

Academic Affairs Council Meeting
September 10, 2024
Summary and Action Items

1. **Experiential Major Maps** – Mr. Nick Weimer presented a proposal and plan for a phased approach to developing and implementing experiential major maps (EMM) with the intention that they will clarify links between academic coursework and real-world experience, offering a strategic framework for students to navigate their academic and professional development. He outlined two development milestones: 1) planning and drafting (fall 2024); and 2) design and build (spring 2025). Mr. Weimer also announced that an EMM task force would be developed and asked the deans to nominate a representative from their college and send the name of the representative directly to him.
2. **Time and Leave Responsibilities** – Dr. Matt Brooks reminded the Council of the importance of discussing and managing time and leave reporting with all faculty and staff in their units. The following emails will soon be sent from the Provost to faculty, deans, and department chairs/school directors regarding the following policies:
 - 1) overtime and compensatory time;
 - 2) time and leave policy – faculty sick leave reporting requirements; and
 - 3) time and leave policy – supervisor responsibilities in Academic Affairs.

All supervisors in the division of Academic Affairs need to good reporting mechanisms and timely processes for approving time, including those for ensuring faculty sick leave is reported. Faculty and Academic Resources implements reviews of academic and administrative units to ensure continuous improvement of leave reporting rates.

3. **Follow-up: Moving Department Chair/School Director Annual Reviews into Faculty Qualifications** – Dr. Brooks mentioned that he had contacted each dean and got concurrence to move forward with moving department chair/school director annual reviews into Faculty Qualifications (FQ). He shared a draft workflow and asked each dean to review and provide comments directly to him. The council agreed to move school directors and department chairs annual reviews in FQ starting with the 2024 annual review. In addition, all Associate/Assistant Deans and Endowed Chairs will also have their annual reviews moved in FQ for the 2024 annual review cycle.
4. **AA/PPS 04.02.10 – Performance Evaluation of Continuing Faculty and Post-Tenure Review** – Dr. Mary Brennan brought up an issue regarding annual evaluations professional development plans. It was noted that the policy did not have any special condition if a faculty member successfully was removed from a post-tenure review, but then returned onto another subsequent review within five years. The council agreed that a pen and ink change should be done to add some language around the process if this occurs and a faculty member returns on post-tenure review within five years of a previous review. Dr. Brooks will work on making the pen and ink change and sending out for review.

5. **Engaging Associate Deans for Academic Affairs** – Dr. Aswath presented the idea of creating a council for associate deans for academic affairs to meet once a month to discuss academic issues amongst their peers across colleges. After discussion, the deans were in agreement; this council would be chaired by Dr. Vedaraman Sriraman.
6. **Presidential Fellow Attending AAC Meetings** – Dr. Aswath asked the council if there were any objections to having the Presidential Fellow attend all AAC meetings; all were in agreement.
7. **FDL and National Fellowships i.e. Fulbright etc.** – Discussion was held amongst the council regarding strategies when encouraging faculty to apply for faculty development leaves, national fellowships, etc. Issues such as time between one leave and the next and consulting or getting approval from the chair/director and dean were discussed. Issues such as time between one leave and the next and consulting or getting approval from the chair/director and dean were discussed. There was extensive discussion on the challenge of supporting these fellowship applications and resolving the financial burden it places on units in many cases. It was agreed that faculty will continue to use the Fellowship Planning Tool to have the discussion with their leadership they are applying for a fellowship and allowing chairs and deans to discuss options with faculty. Further discussion is ongoing on the issue of time required between successful fellowships applications and the potential overlap with faculty development leave eligibility.
8. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Gary Ray provided the Council with an undergraduate admissions report. He mentioned that the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board requires two reports: 1) preliminary census day report; and 2) 20th class day report. As of this morning, there are 40,690 students registered in classes, including 62 students enrolled in courses that do not count for state funding. He also mentioned that as of September 9, the total headcount at the Round Rock Campus is 2,232.

Mr. Ray extended his thanks to everyone in the room for their efforts in helping meet and surpass TXST's enrollment goals.

9. **Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Andrea Golato also extended her thanks to everyone for their efforts in increasing graduate enrollment.

She announced that the application system is now accepting applications for the spring 2025 and fall 2025 semesters.

OFF AGENDA

Dr. Aswath announced that the final deadline for faculty and staff ineligible for merit due to training non-compliance is September 16.

Dr. Aswath briefly provided statistics on the recent instructional faculty appointments highlighting that 516 non-tenure line faculty members were moved to promotable lines. He reiterated the huge success this has been for non-tenure line faculty and now allows them to move into a promotable line. He stressed that we had a thorough review process and had allowed deans to request re-evaluation for cases they felt should be re-examined. This process has been completed, and all contracts issued. Faculty who are now in Assistant/Associate Professor of Instruction line can seek promotion via the standard promotion cycle in consultation with their academic unit leadership.

Dr. Sriraman reminded the group that any course transferred to TXST with a TCCN is automatically transferred and the student is granted credit with no need for additional review. Recently there have been questions about modality but regardless of the modality mismatch the Coordinating Board rule allows for the course to count as long as it has a TCCN attached to it. The question was asked in reference to certain labs in STEM classes and the potential impact for programmatic accreditation, but the requirement remains that these courses must be counted and transferred into our degree plans.

Dr. Sriraman also reminded the group that all of our programs have to abide by the 120-hour degree rule. He reiterated that no program can contain less nor more than 120 hours. All Texas State degrees must adhere to the 120-hour requirement.

Mr. Eric Algoe provided clarification on a recent faculty appointment issue regarding the new start date on contracts. He stressed that regardless of the contract start date, no one is making less money. The issue resolved around August and May now being $\frac{1}{2}$ month pay, but the overall 9-month salary is unchanged.