

To: President's Cabinet  
From: Denise M. Trauth  
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting  
November 12, 2014

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

Dr. Debbie Thorne reviewed her memo of November 10, 2014, detailing the action plan for the December 2014 commencement ceremonies. Cabinet approved the plan, including the early release of staff on Friday, December 12, 2014, beginning at 3:00 p.m. in order to reduce traffic congestion on Aquarena Springs Drive around Strahan Coliseum. The back JCK parking lot will again be changed to a "contraflow" process to require exit to the south and under the walkway at the rear of the building. This will also begin at 3:00 p.m.

### **Graduate Student Employment Issues (#706)**

Dean Andrea Golato and Mr. Nance reviewed a handout consisting of a matrix of graduate and undergraduate, student job titles and the attributes for each pertaining to federal Department of Labor (DOL) rules and State of Texas statutes relative to employee benefits. Graduate Teaching Assistants, Graduate Instructional Assistants, and Graduate Research Assistants meeting the DOL rules for exempt status will continue to be exempt from FLSA wage and overtime rules. A new graduate student job title of Graduate Assistant is to be created. All graduate student employees not meeting the DOL rules will carry this title beginning in January 2015. Students holding the new Graduate Assistant title could be determined to be exempt under DOL rules based on their job duties just like any regular, full-time employee. Human Resources will conduct a job audit on any Graduate Assistant position requested by a Vice President for this determination. Those Graduate Assistant positions not meeting the DOL rules will be non-exempt and subject to wage and overtime regulations. In order to determine compliance with those rules, these non-exempt Graduate Assistant employees must track their work hours. President's Cabinet endorsed these new procedures.

### **Board of Regents Follow-Up (#57)**

Mr. Nance reviewed the summary of actions taken by the Board of Regents at their November 2014 meeting in Beaumont.

### **Chancellor's Meeting with the Presidents Follow-Up (#623)**

President Trauth reviewed the items discussed in the quarterly meeting between the System Presidents and Chancellor Brian McCall. The System Office is attempting to secure a System-wide contract rate with the Educational Advisory Board for all components. System-wide contracts for Library subscription services was also discussed. The System Office is reviewing the possibility of purchasing a building in Austin. The System has created a new teaching award. This year, Provost Bourgeois will make the nomination for Texas State because of the short time

line provided. He will then develop a process for determining nominees from Texas State in future years.

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

Dr. Trauth asked Mr. Nance to make our consultants studying the feasibility of a hotel/conference center on University property aware of a proposal to build a "boutique hotel" at the corner of Hopkins and C. M. Allen.

Dr. Trauth reported on the meetings of the Sun Belt Conference reporting that Dr. Mark Emmert, NCAA President, attended. President Emmert noted that a new lawsuit is being filed seeking minimum wage compensation for all student athletes naming the NCAA as well as all Division I universities. Plaintiffs' attorneys appear to be playing a key role in this process. Vice Chancellor Fernando Gomez has referred this case to the Attorney General's office for representation of affected universities.

President Trauth reported that she attended an event where St. David's Foundation Chief Executive Officer Earl Maxwell was honored. A Texas State alumna, Ms. Samantha Johnson, was a student speaker at the event.

### **Significant Issues (#01)**

Mr. Nance reported that Preservation Texas will be presenting another award to the Old Main Renovation project in Houston in November 2014.

Dr. Teis reminded Cabinet members that if the volleyball team wins their game on November 14, 2014, Coach Chisum could earn her 800<sup>th</sup> career victory.

### **Spring Registration (#38)**

Provost Bourgeois reported that registration for the spring 2015 semester is currently up 2.82 percent in semester credit hours. He also noted that graduates of the St. David's School of Nursing had the highest pass rate in the state for first-time graduates (98.98 percent).

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Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on December 9, 2014.