

Academic Affairs Budget Committee and Academic Affairs Council Meeting
November 19, 2024
Summary and Action Items

- **Budget Discussion** – Dr. Aswath announced that next year he will be transitioning to a budget discussion/hearing for the deans. He reviewed items that he would like for the deans to address during these discussions/hearings such as college strategic priorities, summary of enrollment trends and goals and five years of enrollment projections broken down by department/program. To assist the deans in planning for the future, he has asked the Office of Data, Analytics and Institutional Research to gather data to operationalize this. Dr. Aswath informed the Deans that the data they need to conduct their analysis and prepare for their budget discussion will be posted in CatStats and available to them prior to the Christmas Break. It will be a new report in CatStats labeled “Deans Budget Brief Data”. The Office of the Provost staff are available as a resource in assisting each Dean with gathering any required information. A template of the PPT brief the Provost wants each Dean to present will also be posted NLT Christmas Break. Each Dean will be required to schedule a time in the first two weeks of March to present their upcoming FY budget plan. These meetings will be open for anyone who would like attend.
- **Notification of Eligible Faculty for Promotion** – Ms. Lyndi Wittekiend discussed upcoming changes to the Tenure and Promotions calendar, which will require candidates to notify their department chair or school director, in writing, of their intent to apply for Tenure and/or Promotion by April 15. Currently, the calendar stipulates that this notification must be made by May 1.
- **Round Rock Campus Classes for Fall 2025** – Dr. Aswath mentioned that he is working with Dr. Julie Lessiter on planning for the fall 2025 semester. He distributed a handout of current course and section availability; he asks that the deans work with Dr. Lessiter to help meet the class section needs for the RRC with the upcoming fall 2025 enrollment.
- **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Gary Ray provided the Council with an undergraduate admissions report. Highlights are as follows:
 - current total headcount for spring 2025 is 31,818 with SCH at 397,433
 - 2nd Bobcat Day is scheduled for November 23 and there are currently 1,832 students registered
 - individual campus tours – 2,420 prospects have visited TXST, an increase of 566
 - special recruitment initiatives include:
 - AOP applications for spring 2025 – 227 applications and 142 admits
 - Collin College – 45 apps for spring 2025 and 193 apps for fall 2025
 - **Beginning Spring 2025:**
 - [Bachelor of Science \(BS\) in Computer Science](#)
 - [Bachelor of Science \(BS\) in Exercise and Sports Science \(Clinical Exercise Science Concentration\)](#)
 - **Beginning Fall 2025:**
 - [Bachelor of Science \(BS\) in Electrical Engineering \(Computer Engineering Concentration\)](#)
 - [Bachelor of Science \(BS\) in Engineering Technology \(Electrical Engineering Technology Concentration\)](#)
 - RRC – spring 2025 – 309 apps | summer 25 – 31 apps | fall 2025 – 1,004 apps

- Bats to Cats –163 participants have submitted declaration forms to date
 - Lee College MOU in final stages
 - Tarrant Community College MOU – public signing set for February 17, 2025
 - Dallas College – partnership in progress
 - TXST Mexico Team visiting campus this week
- **Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report. Highlights are as follows:
 - increase in doctoral and master’s applications; increase in acceptances; increase in the number of new registered students for the spring semester
 - The Graduate College continues to offer weekly information sessions and events and will continue for the spring semester
 - R2R1 update – 28 doctoral students have applied for graduation with 22 of them already having their dissertation defense scheduled or have already defended
 - **Fall Break, Energy Conservation Days and Day Before Thanksgiving** – Dr. Aswath provided the following updates:
 1. Fall break – President’s Cabinet has agreed to start the fall semester a few days earlier to provide a break for our faculty, staff, and students during the semester, aligning with practices at other universities. Two options were discussed:
 - Option A: Start on Wednesday, August 20. This would allow the entire week of Thanksgiving to be taken off, as we currently close on Thursday and Friday. Starting three days earlier would give everyone Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday off as well.
 - Option B: Start on Thursday, August 21. This approach would allow for a true mid-semester break on October 16 and 17

The Calendar Committee is reviewing these options, and a final decision will be made soon.

2. Energy Conservation Days (December 23 and January 2 and 3) – President’s Cabinet members agreed that staff working in designated essential offices may work remotely on these days if feasible, at the discretion of their divisional Vice President. Dr. Aswath approves for essential offices in Academic Affairs along with the day before Thanksgiving.
- **Windows 11 Upgrade** – Dr. Aswath reminded the Council of the mandate of upgrading all computers to Windows 11 by October 14, 2025. Discussion was had about using both this and next year’s CRP allocations to assist in replacing all the computers that will need to be upgraded.

OFF AGENDA

Dr. Aswath asked the deans to discuss with their units the interest of having Coursera available to all of campus. This would need to be a major adoption across all colleges. He asked the deans to send him their comments once visiting with their units.