

**Academic Affairs Council Meeting
January 23, 2024
Summary and Action Items**

1. **Recommend Change in Scheduled ITAC Updates** – Dr. Angela Ausbrooks shared information from her recent meeting with Mr. Matt Hall, VP for Information Technology. The Council agreed that they would share their issues/concerns with Dr. Ausbrooks, who will aggregate them for Mr. Hall.

2. **AA/PPS 04.01.26, Faculty of Instruction Appointments** – Dr. Debbie Thorne reminded the Council that AA/PPS 04.01.26 has been completed and was effective December 18, 2023. Academic units are encouraged to use the template provided by the Provost’s Office in setting the guidelines for initial faculty appointments at assistant professor, associate professor, and professor of instruction. Guidelines must include all qualifications noted in AA/PPS 04.01.26 and demonstrate increasing rigor for appointments at the associate professor and professor rank.

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

Spring Registration Count – 10 days until spring Census Day (as of 1/21/2024)

| | Spring 2023 | Spring 2024 | Y2D Difference | Final Spring 2023 | Y2Census Difference | Spring Record |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Undergraduate | 30,754 | *31,710 | 956 or 3.1% | 30,713 | +997 or 3.2% | 2017 (31,339) |
| Graduate | 3,744 | 3,680 | (-64) or (-1.7%) | 3,735 | (-55) or (1.4%) | 2017 (3,992) |
| Total Enrollment | 34,498 | 35,390 | 892 or 2.6% | 34,448 | 942 or 2.7% | 2017 (35,845) |
| Total Credit Hours | 414,924 | *439,492 | 24,568 or 5.9% | 412,512 | 26,980 or 6.5% | 2017 (431,724) |

**New spring semester record is possible*

Fall 2024 Undergraduate Merit Offers

To offset the delay of the FAFSA, TXST started awarding merit offers in October 2023.

| | Fall 2023 | Fall 2024 | Difference |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|
| FTIC Offers | 7,158 | 10,017 | +2,859 or 39.9% |
| FTIC Accepts | 1,534 | 2,336 | +802 or 52% |
| TRF Offers | 269 | 224 | (45) or (16.7%) |
| TRF Accepts | 72 | 43 | (29) or (40.2%) |

Bobcat Days will be held on February 17, 2024 and April 20, 2024. Colleges and departments are asked to encourage participation in these important recruiting events.

4. **Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report. For spring 2024, overall graduate enrollment is down 1.6% while graduate SCH increased by 1.2% over spring 2023.

For fall 2024, applications are trending up for both master’s and doctoral programs. Dr. Golato encouraged programs to make admissions decisions as quickly as possible since most prospective students accept the first offers they receive.

Dr. Golato announced the Commission on the Run to R1 will be directing unspent funds originally allocated for hiring post-docs to dissertation completion fellowships (\$30,000 plus tuition costs, not fees). More information is forthcoming on the application process.

Dr. Golato provided an update on the scholarship optimization process with Enrollment Research, including a plan to be vetted by the Provost and the VPFSS. Discussion was held amongst the Council about whether merit scholarships will be offered to students enrolled in online programs. Dr. Thilla Sivakumaran will be asked to attend a future meeting for discussion and clarification.