

Academic Affairs Council Meeting
March 19, 2024
Summary and Action Items

1. **Position Description Updates in PeopleAdmin** – Ms. Carole Clerie explained the recent announcement regarding the new position descriptions feature in PeopleAdmin. The feature allows descriptions at the position or incumbent level, creates a repository of duties, responsibilities, and requirements of each position, and provides data for compensation studies. The request is for all hiring managers to update the accuracy of their staff positions by May 31, 2024. This feature will ensure that each position is in its appropriate job title and classification and is compensated appropriately in the forthcoming compensation structure.

2. **FTIC Student Schedules** – Dr. Kambra Bolch introduced the Council to the First-Year New Bobcat Advising overview and strategy. She distributed a handout outlining each step for first-year students to receiving academic advising services and support. At the end of April, academic advisors will begin registering new students for fall 2024, including advisors employed in college advising centers. Academic advising will be engaged in several facets of New Student Orientation, which is now managed by the division of Student Success.

3. **Phi Beta Kappa Founding Members** – Dr. Heather Galloway announced that the final vote for TXST’s acceptance to Phi Beta Kappa will be August 1-2, 2024. If TXST is accepted, we would be able to invite founding members to join TXST’s new chapter. Any suggestions on founding members can be sent directly to Dr. Galloway.

4. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Beverly Woodson Day provided the Council with an undergraduate admissions report. Freshman and transfer applications and acceptances for fall 2024 have increased over last year. Dr. Woodson Day indicated that TXST could surpass 44,000 fall 2024 applications for freshmen and transfer students. Registration for fall 2024 New Student Orientation is trending upward.

Dr. Woodson Day also gave a brief FAFSA update. TXST will begin uploading students into Banner on April 1, 2024, pending a software patch to be installed into Banner.

She reminded the Council that Bobcat Day is scheduled for April 20, 2024 and the Discover TXST Round Rock is scheduled for April 6, 2024.

5. **Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report. For the summer 2024 semester, she reported applications and acceptances have increased over summer 2023. She reminded everyone that the surge in applications last year was due to the Run to R1 initiative and funding.

She reported that we are up 92 in doctoral applications and up in master’s applications and acceptances. We are still receiving a good number of applications every week.

She provided the Council with an update on the Run to R1 Ph.D. production. Currently, there are 45 PhD/EdD candidates for spring 2024 graduation. She asked the deans to remind their students to schedule their dissertation defenses. She also reiterated that 25 students will receive the dissertation completion fellowship which is a \$30,000 stipend to finish their Ph.D. by May 2025.

OFF AGENDA

Dr. Aswath announced that he has been working with Mr. Algeo on the issue of start dates for new faculty hires as well to improve efficiency regarding PCRs.

Dr. Sriraman announced that four doctoral programs are set to be added to the April 2024 or July 2024 Coordinating Board agenda: 1) Ph.D. in Civil Engineering; 2) Ph.D. in Integrated Molecular and Biophysical Chemistry; 3) Doctorate of Business Administration; and 4) Ph.D. in Mathematics.

Dr. Aswath mentioned the importance of providing a strong justification for travel to countries with U.S. Department of State advisories.

Questions and answers were provided for the faculty hiring plan project. The goal of the project is to create more strategic thinking about faculty resources available within each college. Colleges are asked to prioritize both replacement and new faculty positions, including justifications for these positions.