

**Academic Affairs Council Meeting  
October 3, 2023  
Summary and Action Items**

1. **Deans Role in Fundraising and Development** – Mr. Brooks Hull attended and spoke to the deans about their role in fundraising and development as well as his goal of ensuring strong infrastructure and strong relationships between University Advancement and Academic Affairs. Mr. Hull also discussed the development of advisory councils, including a handout on nine keys to success with advisory councils.

2. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Gary Ray presented an update on undergraduate admissions to the Council.

He announced that the Bats to Cats Kick Off with Austin Community College (ACC) was held on September 13, 2023. This is a new transfer excellence program scheduled to launch fall 2024, with a goal to enroll 3,300 ACC students at Texas State by 2025. Bats to Cats will be replacing the Pathway Program, a co-enrollment program started in 2005.

The next Bobcat Day is scheduled for October 7, 2023; currently there are 606 students plus 8 large groups (400) scheduled and we are expecting 1,000 students plus guests.

The ReUp Education contract to recruit stop-outs ends February 2024. We are recommending renewing the contract for two more years. The renewal request will go to the November 2023 TSUS Board of Regents meeting for approval. As of this summer, 238 students have graduated using this program.

**Spring 2024 applications (as of October 2, 2023)**

Spring	Oct. 3 2023	Oct. 2 2024	Y2Y Difference
Week	40	40	
Freshmen apps	529	679	+150 or 28%
Freshmen Admits	171	237	+66 or 38%
Transfer apps	797	732	(-65) or (8.1%)
Transfer Admits	379	371	(-8) or (2.1%)

**Fall 2024 applications**

Fall	Oct. 3, 2023	Oct. 2, 2024	Y2Y Difference
Week	40	40	
Freshmen apps	6,108	6,446	+338 or 5.5%
Freshmen Admits	2,131	2,902	+771 or 36%
Transfer apps	148	135	(-13) or (-8.7%)
Transfer Admits	46	43	(-3) or (6.5%)

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid, better known as FAFSA, typically opens on October 1, but this year families will have to wait until December. The form is [being updated](#), and hopefully simplified. However, implementing those changes means students and families will not be able to apply for aid for the 2024-25 school year until December 2023.

Fall 2024 merit awards are going out earlier this year to provide a competitive advantage (late FAFSA). Our first merit report was on December 2, 2022 last year. To date:

- FTIC – 1,340 award offers, 214 accepted
- Transfers 19 awards offers, 5 accepted

Common Apps are up 1,298 or 65% for freshmen for fall 2024 (as of October 2, 2023).

**3. Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with the graduate admissions report. She reported that spring 2024 doctoral applications and admissions have increased over spring 2023. Some admissions are those that were deferred from fall 2023. At the master's level, we have fewer applications than last year but higher admission numbers. Dr. Golato announced that in late August, The Graduate College received \$200K in scholarship money that will be used for programs who admit in the spring semester.

Dr. Golato alerted the Council to upcoming events:

- Graduate and Professional School Fairs Program – hosting along with Career Services
- Weekly information sessions for students
- Online Graduate Information Session on November 7
- Application workshop on November 15 (both in-person and online event)

## **OFF AGENDA**

Dr. Shreek Mandayam introduced Mr. Harold Strong as the new Executive Director of STAR Park.

Dr. Bourgeois announced that there will be an open competition for the current University Chair vacancies.

Dr. Vedaraman Sriraman reported his office is working on the SACSCOC prospectus documents for 10 of the 11 new doctoral programs recently submitted to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for review. He also shared that he, Dr. Golato, and Dr. Thilla Sivakumaran are visiting with deans about college priorities for new academic programs. The council briefly discussed asynchronous and synchronous delivery of online courses and programs.

Dr. Mary Brennan raised the question of consistent instructional modality in course sections labeled as face-to-face in the registration system. The council agreed the face-to-face designation requires regular and substantive in-person class meetings according to the schedule posted in Catsweb.