

To: President's Cabinet  
From: Denise M. Trauth  
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting  
February 1, 2021

### **Impact of COVID-19 (#770)**

Guest Dr. Emilio Carranco compared data from the week of January 18, 2021, to data from the week of January 25, 2021. In Texas, week-to-week comparisons revealed a decrease in the average daily case counts from 14,800 to 13,657 cases per day, and a decrease in the average daily positivity rate from 14.4 to 14 percent.

In Hays county, the average daily case counts increased from 148 to 174 cases per day, while the average daily positivity rate decreased from 10.6 percent to 9.9 percent.

In Williamson county, the average daily case counts decreased from 384 to 325 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate increased slightly from 12.9 to 13.1 percent.

The Student Health Center and Curative Inc. conducted 1,684 tests, with 73 returning positive for a positivity rate of 4.3 percent.

As of January 29, 2021, there were 228 active cases at Texas State, and seven students were in isolation and four were in quarantine.

In comparison to other Texas institutions of higher education, for the week of January 18, 2021:

- The University of Texas at Austin reported 126 positive results out of 4,999 tests for a positivity rate of 2.5 percent.
- Texas A&M University reported 135 positive results out of 1,159 tests for a positivity rate of 11.6 percent.

Dr. Carranco surmised that Texas State is in a good position for another safe semester based on three primary factors:

- State and local numbers appear to be on the decline.
- To date, contact tracing has revealed no transmissions in classrooms and offices, nor clusters within residence halls.
- New research conducted on independent school districts indicate that transmission is happening at home or out in the community, not in the PreK-12 classrooms.

Dr. Carranco provided an update on vaccine allocations and distributions in the local area. Hays and Williamson local county health departments as well as a few local medical centers/clinics have received allocations. Across Texas, only a small number of universities have received allocations. The primary recipients of the vaccine are the Vaccination Hubs established by the Texas Department of State Health Services to conduct mass vaccinations of those who meet

priority group eligibility criteria. Due to the uncertainty of when Texas State might receive the vaccine, faculty, staff, and students eligible for vaccinations are encouraged to get vaccinated through a Vaccination Hub or other provider that has the vaccine.

Dr. Carranco provided an overview of the vaccine candidates, in various stages of large-scale clinical trials, that are showing promise. This is reassuring news; as more vaccines enter the market, more people will be vaccinated.

Mr. Algoe announced that February 1, 2021, through April 30, 2021, Spartan Medical will provide free COVID-19 testing on the Round Rock Campus. As the only state-funded testing site in Williamson county, it will be open to the public. The outdoor drive-thru testing site will be located in a parking lot and have two dedicated drive-thru lanes: one for Texas State students, faculty, and staff, and the other for the general public. Testing will be available Monday-Thursday every week and the second Saturday of every month from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Algoe provided a vaccination update: 90 percent of University Police Department personnel and 90 percent of Environmental Health, Safety, and Risk Management personnel have received at least the first dose of the vaccine. By the end of the business day on February 1, 2021, a majority of the Student Health Center personnel will have received at least the first dose of the vaccine.

Mr. Algoe shared that the university is looking for partnerships with private companies to bring the vaccine to its Round Rock Campus. President Trauth announced that the St. David's Round Rock Medical Center has made a commitment to help vaccinate the faculty and students in Texas State's College of Health Professions.

The [COVID-19 Vaccination Information](#) webpage is now live and linked to the [Roadmap](#). It will be updated at least weekly.

President's Cabinet discussed spring break and whether additional mitigation strategies will need to be implemented. Dr. Hernandez will lead conversations about these issues and return to a future Cabinet meeting with recommendations.

Dr. Hernandez presented a Division of Student Affairs Spring Activities Plan. This plan delineated gradual reintroduction/expansion: of in-person activities in the LBJ Student Center and the Student Recreation Center; and of tabling activities in the Quad and Mall areas and Bobcat Trail. Cabinet members approved the plan as long as strict COVID-19 safety protocols are implemented, enforced, and adhered to. Division of Student Affairs personnel will review the plan regularly to determine whether restrictions can be further relaxed or whether they should be maintained or increased.

Dr. Lloyd discussed space for the May 2021 TSUS Board of Regents meeting scheduled to take place on the San Marcos Campus. Currently, both LBJ Student Center ballrooms are being occupied for COVID-19 related activities (vaccination site and computer resource center).

### **Sallie Beretta Outstanding Senior Woman Award (#777)**

Dr. Hernandez discussed the SA/PPS 07.20, Sallie Beretta Outstanding Senior Woman Award. Mr. Algoe provided background on how the award is funded, and Cabinet members agreed at least during the current year to refer to the award as the Outstanding Senior Woman Award. Eventually, the policy will be reviewed and updated with the intent of making the award more inclusive.

President Trauth discussed questions that have been circulating about removing the names of Ms. Sallie Ward Beretta and/or Dr. John Garland Flowers from buildings on the San Marcos Campus. President Trauth described a two-step process for examining the names of the two halls.

Step 1: President Trauth will appoint a group of scholars from the Departments of History, Political Science, and Sociology, and the University Libraries, with College of Liberal Arts Dean, Dr. Mary Brennan as the Task Force chair, to conduct scholarly analyses of the historical contexts of the lives and careers of Ms. Beretta and Dr. Flowers. Through this scholarship, they will layout the facts surrounding these complex issues. These analyses will inform step two.

Step 2: President Trauth will seek nominations of faculty, staff, students, and alumni and then appoint a broad-based task force to review the analyses and make recommendations as to whether the names of Ms. Beretta and/or Dr. Flowers should be removed from these buildings.

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

President Trauth announced that the university is in a position to award a three percent bonus to eligible employees. Given the uncertainty around funding of higher education by the Texas Legislature, this is a one-time award, not a permanent raise, that will be paid out over a 12-month period, beginning with each eligible employee's October 1, 2021, paycheck. A floor has been established -- no employee will receive less than \$50 per month. President Trauth stated that CARES Act funds cannot, nor will, be used to award bonuses.

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

Provost Bourgeois provided an enrollment update. As of January 31, 2021, spring enrollment is down in head count by 0.6 percent and in student credit hours by 2.3 percent.

Provost Bourgeois announced that five undergraduate and five graduate students have been named as Fulbright semi-finalists by the National Screening Committee and recommended to the host country for further review. This is the greatest number of graduate students that have made it to this level.

Mr. Algoe discussed the emergency alert that was sent on January 30, 2021.

Dr. Lloyd discussed the 2020 Crime Survey that Clery Act Compliance Specialist, Ms. Kris Morales, sent to approximately 1,200 Campus Security Authorities. Dr. Lloyd asked Cabinet members to remind their direct reports of this Clery Act requirement and to ask CSAs in each of their divisions to complete the survey.

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Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on February 5, 2021.