

To: President's Cabinet  
From: Denise M. Trauth  
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting  
Minutes, February 24, 2014

### **Board of Regents' Review (#500)**

Cabinet members reviewed Texas State items on the agenda for the February 2014 Board of Regents' meeting in Beaumont with Faculty Senate Chair Michele Conroy, Staff Council Chair Janell Pemberton, ASG President Vanessa Cortez, and Mr. Jayme Blaschke.

### **Board of Regents News Release (#626)**

Mr. Jayme Blaschke discussed the Board of Regents' Meeting news release. Cabinet members agreed that since several major events are occurring during the same week (the Dedication and grand opening activities for the Performing Arts Center and the conclusion of the Pride in Action Campaign), we will not issue a Board of Regents' Meeting news release. However, the Board's action approving plans for utility construction will complete plans for the Bobcat Trail project, so Mr. Blaschke will prepare a release providing a big picture overview of overall Bobcat Trail projects to be issued in two or three weeks. Shortly after the Board meeting, he will also issue a local news release to Round Rock media about the new undergraduate General Studies degree program to be offered on the Round Rock Campus.

President Trauth noted that in the last few days some news releases have reported on relatively small gifts, with significantly larger gifts not leading to news releases. She asked for future Cabinet discussion about ways to assure that news releases reflect the University's major areas of emphasis.

### **RTA 3/17/14 Developing Improved Strategies for News Stories about Texas State** **Discuss developing improved strategies for news stories about Texas State.**

### **Commencement (#143)**

Provost Bourgeois and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Debbie Thorne discussed possible transportation changes for future commencement ceremonies. Cabinet members offered suggestions on the proposed options. Dr. Thorne will continue discussions with the transportation sub-committee of alternatives for additional improvements for off-campus guests. Dr. Teis noted that Athletics will be seeking external advice on football game options during overpass construction, and he could seek advice related to commencement as part of this review. Cabinet members agreed that we should implement several steps immediately: a vehicle id system for platform party members, an emergency help telephone number for platform party members, early employee release at 4:00 p.m. (using comp time) at the option of individual department heads, and a JCK back parking lot contraflow plan whenever a 6:00 p.m. ceremony is scheduled on a work day.

### **Texas State Videos for Televised 2014-2015 Athletic Games (#699)**

Provost Bourgeois noted that he shared the sample line drawing concept with Cabinet members. Cabinet members endorsed this approach, coupled with images and voice over scripts. Dr. Teis reported that we are adding seven baseball games to the Austin television contract, providing more opportunities for use of videos. Dr. Michael Heintze shared possible talking points. Dr. Breier noted that some talking points have not been effective with alumni audiences, such as: graduation rate information and the emerging research university label. Cabinet members offered several ideas, summarized by Dr. Heintze as information about total enrollment, location, academic programs, geographical diversity, and the retention rate/student organizations. The notion of how Texas State reflects the "New Texas" was also suggested. Dr. Heintze will continue his work developing both short (30 second) and long (60 second) sample scripts.

**RTA 4/7/14 Review sample scripts for 2014-2015 videos.**

### **Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) (#607)**

President Trauth reported that she spoke with Chancellor Brian McCall about Exceptional Items, and they agreed that we will not submit an exceptional Item request related to Hazlewood costs. Mr. Nance reported that at the last TASCUBO meeting, former legislator Tommy Williams suggested that higher education should move from a focus on the funding mechanism (Tuition Revenue Bonds) to a focus only on the need for facilities, leaving the funding mechanism to the Legislature. Cabinet members agreed that our two highest priority Exceptional Item Requests for the 84<sup>th</sup> Session would continue to be the Engineering and Science Building and Health Professions Building #1, and we now need to determine the next highest priority for Exceptional Items. Cabinet members suggested that STAR Park, and/or the operating expenses for equipment associated with materials science laboratories might be appropriate. Vice Chancellor Sean Cunningham has indicated that he and other System staff members are ready to begin meeting with System Presidents and their staffs about legislative priorities after the February 2014 Board meeting. President Trauth asked Dr. Gratz to work with Vice Chancellor Cunningham to schedule a Cabinet visit by TSUS staff members Sean Cunningham, Mike Wintemute, and Daniel Harper as soon as possible.

### **Establish Institutional Committees for Alcohol and Drug and Mental Health**

Dr. Smith reported that after reviewing findings from two task forces addressing alcohol and drug and mental health, she recommends that Texas State establish two ongoing (standing) committees as part of the Roster of Councils, Committees, and Teams in the Division of Student Affairs to begin the implementation of the recommendations from these task forces. Dr. Smith agreed to prepare charges for these cross-divisional committees and to review the membership of these committees. Cabinet members endorsed this recommendation, and President Trauth approved.

**President's Update (#556)**

President Trauth reported on ongoing discussions related to items to be considered at the Board meeting.

**Significant Issues (#01)**

Provost Bourgeois reported that he has received a request from Dr. Heintze to change the name of the Office of the Registrar to the Office of the University Registrar. Cabinet members agreed, and President Trauth approved.

Mr. Nance reported that Ms. Nancy Nusbaum had received a call from a project manager on a new apartment complex indicating that they were including a bus loop in their project. She explained that our policy is not to add new bus stops at future developments.

Mr. Nance reported that they System Office has sent newspaper clippings reporting that the University of North Texas recently dismissed their three highest fiscal officers.

Dr. Breier reported that the February 28, 2014, Pride in Action celebration will be a great event, with a full house. She noted that University Advancement has reached out to New Orleans area alumni and is currently exploring the possibility of a small reception that may not be directly associated with the Sun Belt basketball tournament.

Dr. Wyatt reported that his area is continuing to work on the approaching Windows XP deadline that will affect about 700 of Texas State's 16,000 computers. He indicated that only 300 of these computers are associated with specific active names, suggesting that others are already in storage or not in active use. Information Technology staff members are reaching out to faculty members to solve individual problems.

Dr. Smith shared a working draft for the spring Family Day scheduled for April 5, 2014. Dr. Smith reported that the February 21-22, 2014, Leadership Institute Annual Conference went extremely well with over 300 students participating, many schools from across Texas attending, and San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro providing the keynote address. Dr. Smith noted that a Greek Step Show will be held on February 28, 2014.

Dr. Teis noted that this will be a very busy week with 12 scheduled athletic events.

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Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on May 30, 2014.