

Academic Affairs Council Meeting
August 22, 2023
Summary and Action Items

1. **Student Health and Well-Being Task Force Report** – Dr. Vedaraman Sriraman, Dr. Emilio Carranco and Dr. Cynthia Hernandez provided the Council with a report overview, including the task force’s priorities, internal and external data collection, findings, short-term and long-term recommendations, and resources. Short-term recommendations delivered December 2022 are accomplished or nearly complete. The Council provided feedback and support for ensuring a healthier campus community. Dr. Gene Bourgeois recognized the task force’s dedication and thoughtful recommendations.

TXST Findings:

- Stress has the greatest impact on academic success, with TXST students experiencing higher levels of stress than national peers;
- A significant percentage of TXST students have been diagnosed with a mental health disorder;
- Financial challenges are a major contributor to stress.
 - Significant percent of TXST students classified as low income and Pell grant eligible
 - 50 percent of TXST students work more than 10 hours/week
 - 25 percent work more than 20 hours/week
- More than half of TXST students report feeling lonely and 32 percent feel they do not belong;
- Nearly half of TXST students do not get recommended 7 to 9 sleep hours per night;
- Obesity is increasing in TXST students as well as percentage not meeting guidelines for nutrition or exercise; and
- At TXST, binge drinking is decreasing and marijuana use is increasing.

Long-term Recommendations:

1) Awareness and training.

The task force determined that education and training for faculty, staff, and students is necessary to address several of the issues identified in this review. Recommendations focus on a Center for Teaching and Learning to enhance pedagogical practices, training for graduate advisors, an online Health & Wellness Hub that addresses eight dimensions of wellness, campus culture of physical fitness and exercise, and awareness campaigns and programs around distress, mental health, self-advocacy, sexual violence, sleep deprivation, substance abuse, stress/anxiety, and campus resources.

2) Services and support.

While Texas State University provides a broad network of support services, additional efforts are needed in specific areas. New strategies and enhanced services are recommended for student transitions, pre-professional advising, better pay for student workers and assistantships, larger

food pantry and healthier food options, training for graduate students and faculty who supervise them, support for student organizations, and peer mentoring programs.

3) Institutionalization of policies, protocols, and procedures.

More intentional efforts should be pursued to identify students who may be at-risk, to connect them with appropriate resources, and to teach them the skills necessary to manage their health and well-being. Considerations include a Bobcat Success Check-in six weeks into the semester, restructuring US1100 as a “College and Life Success” course, using Canvas to share important resource information regarding health and wellness, and creating a University Health and Well-being Committee.

2. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Gary Ray presented an update on undergraduate admissions to the Council. He noted the increasing number of high school students in Texas who are from low income households and will have high financial need in college.

Fall Daily Registration Report for August 21, 2023 (16 days to the 1st fall census day/12th class day)

Fall	2016 Record	2022 Final	2023 to date	Y2Y Difference
Overall Headcount	38,808	38,171	38,732	+561 or 1.4%
Overall Credit Hours	469,273	465,124	485,515	+20,391 or 4.3%
Fall 2022 12 th class day (ALL students)	38,849	38,376	38,843	+467 or 1.2%

Annual Milestones

- 11,795 new undergraduate and graduates students to date; TXST will set a new record, up from 11,538 new students in fall 2022
- Approximately 90% or 10,614 are new FTIC or transfer undergraduates

Record freshman class

- 7,926 to date vs. 7,636 (final count 2022)
- Freshmen are from 37 states and 22 countries
- New international undergraduates doubled; increased 114% (135 vs. 63 in 2022)
- Top 25% ranked first-year students: 3,263 to date (+4.1% or 129)
- On track to post the largest undergraduate enrollment in university history; previous record set in 2016 (34,276)

UG Numbers	2016 Record	2022 Final	2023 to date	Y2Y Difference
Undergraduates	34,276	33,913	34,855	+648 or 4.3%
UG Credit Hours	437,060	433,839	457,442	+19,033
Total New FTIC/TRF	9,530	10,288	10,614	+326 or 3.1%

One-Year Retention as of 08/21/2023

Fall to Fall Retention	2022	2023	Difference
First-year Retention	4,965 (80%)	5,680 (77.3%)	+715 or 14%
Transfer Retention	2,041 (84%)	1,827 (84%)	(214) or (10.4%)

ReUp Education Partnership

"Bring Bobcats Back," a recruiting initiative that targets TXST stop-outs started in June 2020. To date, the partnership has enrolled 747 students and graduated 237 students.

3. **Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with the graduate admissions report. For fall 2023, graduate-level student credit hours (SCH) are down slightly due to declines in continuing master's students and large graduating classes in 2023. There are increases in new master's students, new doctoral students, and continuing doctoral students, including 111 new doctoral students (+28 students) and 1,054 new master's students (+77 students). The Graduate College has distributed all available scholarships and is working with international students who are delayed because of visa appointments and immigration rules.

OFF AGENDA

Dr. Vedaraman Sriraman reported the academic program proposals for 11 new doctoral programs are nearly finished and will be submitted to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on August 31, 2023. The proposals include six new online programs and five new in-person programs. Dr. Bourgeois recognized the leadership and diligence of all faculty, staff, and administrators who produced proposals and budgets in weeks over summer 2023.

Following feedback from a human resources consulting firm, Dr. Bourgeois and Dr. Debbie Thorne indicated the faculty salary market adjustments will be implemented in September and distributed in October 1, 2023 paychecks. More information is forthcoming.

Dr. Bourgeois announced 14 new academic programs were authorized at the President's Cabinet Advance in early August 2023 for additional development, including budget estimates. Doctoral program budgets should include ways to reduce funding needs by employing doctoral teaching assistants to offset current instructional expenses and ensuring grant productivity to employ more students on externally-funded assistantships. Programs include:

- a. PhD in Mathematics*
- b. PhD in Clinical Psychology
- c. PhD in Communication
- d. PhD in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
- e. PhD in Civil Engineering*
- f. PhD in Integrated Molecular Biophysical Chemistry*
- g. PhD Business Administration - Analytics
- h. DNP*
- i. Enhance PhDs in College of Education [School Improvement, add cohort to RRC;

- APCE, add concentrations in Student Affairs)
- j. BBA in Analytics
 - k. BFA Film Production
 - l. MA in International Studies Online
 - m. MA in Applied Humanities
 - n. MPH Online

*Program proposal submitted to THECB August 31, 2023.

Dr. Cynthia Hernandez thanked the Council for Academic Affairs' contributions to the successful Welcome Week for students.

Dr. Bourgeois announced Dr. Julie Lessiter, Vice President for Round Rock Campus, has joined the university. The campus is expected to grow to 10,000 students by approximately 2030.

Deans are reminded to make recommendations for membership on various task forces.