

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

President Trauth shared guidance from The TSUS Chancellor Brian McCall. Chancellor McCall informed The TSUS component institution presidents to brace for a state-mandated hiring freeze and budget cuts for FY 2021 and/or during the next biennium. More specificity is expected at a later date.

President Trauth reported that The TSUS May 2020 Board of Regents meeting will be conducted telephonically. The August 2020 TSUS Board of Regents meeting will be moved to Sam Houston State University's campus in Conroe. Chancellor McCall asked to postpone submissions of honorary resolutions.

Dr. Teis shared that the Department of Athletics has received requests from area high schools to reserve the University Events Center for their graduation ceremonies. Dr. Teis' staff conducted thorough bench marking to determine best practices given COVID-19. Across Texas, many universities and arenas have either postponed or canceled high school commencement ceremonies. In line with other universities, Cabinet members agreed to offer high schools the opportunity to hold their graduations on August 9-12, 2020, which is right after Texas State's August commencement ceremonies. Twelve schools will be impacted by this decision; President Trauth will send a letter to the superintendents of the affected school districts.

Dr. Cavitt initiated the discussion of summer camps. Cabinet members agreed that given that all indicators suggest that social distancing measures may remain in place until the end of June, summer camps scheduled in June should be canceled. Depending on facility availability, some June overnight camps may be able to be moved to July; and some June day camps may be able to be moved to the first part of August. Dr. Cavitt recommended that some camp directors explore offering alternative online camps. Provost Bourgeois emphasized that while Cabinet members have approved face-to-face summer camps to be scheduled for July, we must communicate to camp directors that the decision could change if social distancing measures are extended into July.

RTA: 4/6/20 Discuss scheduling of summer camps.

Provost Bourgeois proposed to make summer 2020 courses at Texas State as accessible as possible while ensuring the continued safety of our students, faculty, and staff, Texas State will move scheduled class sections that start meeting at any point in June to online/remote delivery, and return to regular face-to-face and online classroom delivery for the Summer II session (July 6 through August 5). The latter included a caveat that the decision regarding the Summer II session could change according to public health advice and conditions. Cabinet members approved the request.

Provost Bourgeois announced that New Student Orientation will be held virtually this summer. The divisions of Academic Affairs and Information Technology are working through some of the logistics.

Mr. Algoe proposed awarding emergency financial aid of \$50 per semester credit hour to students enrolled in Summer I courses. Cabinet members approved.

Provost Bourgeois announced that two videos are in various stages of production. The videos are being produced by University Marketing in collaboration with University Communications. They are expected to be shared over the next two weeks and emphasize that while Texas State students, faculty, and staff are not on-campus, the bobcat community is unified.

Provost Bourgeois discussed a temporary change to the final grades policy. This change will provide students with the option to request modification of final course grades to the "EP" (emergency pass) grades.

Mr. Algoe discussed updates to the fee section of the FAQs page addressing the University's response to COVID-19.

Mr. Algoe provided an update to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and is preparing a university-wide message to explain the types of leave associated with the Act.

Mr. Algoe reminded the Vice Presidents to submit names of buildings that should remain open and those that should be locked for safety and security reasons while social distancing measures are in place.

Mr. Algoe led a discussion on capital and special projects. Cabinet members identified the projects that should be deferred and those that should be continued. Mr. Algoe also discussed postponing deferred maintenance projects.

Dr. Smith shared that she has been approached by a company to allow them to sell COVID-19 test kits in the Strahan parking lot. Cabinet members suggested that she refer the company to the Emergency Operations Center, which is coordinating community-wide efforts related to combatting COVID-19.

Dr. Smith announced that she is meeting with concerned students, who are trying to get out of their apartment leases, and discussed a petition that is being circulated requesting that Texas State require apartments to release students from their leases. By law, Texas State cannot interfere with a contract between a tenant and a leasing agency.

DMT:ta

Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on April 13, 2020.