

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

1. **Microsoft Licensing Changes Impact to Faculty Retirees and Deans** – Mr. Ben Rogers discussed the decision factors for TXST’S Microsoft software licensing for staff and faculty retirees. IT’s recommendation is retirees maintain the ability to use the software online but not be able to download a desktop version. This would save \$67,000 per year and retirees may purchase the license individually for \$70/year. The Council discussed several concerns and asked for additional consideration for retirees who use the software to maintain active scholarly projects, including working with graduate students. Mr. Rogers will return to the council with alternatives.
2. **Student Assessment of Teaching** – Provost Aswath shared the requirement that every organized class taught in fall, spring, and summer should be assessed using the department/college student evaluation of teaching instrument. Faculty may not choose to have specific classes evaluated (or not). All undergraduate lecture and seminar classes are also assessed via the Student Perceptions of Instruction (SPI) instrument to meet state law via HB 2504. Dr. Matt Brooks will edit sections of AA/PPS 02.03.01, Conduct and Planning of Classes, to ensure clarity. Departments/schools are encouraged to use the university’s electronic system, Course Evaluations and Surveys (CES) by Watermark, supported by ITAC.
3. **T&P Notification Timeline** – Dean John Fleming raised concerns about the amount of time departments chairs/school directors have to secure external reviewers for tenure and promotion letters and proposed an earlier deadline for faculty to declare their intent to apply for tenure and/or promotion (tenure is compelled). The Council concluded each academic unit could use an earlier internal deadline than the university’s deadline of June 1 each academic year. Disciplines may face unique challenges in securing letters from external reviewers.
4. **Online Sections for Undergraduate Classes** – The Council discussed the current requirement for deans to approve new online sections of undergraduate classes (Registrar process). Provost Aswath reiterated the importance of maintaining face to face options, especially in departments without fully online programs and in general education courses and other highly subscribed courses.
5. **Undergraduate Admissions Report** – Mr. Gary Ray provided the Council with an undergraduate admissions report. He shared highlights from undergraduate admissions activities and registration.
 - TXST has received 51,406 undergraduate applications – a 3% or 1,506 increase over last year’s final application count.
 - 2024 FTIC NSO registration numbers have surpassed the final 2023 registration count by 146 or 2% (8,883 vs. 8,737).

- 8,883 FTIC have registered – 337 withdraws = 8,546 remain active). (668 total withdrawals 2023)
- Transfer NSO registration numbers 2,515 – 43 WDs = 2,410 remaining active (76 total WDs in 2023)
- Students who experience challenges related to Hurricane Beryl may reschedule to attend an NSO session later this month.

Fall Registration Update as of July 8, 2024: 65 days until fall census day (Final 2023 - 38,722)

Fall Registration	2023	2024	Difference	Percentage
Total Registered	31,947	34,353	2,406	7.5%
Undergraduates	28,615	30,879	2,282	8%
Graduate	3,332	3,456	124	3.7%
Credit hours	389,063	426,582	37,519	9.6%

FTIC NSO Registration by FTIC Class Rank

	2023	2024	Difference	Percentage
Top 25%	3,347	3,635	288	8.6%
Second Quarter	3,084	3,204	120	4%
Third Quarter	1,752	1,936	184	11%
Four Quarter	54	40	(-14)	(-26%)
Non-Rank	0	2	2	0
Total	8,237	8,817	580	7%

Undergraduate Fall 2024 Merit Offers, As of July 8, 2024

	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	Difference
FTIC Offers	10,171	12,179	13,541	+1,362 or 11.1%
FTIC Accepts	3,567	4,049	4,920	+871 or 21.5%
TRF Offers	1,480	1,371	1,455	84 or 6.1%
TRF Accepts	628	650	675	25 or 3.8%

6. **Graduate Admissions Report** – Dr. Andrea Golato provided the Council with a graduate admissions report. She reported that we are up in overall graduate student enrollment, new master’s students, new doctoral students, continuing doctoral students, but we are lagging behind in continuing master’s students.

She also provided a R2R1 update noting that 25 doctoral students have recently applied to graduate and of those 21 have already defended or have scheduled their dissertation defense.

OFF AGENDA

Provost Aswath recognized Dr. Debbie Thorne for her service as Senior Vice Provost and wished her well on the ACE Fellowship at the University of North Carolina Charlotte, which begins August 2024. He reminded the Council about the reception at 4:00 pm for Dr. Thorne. Dr. Vedaraman Sriraman has been named the Senior Vice Provost for Academic Planning, Policy, and Budgets.

Provost Aswath discussed the due date for his direct reports to submit attestation statements regarding SB17. The statements should include a brief description of what actions were taken to ensure compliance (e.g., reviewed policies, reviewed websites, etc). The Council discussed TSUS guidance on SB17 available on the [General Counsel webpage](#).

Provost Aswath will soon authorize a microcredentials community of practice to ensure consistent definitions, standards, record-keeping, and other protocols for TXST microcredential offerings. Each college is asked to nominate one person to the committee, which will commence in fall 2024. Deans should send the names to Ms. Stacey Rodriguez. TXST Global signed an agreement with EdNet, which offers microcredentials taught by third parties.

Provost Aswath shared the university's organizational structure, which includes two executive vice presidents as spheres of influence for operations and academics (Algoe and Aswath) with vice presidents. He shared the proposed structure of the Office of the Provost, including a chief of staff and vice provost positions. The Provost structure is still being vetted.

Dr. Lisa Lloyd discussed the importance of maintaining momentum for the Round Rock Campus initiative, including course availability in spring 2025 semester. Academic units are in early stages of developing the spring 2025 schedule; the schedule goes live on September 13, 2024 and students begin registering October 2024.

Several members of the Council asked about the next reception for faculty authors. Special Projects handles presidential events for faculty and Dr. Lisa Lloyd will check into the question.

Provost Aswath proposed an electronic resource for all new tenure-track/tenured faculty hired for FY25, including their professional photos, 50-word description of research, and degrees earned. Dr. Lisa Lloyd will ask Ms. Sandy Pantlik to shepherd the project.

Provost Aswath indicated he continues to review the college hiring plan proposals.