

To: President's Cabinet
From: Denise M. Trauth
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting
October 21, 2021

Impact of COVID-19 (#770)

Dr. Carranco compared data from the week of October 11, 2021, to data from the week of October 4, 2021.

Week-to-week comparisons revealed:

- In Texas, the average daily case counts decreased from 5,380 to 4,412 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 8.7 to 7.7 percent (and as of October 21, 2021, the number dropped further to 6.7 percent);
- In Williamson county, the average daily case counts decreased from 140 to 126, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 8.5 to 7.1 percent;
- In Travis county, the average daily case counts increased from 159 to 195 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 5.9 to 5.3 percent; and
- In Hays county, the average daily case counts decreased from 52 to 33 cases per day; the average daily positivity rate decreased from 6.9 to 6.0 percent.

Across Texas, hospitalizations continue to decline.

On October 20, 2021, active cases at Texas State were 55 cases.

Preliminary data for the week of October 11, 2021, indicate that Texas State had 19 positive tests out of 1,493 tests for a positivity rate of 1.3 percent. Overall testing numbers are drifting downward. Despite the positive news, the university community will remain vigilant and continue to promote mask wearing and regular testing.

The University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University reported positivity rates of 0.3 percent (26 positives out of 9,391 tests) and three percent (88 positives out of 2,943 tests), respectively.

The decline in cases is expected up to the holiday season and may possibly decline to levels lower than pre-surge levels.

Final approvals for Johnson & Johnson and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine boosters are imminent. Safety profiles for all vaccines are good; data shows approved vaccines are safe. Once the boosters are approved, a university-wide email will follow.

Approval for vaccination of children five years and older is likely within a few weeks.

Affirmative Action Plan

Dr. Silva and guest Ms. LynnAnn Brewer, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, discussed the Affirmative Action Plan.

Development Update (#588)

Dr. Breier reviewed the fiscal year quarterly reports.

President's Update (#556)

President Trauth made several announcements:

- On October 21, 2021, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved Texas State's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering.
- The Faculty and Staff Holiday Open House will be held on the San Marcos Campus on November 30, 2021, and on the Round Rock Campus on December 1, 2021; the Community Open House will be held on December 1, 2021; and the Deans, Chairs, and Faculty Senate Holiday Reception will be held on December 3, 2021.
- The Texas Legislature authorized more than \$104 million in Tuition Revenue Bonds for construction projects at Texas State. Discussions will follow to determine how the funds will be distributed across projects.
- The strategic planning process will kick off in early spring 2022, beginning with updating the mission statement.

President Trauth announced that Juneteenth in 2022 will fall on a Sunday and on a Monday in 2023. Accordingly, the university will be closed on June 19, 2023.

Significant Issues (#01)

Provost Bourgeois distributed several handouts, including a fact sheet on Texas State's awarding of financial aid and scholarships, The Texas State University System 2025 GAI Performance Indicators, and a draft outlining the composition and purpose of a new student success executive committee.

Provost Bourgeois announced that Dr. Shreek Mandayam will be the next Associate Vice President for Research and Federal Relations. Given previous commitments, including serving as Principal Investigator on an Army Futures Command grant, Dr. Mandayam will assume the position on July 1, 2022. Dr. Michael Blanda will serve as Interim Associate Vice President for Research and Federal Relations, effective November 1, 2021.

Mr. Coryell provided a rundown of the week's upcoming intercollegiate athletic contests across all fall sports and announced that preseason polls for the Sun Belt Conference have the Texas State men's basketball team ranked third and the Texas State women's basketball ranked fourth.

Dr. Hernandez made several announcements:

- Mr. Bill Mattera will assume the Director of Housing and Residential Life position on November 1, 2021.
- Student Involvement is preparing a slew of activities for Homecoming.
- The Behavioral Assessment Team will be conducting an after-action review following recent events and will participate in additional training.
- Dr. Hernandez is participating in the Governor's Executive Development Program offered by the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin.

Mr. Pierce provided an update on systems issues related to registration.

Mr. Pierce announced that The Witliff Collections is in the process of acquiring a portion of Stevie Ray Vaughn's archives.

Mr. Pierce announced that Texas State now has access to a second domain (txst.edu) through Educause, and that it forwards to txstate.edu (websites). Mr. Pierce will provide Cabinet members with more information regarding various other options/strategies for the use of the txst.edu domain.

Dr. Silva expressed her appreciation to Cabinet members for attending the Second Annual Inclusive Excellence Showcase on October 18, 2021.

Dr. Silva reminded Cabinet members of the Residence Hall Renaming Ceremony on November 12, 2021.

Dr. Silva shared that the Talent Acquisition Team recently presented on the move of Talent Acquisition from Human Resources to Institutional Inclusive Excellence at a CUPA-HR conference in Maryland. The presentation was well-received, with several attendees commenting that the reorganization was progressive in recruiting and retaining employees of color.

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Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on November 23, 2021.