

**Joint Academic Affairs Council, Faculty Senate and Council of Chairs and Directors  
Meeting  
October 8, 2024  
Summary and Action Items**

1. **Connecting Deans with their Student Government Representatives** – Ms. Olivia Alexander and Mr. Donovan Brown briefly announced that for the first year each college will have specific representatives. Student Government will be contacting each dean in the near future to discuss.

They also announced that Student Government will be hosting the only San Marcos mayoral debate.

2. **Homecoming 2024** – Dr. Cynthia Hernandez provided the group with a preliminary event schedule for the San Marcos and Round Rock Campuses Homecoming week, which is November 11-16. A brief discussion was held.

Dr. Hernandez also had the following brief announcements:

- spring adoption for Booksmart has launched; in late July the University Bookstore was moved over to the Division of Student Success. They continue to receive feedback regarding Booksmart.
- the College Bell will expand its role and include new songs with a daily schedule
- the Dean's List Reception will be held during Family Weekend
- provided an update on student health and wellbeing
- provided an update on the Career Fair
- IAF – students who have a D, F or W in a general education course are being contacted

3. **Topics from the Faculty Senate** –

**Continuation of Tenure**

Could the Provost speak about his commitment to tenure lines in the coming years? The process for hiring FOI requires national searches, which seems very similar to the process for seeking and hiring tenure-track faculty. How does the Provost envision tenure as an enduring part of Texas State? Is he committed to tenure as an essential element of a viable institution of higher education?

The Provost & EVPAA reiterated the University's commitment to tenure at Texas State. There is no intent to make any changes to the Tenure process.

**Status report on Shared Governance Policy and personnel committees.**

As academic units develop their policies for promotion of Faculty of Instruction, they will need guidance on how to integrate FOI into the activities of the Personnel Committee. A policy on shared governance is in development, can you provide an update on the progress on that policy?

The Provost & EVPAA reinforced his and the University leadership commitment

to a strong shared governance model. A policy codifying this commitment and structure is currently in review with a sub-group of the Faculty Senate and the Provost's Office and will be sent out for full faculty review before the end of the year.

**Status report on schedule of revision of policies that include new faculty titles.**

Many policies will need to be modified to accommodate the new promotion eligible Faculty of Instruction. Can you provide a timeline and details about how those policies will be prioritized and addressed?

As policies are up for review edits are made that ensure the new Instructional Title Series is addressed. The Provost's Office is reviewing all policies, and submitting pen and ink changes, where necessary to ensure the new title series is identified where needed.

**Update on guidance being given to departments to assist in timely and equitable development of criteria for evaluation/promotion of FOI.**

Before academic units can develop policies for promotion of Faculty of Instruction, a University level policy needs to be in place. Can you provide a status report on the development of the University level policy on promotion of Faculty of Instruction?

A new NTL Promotion policy has been prepared and is currently being reviewed by the NTL committee. The Provost's Office will be incorporating the NTL committee's feedback into a draft to be sent out for full review before the end of the year.

**Recommendation**

We respectfully suggest on behalf of our non-tenure track faculty that either: 1) A "Faculty of Instruction" fellow be appointed in the Office of the Provost to assist in the development and modification of policies relating to "Faculty of Instruction", or, 2) An advisory group of "Faculty of Instruction" be constituted to assist.

The Provost has agreed to conduct separate NTL promotion workshops similar to the tenure-track/tenured workshops currently conducted. In addition, as previously stated, we are writing a new NTL promotion specific policy.

**4. Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Gary Ray provided the group with an undergraduate admissions report. Some key points highlighted are:

- The Office of Undergraduate Admissions will transition JCK in December
- Spring 2025, we are up 158% in freshman applications
- NSO for spring 2025 is Oct. 2 and advanced registration begins Oct. 23
- Another delay in FAFSA processing from October 1 to December 1
- Co-enrollment programs with Collin College, San Jacinto College, Lone Star College
- THECB has received a grant to support development of a direct admissions pathway and TXST will participate and accept first time freshmen ranked in top 35% of their high school class

**5. Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the group with a graduate admissions report. Some key points highlighted are:

- Currently there are three admissions cycles open
- 59 students have been accepted for an AOP
- There is an increase in international student applications; 92 more applications than year to date
- Upcoming recruitment events with Career Services (Texas Swing Grad Fair)
- R2R1 update: 29 Ph.D. students have applied for graduation; 7 students have scheduled their dissertation defenses

## **OFF AGENDA**

Dr. Aswath introduced Dr. Toni Sol as our Interim Vice Provost for Faculty Success.

Dr. Julie Lessiter provided a RRC update. She mentioned 356 applications for the fall 2025 semester have been received and of these 331 are incoming freshmen. There could be a freshmen class of 250-300 students therefore additional class sections in general education courses will be needed.

Dr. Heather Galloway announced that an email would be sent to deans soon regarding the upcoming Phi Kappa Phi Induction Ceremony. She also mentioned that the first installation of Phi Beta Kappa would be March 30, 2025.

Dr. Aswath provided a Provost Office update:

- Six new hires: 1) Vice Provost for Faculty Success 2) Vice Provost for Academic Success 3) Vice Provost for Academic Innovation 4) Assoc. Vice Provost for Institutional Accreditation and SACSCOC Liaison 5) Assistant/Associate Vice Provost for Academic Advising and Transitions 6) Chief of Staff
- upcoming projects: 1) Experiential Major Maps 2) Curricular Analytics 3) Center for Teaching and Learning 4) reimaging US 1100 5) developing policies and procedures for micro credentials 6) development of AI fluency into curriculum 7) MWF class scheduling