

**Academic Affairs Council Meeting**  
**February 6, 2024**  
**Summary and Action Items**

1. **Provost Introduction** – Dr. Pranesh Aswath introduced himself to the Council and asked all Council members to introduce themselves and the areas they represent.

2. **Faculty Hiring** – Dr. Aswath asked the deans to develop a college faculty hiring plan for 2024-2025, which should include expected vacant faculty positions, recommendations for utilizing these positions, expected salary, start-up funds requirements, and office/research space requirements. The plan is due by the end of March 2024 and the Provost's Office will provide a plan template.

3. **Undergraduate Education at Research Universities (UERU)** – Dr. Aswath announced that TXST will be joining the Association for Undergraduate Education at Research Universities, which is a consortium of 70 institutions focused on research and the theory and practice of undergraduate education. He is interested in engaging TXST in the Curricular Analytics Project to reduce curricular complexity and enhance student success and graduation outcomes. He also mentioned the importance of close collaboration between the divisions of Academic Affairs, Student Success, and TXST Global.

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

- Jim Black from SEM Works is currently on campus meeting with various constituents to develop a strategic enrollment plan.
- Summer 2024 and fall 2024 class schedules will go live on February 14, 2024, with registration beginning April 1, 2024.
- For spring 2024, TXST set several enrollment records: Total spring enrollment (35,378; 3% increase); total spring undergraduate enrollment (31,704; 3% increase); and total SCH (437,040; 6% increase).
- There was a 93% persistence rate for FTIC students who started fall 2023 and continued to spring 2024.
- TXST has received 38,000 undergraduate applications for the fall 2024 semester. Applications have increased by 6%; admissions have increased by 8%.

5. **Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report.

- For summer 2024, applications and admissions have increased for master's programs.
- For the fall 2024 semester, applications and admissions to doctoral and master's programs have increased.
- At a minimum, The Graduate College holds two recruiting events per week.
- Dr. Aswath asked about TXST's history of accepting three-year baccalaureate degrees for graduate admission and developing fast-track/accelerated master's degrees for qualified undergraduate students.

## **OFF AGENDA**

- Dr. Vedaraman Sriraman asked the deans to convey to their department chairs/school directors the importance of communicating early with other units that may have an interest or concern about new course and/or program proposals. Discussion and resolution should take place prior to submissions in the online curriculum management system (PIM and CIM).
- Due to implementation issues with the federal FAFSA system, Mr. Ray announced the communication of financial aid awards to students will be in late March or early April. Mr. Ray indicated TXST is looking at a new family income eligibility level for the Bobcat Promise program and asked the deans to encourage academic units awarding non-need-based funds to notify students as soon as possible.
- Dr. Debbie Thorne and Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with an update on the faculty and graduate assistants who will be paid on the February 12, 2024 off-cycle payroll. PCR's received by Human Resources after the stated monthly deadline are not guaranteed for payment on the first day of the month.