

To: President's Cabinet  
From: Denise M. Trauth  
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting  
April 18, 2022

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

Dr. Carranco compared data for the week ending on April 17, 2022, to data for the week ending on April 10, 2022.

Week-to-week comparisons revealed:

- In Texas, the average daily case counts decreased from 1,220 to 1,144 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate increased from 3.6 to 4.1 percent.
- In Williamson county, the average daily case counts increased from 15 to 19 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate increased from 3.1 to 3.9 percent.
- In Travis county, the average daily case counts decreased from 102 to 57 cases per day. The positivity rate for the week ending April 17, 2022, was 7.3 percent, which is down from 8.5 percent two weeks prior.
- In Hays county, the average daily case counts decreased from 16 to 14 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate increased from 4.5 to 6.1 percent.
- In Texas, hospitalizations decreased by 16 percent from 931 to 785.

On the Texas State campuses, there were 18 positives out of 459 tests for a positivity rate of 3.9 percent.

COVID-19 Community Levels, as defined by the CDC, are “low” in Hays, Williamson, and Travis counties, while transmission levels in Hays county are “moderate” and Williamson and Travis counties are “substantial.”

The University of Texas and Texas A&M University reported positivity rates of 1.2 percent (44 positive results out of 3,560 tests) and 7.9 percent (51 positive results out of 647 tests), respectively.

In general, COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and fatalities continue to trend downward. The lower testing volume is likely leading to increases in positivity rates. While Omicron BA.2 is increasing case counts in 35 states, there is still no evidence of an impending surge in COVID-19 cases in Texas.

Texas State is still planning to take down contact tracing at the end of the spring 2022 semester and staff in the Student Health Center are prepared to resume contact tracing in case of a surge.

The CDC has extended the mask mandate for public transportation until May 3, 2022.

Curative has signed an agreement with Texas State to continue testing on the San Marcos Campus through December 2022. It is unknown at this time whether MD Diagnostic Labs will continue on-campus testing beyond the end of spring 2022.

### **August 2023 Calendar**

Provost Bourgeois discussed the August 2023 calendar. Bobcat Welcome Week and Residence Hall Move-In are tentatively scheduled for the week of August 13, 2023. President's Cabinet members approved the calendar with the understanding that it might need to be changed depending on when The TSUS Board of Regents August 2023 meeting is scheduled.

### **McNair Proposal**

Dr. Lloyd discussed the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program proposal and asked for support from the divisions of Academic Affairs, Information Technology, University Advancement, and University Administration. President Trauth lauded the efforts of the writing team and discussed how the McNair program will complete Texas State's TRIO portfolio, providing services to students ranging from middle school to terminal degree completion.

### **Sole Finalist for the Next University President**

President's Cabinet members debriefed Dr. Kelly Damphousse's visit. Mr. Algoe is working closely with Dr. and Mrs. Damphousse on renovating the new President's House and will facilitate their onboarding once Dr. Damphousse is confirmed as Texas State's next president.

Ms. Pantlik reviewed the communication plan in preparation for Dr. Damphousse's confirmation on April 21, 2022.

Dr. Damphousse will attend orientation at The TSUS Office on May 2, 2022, and a video is being produced as part of the communication plan.

Dr. Damphousse is expected to return in May 2022 to continue the transition process.

Dr. Trauth reported that Chancellor McCall will appoint Dr. Damphousse with tenure in the Department of Sociology.

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

President Trauth announced that President's Cabinet members will celebrate Dr. Breier's retirement on May 6, 2022.

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

Provost Bourgeois reported that compared to the same time last year, housing contracts are up more than 18.3 percent to 5,691 contracts; New Student Orientation registration for freshmen is up 9.3 percent to 4,494 registrants; and New Student Orientation registration for transfers is up 30 percent. With nearly 33,000 applications; Texas State continues to remain a popular university.

A weakness, however, continues to be with continuing master's students.

Mr. Algoe provided an update on construction projects, highlighting that the Hilltop Housing Complex has broken ground.

Mr. Algoe announced that The TSUS Board of Regents materials for the May 2022 meeting have been submitted.

Mr. Algoe discussed how the bonus attached to merit will be paid out in fiscal year 2023.

Mr. Algoe announced that Ms. Christine Black will inherit Ms. Nancy Nusbaum's space planning responsibilities.

Mr. Coryell provided an update on Bobcat Athletics and related fundraising events. The Baseball team moved up from 19<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> in the D1 Baseball Rankings. The Softball team moved up to fourth place in the Sun Belt Conference.

Dr. Ekin announced that the first Texas State Analytics Showcase will be held on April 20, 2022. More than 180 students and faculty have registered to attend.

Dr. Hernandez discussed the Department of Residential Life's successful efforts in recruiting new hall directors.

Dr. Hernandez discussed the addition of a gender inclusive housing option.

Mr. Pierce announced that University Archives will become the custodian of the artwork on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor of the J. C. Kellam building and of presidential portraits.

Dr. Silva announced that:

- The Jewish Faculty and Staff Association held their first meeting on April 1, 2022.
- President Trauth and Dr. Bourgeois will meet with Alliance on April 18, 2022.
- Dr. Silva will attend the April 29, 2022, HR Forum to discuss her new role as Staff Ombudsperson, which is set to begin in June 2022.

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Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on April 25, 2022.