

**Academic Affairs Council Meeting
November 7, 2023
Summary and Action Items**

1. **Online Course/Program Delivery Modalities** – Dr. Thilla Sivakumaran attended to address questions regarding delivery modalities and university strategy for online courses and programs. Discussion was held amongst the Council, including affordability and flexibility preferences of online learners, opportunities for in-person meetings in asynchronous courses and programs, instructional design support for the colleges, and related areas.

2. **University Libraries Student Success and Run to R1 Strategic Imperatives** – Dr. Kelly Visnak presented the Council with two of TXST University Libraries 2023-2025 strategic imperatives, including services and goals related to 1) student success and 2) the research lifecycle. The library profession is maturing to meet the evolving needs of higher education.

3. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Scott Ham provided the Council with an undergraduate admissions report. He announced that 1,220 student registrants attended Bobcat Day on November 4, 2023. Large groups traveling to the event increased overall student attendance to 1,409.

The next Bats to Cats meeting (partnership between ACC and TXST) is set for Thursday, November 9. The meeting will include reports from seven work groups, which will inform a plan so that the program may be marketed to prospective students. TXST is close to renewing the five-year extension to the articulation agreement with Lone Star College system.

Trends in the Apply Texas application system include increases for FTICs and decreases for new transfers. New international student applications are primarily driving the increase in new first-year students. To date, applications are up 232 or 357% over last year (297 vs. 65).

Spring 2024	November 7, 2022	November 6, 2023	Diff	%
Week	45	45		
Freshmen apps	739	1,019	280	37.9%
Freshmen Admits	300	418	118	27.8%
Transfer apps	1,448	1,329	(119)	(-8.2%)
Transfer Admits	802	734	(68)	(-8.5%)

New first-year applications for fall 2024 are currently 9% ahead. The undergraduate processing team worked on Saturday. TXST received 2,400 Common applications last week.

Fall 2024	November 7, 2022	November 6, 2023	Diff	%
Week	45	45		
Freshmen apps	15,907	17,341	1,434	9%
Freshmen Admits	6,804	8,149	1,345	19.8%
Transfer apps	353	323	(30)	(-8.5%)
Transfer Admits	143	122	(21)	(-14.7%)

Common applications are up 1,638 Y2D or 40.6% for freshmen for fall 2024 (as of November 6, 2023).

4. **Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report. She reported that communications have been ongoing with students from Nepal to see if they have been impacted by the recent earthquake. She thanked everyone who participated in last week’s 3MT competition.

For spring 2024, Dr. Golato noted that doctoral applications and admissions have increased; master’s applications have decreased while master’s admissions have increased. The Graduate College continues to offer various recruiting events and information sessions.

Regarding R2R1 initiatives, Dr. Golato announced her team is gathering information on all Ph.D. students, determining how close students are to completion, and meeting with doctoral program coordinators. To reach the number of Ph.D. graduates required for R1 designation, TXST needs 193 more Ph.D. graduates by spring 2025.

OFF AGENDA

- Dr. Vedaraman Sriraman announced that that he, Dr. Golato, and Dr. Sivakumaran have concluded their meetings with deans regarding their strategic priorities for academic programs. Dr. Sriraman’s office is compiling the list of these programs. Priorities for new programs need to be set before faculty begin developing program proposals. He also mentioned that as part of the recent submission of our doctoral program proposals, information is needed regarding post-graduation employment of our students. The Council discussed the use of the National Student Clearinghouse and other ways of tracking this information, including departmental tracking.
- Dr. Cynthia Hernandez mentioned that living learning communities may be moved to different residence halls, especially with new residence halls opening. She also announced that Dr. Michael Preston has been selected as the new Associate Vice President for Student Success. Dr. Hernandez meets regularly with a faculty advisory council to ensure faculty knowledge and engagement in student success initiatives.
- Dr. Hernandez encouraged members of the Council to attend the in-person open forums presented by candidates for the next Provost of Texas State.