

Academic Affairs Council Meeting
January 9, 2024
Summary and Action Items

1. **Update on 125th Year Celebration** – Ms. Holly Hirsch provided the Council with an update on the upcoming TXST 125th year celebration. The celebration will be bookended by the May 2024 and December 2024 commencements. Ms. Hirsch asked that all the deans submit one or two names to her to serve as communication contacts for their respective college to disseminate information regarding the celebration. There will be a few signature events as well as recognition within existing events and plans. All departments and colleges are encouraged to incorporate the anniversary into their activities and communications as appropriate.

2. **New Academic Programming** – Dr. Vedaraman Sriraman, Dr. Jeff Housman, and Dr. Michael Supancic discussed efforts to streamline curriculum processes and a pilot for approving existing programs to be offered via TXST Global and/or at the Round Rock Campus in fall 2024. A review is underway regarding the number of curriculum cycles per year and the size and agenda protocol for University Curriculum Committee.

To ensure cross-division collaboration, college deans were asked to include Dr. Sriraman and Dr. Housman on communications with TXST Global and the Round Rock Campus regarding academic programs. Dr. Sriraman reported the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is progressing quickly on its review of two doctoral proposals submitted in early fall 2023 (DBA and PhD, Civil Engineering).

3. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Gary Ray provided the Council with an undergraduate admissions report.

Mr. Ray reported that the delayed release of the updated FAFSA has created issues for students trying to access and complete the form online. Despite those problems, the U.S. Department of Education said more than a million applicants have successfully submitted the form – and that the FAFSA is now available 24 hours a day.

Key Spring 2024 Registration Dates

- December 1 Spring bills posted
- January 6 Financial Aid and Scholarships posted
- January 11 Payment deadline for spring 2024: registration system goes down at 3:45 p.m.
- January 12 Students dropped for non-payment.
- January 13 Registration system goes up at 8:00 a.m.
- January 16 First day of spring classes
- January 24 Last day to add a class – w/o Department Chair approvals.
- Jan 25-31 Department Chair approval is needed to add/register.
- January 31 Census Day

Spring 2024 Financial Aid and Scholarships

The initial disbursement of financial aid and scholarships for spring 2024 includes over \$159M in aid; an increase of \$12.9M (8.8%) compared with last spring. This aid was made available on student accounts via Student Business Services for 22,646 students: an increase of 1,036 (4.8%).

Spring Registration Count – 23 days till Spring Census Day (As of 1/8/2024)

	Spring 2023	Spring 2024	Difference	Final Spring 2023
Undergraduate	30,260	31,087	827 or 2.7%	30,713
Graduate	3,726	3,650	(-76) or (-2%)	3,735
Total Enrollment	33,986	34,737	781 or 2.2%	34,448
Total Credit Hours	403,453	426,616	23,163 or 5.7%	412,512

Spring 2024 Undergraduate Applications – The Apply Texas application system shows the following trends for spring 2024 – Statewide, applications are up 4% for FTICs and down 2% for new transfer students. Statewide applications are up 4% for international first-year students and up 12% for international transfer students.

Spring 2024	9-Jan 2023	8-Jan 2024	Diff	%
Week	2	2		
Freshmen apps	875	1,267	392	45%
Freshmen admits	373	548	175	47%
Transfer apps	1,969	1,923	(46)	(2%)
Transfer admits	1,354	1,307	(47)	(3%)

Fall 2024 Undergraduate Applications

TXST new first-year fall 2024 applications are running 7% ahead and admits are up 10%. The numbers do not reflect any additional Common applications that must be manually entered. Last week, the number of new FTIC apps exceeded the same week the previous year. (1,121 vs. 892)

Fall 2024 Undergraduate Merit Offers

	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	Difference
FTIC Offers	5,628	9,318	+3,690 or 65%
FTIC Accepts	1,136	2,057	+921 or 81%
Transfer Offers	177	154	(23) or -12.9%
Transfer Accepts	52	26	(26) or -50%

Spring 2024 occupancy in the residence hall is at 105%. Fall 2024 housing is up 3%; TXST has received 1,809 housing applications.

4. Graduate Admissions Report – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report. For spring 2024, overall graduate enrollment is down by 2%, due to declines in continuing master’s students.

New doctoral students: 18 (+4 in comparison to spring 2023)

New master’s students: 345 (+39 in comparison to spring 2023)

Dr. Golato and her team continue working with a scholarship optimization consulting firm on how to design and allocate scholarships to have the greatest positive effect on graduate student enrollments and success. The Council discussed whether students enrolled in TXST Global programs would be eligible to receive merit scholarships. Additional clarification is requested.

OFF AGENDA

- Regarding the call for weekly updates to The Texas State University System, Dr. Bourgeois clarified that submissions should be focused on significant and strategic issues, awards, or concerns.
- Dr. Cynthia Hernandez noted the division of Student Success is piloting a new academic recovery program in fall 2024, with full implementation in spring 2025. The division is reviewing policies, data sources, and best practices in academic recovery. Faculty are encouraged to submit initial academic feedback when requested each semester, as this feedback is critical to providing early support to students.