

To: President's Cabinet
From: Denise M. Trauth
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting
August 31, 2020

Impact of COVID-19 (#770)

Guest Dr. Emilio Carranco provided an update on the COVID-19 situation and the strategies in play to mitigate the spread. The COVID-19 situation is steadily improving statewide as well as in local counties. The COVID-19 case counts, fatalities, positivity rates, and hospitalizations continue to decrease. As expected, positive case counts on the Texas State University campuses have increased with the start of the school year. However, the case counts are low compared to universities similar to Texas State in size. Since the start of the pandemic, there has been no evidence of on-campus transmission. As of August 31, 2020, 57 students have been identified for isolation or quarantine. Currently, six students are in isolation and 19 are in quarantine on the San Marcos Campus. Texas State has the capacity to isolate 42 students and quarantine 130 students.

The Student Health Center has employed and trained eight contact tracers and is in the process of hiring and training more contact tracers.

Cabinet members discussed adding more information to the dashboard, including a definition of active cases as well as the number of active cases per day. Dr. Carranco proposed using a time-based strategy of 10 days after the beginning of the isolation period, as determined by a contact tracer, to move an active case to a recovered case. Cabinet members approved.

Dr. Carranco noted that for every positive test result, contact tracing will likely lead to at least two people needing to be quarantined.

Dr. Carranco addressed staffing needs to adequately provide dining services to students in isolation/quarantine.

Dr. Carranco clarified the costs associated with acquiring and conducting COVID-19 testing. The Student Health Center continues to work with CPL, and the total cost is \$70 per PCR test. Medical insurance covers the costs of PCR tests for medical reasons, but not for surveillance testing purposes. Five Rapid Test machines have been ordered, which will increase the in-house testing capacity to about 150 tests per day at approximately \$40 per test.

In lieu of testing all students on Texas State campuses, Cabinet members agreed that surveillance testing is a prudent and appropriate strategy. The Student Health Center will begin randomly testing about 200 students per week. Aggregate data from the first two weeks of testing will be used to establish a baseline for the beginning of the fall 2020 semester.

Dr. Carranco announced that Abbott has developed a more affordable rapid antigen test that is expected to be available to institutions of higher education in about one month. PCR tests are timely, expensive, not broadly available, and very sensitive (i.e., identifying someone as positive though they are no longer infectious). Antigen tests will detect a person who is infectious at \$5 per test. When the Antigen tests becomes available, Cabinet members agreed that the tests will be a viable option for the Department of Athletics, the Child Development Center, and surveillance testing.

Dr. Carranco discussed sewage testing. This form of testing continues to evolve. It is a presence indicator and does not indicate magnitude. Cabinet members discussed its practicality and efficacy. Perhaps once available, Antigen testing can supplement sewage testing. At this time, sewage testing is not practical since PCR testing of an entire residence hall will take several days to get results. At this time, Cabinet members agreed that surveillance testing is a better approach than sewage testing.

Contact tracing has determined that COVID-19 is spreading as a result of social gatherings. In an abundance of caution, Dr. Cavitt will ramp up education efforts by reinforcing mask wearing when guests visit residence hall rooms. Dr. Carranco asked that prior to the Labor Day holiday a message be sent to faculty, staff, and students, reminding them to apply Texas State's health and safety measures at home as well as out in the community.

Dr. Cavitt and Mr. Algoe reported that UPD and SMPD are working together to address large student gatherings off campus. UPD has reached out to the Hays County Sheriff's Department to work together to address large social gatherings outside of the San Marcos city limits. Students in violation of state and local orders related to COVID-19 will be referred to student justice. Dr. Cavitt's team is currently investigating one report of a registered organization in violation of Texas State health and safety measures.

Contact tracing is leading to quarantine of close contacts in the classroom. Students, who are quarantined as defined by the close contact rule of more than 15 minutes, are displeased.

Dr. Carranco reported a lag between students being notified by email of a positive test and being contacted by a contact tracer. When a student tests positive for COVID-19 at the Student Health Center, the student receives an email immediately. Currently, the email does not include a calculated isolation/quarantine period. Students typically forward the email to professors prior to being contacted by contact tracers, leaving professors confused and unsure as to what to do. Contact tracers then follow-up; sometimes, it takes a few hours. The Roadmap needs to include a description of this process and the reason for the delay.

In the event that a student, who is unaware they had COVID-19 attended class, the Registrar will move classes, then, let the home department and faculty, who are impacted by the relocation, know. The classroom will be closed for the rest of the day.

Mr. Algoe announced that Mr. Edie Harvey is replacing Mr. Gordon Green in the Department of Facilities Management.

Cabinet members discussed inaccurate social media posts about Sterry Hall. Staff in the Department of Residential Life will send Sterry Hall residents a letter clarifying that some students who have been identified as close contacts are quarantined in Sterry Hall, but no students who have tested positive for COVID-19 and in isolation are living in Sterry Hall. Dr. Carranco clarified that a person who is in quarantine is not infected and the likelihood of them becoming infected is low.

Mr. Algoe discussed filtration systems that have been placed in classrooms and some offices.

Enrollment Management (#9)

Provost Bourgeois and guest Mr. Gary Ray provided a weekly update on fall 2020 enrollment. Compared to fall 2019, overall headcount is 37,948, which is down one percent (-390 students); undergraduate headcount is 33,601, which is down 2.1 percent (-715 students); graduate headcount is 4,346, which is up 8.1 percent (+324 students); new masters students is 1,388, which is up 23.7 percent (+266 students); undergraduate readmits is 792, which is up 10 percent (+76); fall withdrawals are 1,561, which is up 17 percent (+231); international enrollment is 505, which is down 7.8 percent (-43 students); and student credit hour (SCH) production is 458,409, which is down 1.7 percent (-7,877 SCHs).

Data from the 2020 EAB National College Bound Parents Poll indicates that regarding their child's future college experience, parents are most anxious about the cost, debt incurred, and scholarship availability; and parents are willing to pay more for schools with: strong student-success support, a safe and secure campus environment, and a track record of successful job placement of graduates.

Mr. Ray highlighted the success of new programs. Launched in 2019, the Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering currently has 232 majors and Health Science has 288 majors. Launched in 2020, the Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies currently has four majors, the Bachelor of Science in Public Health and Promotion has 111 majors, the Master of Science in Quantitative Finance and Economics has 13 majors, the Master of Science in Construction Management has 15 majors, the Master of Science in Data Analytics and Information Systems has 66 majors, and the Masters of Science in Marketing Research and Analysis has 41 majors.

Guest Mr. Elias Martinez gave an update on social media trends, with engagement primarily centered around music classes taking place outdoors, students quarantined in parts of Sterry Hall, and students physically returning to the campuses.

Naming of Residence Halls

Dr. Lloyd continued the discussion on naming of residence halls. President Trauth discussed the formation of a naming task force.

President's Update (#556)

President Trauth asked Dr. Teis, Dr. Cavitt, and Mr. Algoe to explore holding an event unveiling the new Victory Star located on the University Events Center and the need to address publicly why the Star was removed from Jackson Hall.

President Trauth reported that *Money* magazine named Texas State one of the "Best Colleges in America, Ranked by Value" for 2020. *Money* ranked Texas State 385 out of 739 schools included, ahead of such institutions as the University of Arkansas, Baylor University, Texas Christian University, and the University of North Texas.

Significant Issues (#01)

Provost Bourgeois reported that he recently granted a thesis student from the University of Texas access to Spring Lake in order to conduct a research project. The project will follow a strict health and safety protocol.

Mr. Algoe received official information that Texas State will receive \$2.7 million from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund and an additional \$2.8 million from the Texas EXcellence, Access, and Success (TEXAS) Grant Program.

Mr. Algoe provided an update on the Kirby Lane construction project.

Mr. Algoe announced that Coca-Cola is renegotiating its contract with Texas State.

Mr. Algoe announced that demolition of the Ivy Moore House has begun. Mr. Algoe and his team explored whether there were options to save the building. Ultimately, it was concluded that the building was not structurally sound and could not be saved.

Mr. Algoe announced that Human Resources Director John McBride and Human Resources Associate Director Michelle Moritz are retiring August 31, 2020. Ms. Tammy Coyle will serve as the interim director for the month of September. Then, Mr. McBride and Ms. Moritz will return on a temporary basis until a permanent Human Resources Director is hired.

Dr. Cavitt announced that effective September 1, 2020, Dr. Vincent Morton will assume the role of Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, and Mr. Kyle Estes will assume the role of Interim Director for the Department of Housing and Residential Life.

Dr. Teis announced that the Department of Athletics' Committee on Racial Equality is meeting on August 31, 2020.

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Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on September 29, 2020.