2024.
- Department/school policy for annual evaluation of faculty of instruction by June 1, 2024 (broad parameters in university policy).
- New policy on Faculty of Instruction effective September 1, 2024.
- Department/school policy for promotion of faculty of instruction by December 15, 2024 (broad parameters in university policy).

3. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Gary Ray provided the Council with an undergraduate admissions report.

Fall and Summer Registration (as of April 28, 2023)

Fall	2022	2023	Difference
Overall Headcount	22,469	23,862	1,393 or 6.2%
Overall Credit Hours	258,996	285,990	26,994 or 10.4%

Summer	2022	2023	Difference
Overall Headcount	11,399	11,246	(153) or (1.3%)
Overall Credit Hours	70,823	69,612	(1,211) or (1.7%)

We are now at 27,876 or 97.8% of the new FTIC admit target (28,500) to yield 8,000 freshmen. Last year, we accepted 826 more first-year students from May 1 to September 11, 2022. Housing contracts are up by 3.2%.

New transfer student applications are ahead for fall 2023. Applications are up 429 or 13% Y2D and admits are up 5% or 124.

Fall freshmen application record

First Year Applications	Year to Date comparison	%	Current Apps to 2022 Final Apps	%
2023	41,279		41,279	
2022	33,145		34,294	
Difference	8,134	25%	6,985	20.3%

Fall 2023 transfer applications

- 3,817 transfer apps are up by 425 or 12%
- 2,417 transfer admits are up by 124 or 5%
- NSO Signups are down by (26) or (2%)
- Transfer merit offers as of May 1, 2023:

Transfer Class	2022	2023	Difference
Merit Scholarships Offers	982	916	(-66)
Merit Scholarships Accepted	336	366	30

Mr. Ray announced that last week’s Laredo Community College MOU signing went very well and the MOU with Tyler Junior College is close to completion. TXST is waiting to hear back from Austin Community College regarding a partnership for a transfer excellence program.

Dr. Heather Galloway announced that 24 TXST students have been named Terry Scholars, which is double from previous years.

4. Graduate Admissions Report – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report. Dr. Golato mentioned that TXST continues to receive about 80 graduate student applications per week. There is an increase in new master’s students for the summer and fall semesters, which may be attributed to new scholarship funding. Continuing master’s student numbers are running behind.

Dr. Golato mentioned that texting students is a new effort being used to remind graduate students to register; texting is also being used with students who have incomplete applications.

Run to R1 initiative – Twenty-eight doctoral students have registered for the summer, in which a vast majority are international students who need to enroll in 9 hours. There have been increased efforts to assist these students with I-9 and visa issues they may be encountering.

There will be another round of merit fellowships to be awarded this week. The Graduate College will be working with an outside firm on financial aid optimization.

OFF AGENDA

The Council engaged in a discussion about creating more BS-to-PhD pathways within existing and new doctoral programs.

It was announced that all faculty are required to complete three ethics and compliance trainings every year. Email reminders are sent to faculty prior to the due date and if faculty do not complete these trainings, email reminders will be sent to their supervisor.

Dr. Thorne reminded the deans of the new June 30 notification deadline that department chairs/school directors must meet regarding submitting their list of candidates intending to apply for tenure and/or promotion in FY24. Deans were asked to remind their department chairs/school directors and may direct questions to Ms. Lyndi Wittekiend or Ms. Beth Koen. The annual [tenure and promotion calendar](#) provides all due dates for the process.