

Academic Affairs Council Meeting
April 2, 2024
Summary and Action Items

1. **Agenda items submitted by Faculty Senate** – Dr. Aswath addressed questions submitted by the Faculty Senate:

What is the new plan for vacant faculty positions as we move to the RCM model? When will the policy on this ([AA/PPS 04.01.01](#), section 03.02) change? Dr. Aswath provided a brief explanation of the basic structure of a RCM budget model, including new opportunities for colleges to have more discretion in allocating faculty positions. Until the model is in place, Academic Affairs will use an annual faculty hiring plan process to make decisions about faculty positions.

What kind of transparency will exist regarding projected faculty lines from deans? What data are deans and chairs using to make projections and do they have enough information to reasonably make them? Dr. Aswath explained that the RCM model is far more transparent than the current process in place. Data for decision-making, as well as additional education on the RCM budget model, will be provided to deans, department chairs/school directors, and other interested parties by the Office of the Executive Vice President for Operations and Chief Financial Officer.

When we switch to the RCM model, what training and resources will deans receive to prepare for and effectively perform their new responsibilities? Dr. Aswath explained the importance of shared governance in this process and announced that committees and subcommittees are being formed consisting of different stakeholders across campus. There will also be training opportunities at the appropriate time.

When will the new shared governance policy go out for review and be published? Will it include the PC guidelines approved previously by the FS, CoC, and AAC? Dr. Debbie Thorne announced that the policy is in the works and asked for volunteers to serve on a small working group to assist in the completion of this policy. The policy is relatively broad and focuses on the ways in which faculty have opportunity to engage in governance activities.

When will the NLF promotion policy go out for review and be published? Dr. Thorne mentioned there is a draft policy available and she is working with Dr. Aswath and others to finalize the AA/PPS. Right now, the Office of the Provost is focused on policies, processes, and implementation of the new instructional title series.

When will raises be announced for Faculty of Instruction conversions? Dr. Aswath noted the university is currently engaged in discussions and budget review to make final decisions on the salary adjustments for current faculty who transition to the associate professor of instruction and professor of instruction rank. The university recognizes the importance of the new title series to hundreds of faculty at TXST.

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

- Mr. Ray provided an update on the national FAFSA delay.
- He announced this week’s launch of the ZEEMEE Platform, a new student engagement platform whose goal is to create early engagement with admitted students, peer-to-peer connections and drive additional updates on FAFSA awarding.
- He announced that class registration for summer and fall 2024 semesters began April 1.
- Currently, there are 2,220 students registered for the upcoming April 20 Bobcat Day
- To date, there are 156 students registered to attend the Discover TXST Round Rock event set for April 6.
- TXST new first-year fall 2024 applications are running 5% ahead and admits are up 3%.
- Dr. Cynthia Hernandez announced that the deadline for full refunds for students who have pre-paid for their residence hall has been extended to June 1 due to the FAFSA delay.
- Dr. Hernandez also announced that we have received about 5,200 housing applications, which is down about 150 from last year; the residence hall preference system opened yesterday.

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

For summer 2024:

- Communications have been sent to graduate students regarding FAFSA
- The number of Ph.D. program applicants has declined over last year due to the R2R1 initiative last year

For fall 2024:

- Registration is now open so please encourage students to register
- This is Graduate Student Appreciation Week
- Dr. Golato provided a detailed update on the status of our Ph.D. production in our R2R1 initiative.

4. **Presentation by Curricular Analytics** – Dr. Aswath introduced guests who are leading efforts to assist universities in visualizing curricula, analyzing degree plans, and understanding their impact on student progress and success. Dr. Aswath is interested in bringing this approach to TXST.