

To: President's Cabinet
From: Denise M. Trauth
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting
May 3, 2021

Impact of COVID-19 (#770)

Dr. Carranco compared data from the week of April 19, 2021, to data from the week of April 26, 2021. Week-to-week comparisons revealed:

- In Texas, the average daily case counts decreased from 1,943 to 1,931 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 4.8 to 4.7 percent;
- In Williamson county, the average daily case counts decreased from 54 to 50, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 4.4 to 4.0 percent;
- In Hays county, the average daily case counts decreased from 43 to 42 cases per day. By meeting time, Hays county had not yet reported data for the week of April 26, 2021.

Active case counts at Texas State have significantly decreased from a peak of 185 active cases on April 26, 2021, to 68 active cases on April 30, 2021. By meeting time, two students were in on-campus quarantine and two students were in on-campus isolation.

For the week of April 12, 2021, at Texas State, 23 out of 649 tests returned positive for a positivity rate of 3.5 percent.

Dr. Carranco led a discussion on vaccine hesitancy, as it will be challenging to achieve the goal of getting the majority of Texas State students vaccinated before the start of the fall semester. Preliminary data indicates that students do not know much about the vaccine. Social media with infographics may be more effective than emails in raising vaccination awareness among students. Students are motivated to get vaccinated for two primary reasons: 1) to protect those who they care about, and 2) to get back to normal. Communication strategies need to counter misinformation students read about vaccines via social media.

President Trauth will consult with TSUS General Counsel about whether incentivizing vaccinations violates Governor Greg Abbott's Executive Order No. GA-35 related to COVID-19 vaccines.

DEI Training Task Force

Dr. Silva and guest Dr. Benjamin Martin, Chair of the DEI Training Task Force, discussed recommendations from the Task Force. Dr. Martin reviewed the Task Force's official charge and peer institution benchmarks. Based on results of focus group interviews, there was consensus support for required DEIA training for all employees, as it was seen as important to increasing students' sense of belonging and overall success.

President's Cabinet reacted favorably to Dr. Martin's presentation and the Task Force's recommendations. Dr. Martin reported that the recommendations were previously endorsed by the Council for Inclusive Excellence, Faculty Senate, and President's Council for Women in Higher Education. President's Cabinet asked Dr. Martin to seek buy-in across the entire university, including from the Council of Chairs and Council of Academic Deans. Cabinet members will take the recommendations back to their respective divisions for feedback and will review the EVERFI Workplace Diversity Training module.

President Trauth will charge a small work group, consisting of key personnel in professional and faculty development, Human Resources, and DEIA to explore the feasibility of the recommendations and develop a plan for operationalizing mandatory DEIA training, with the goal of implementing the recommendations in fall 2021. The work group will be asked to present the proposed plan to the President's Cabinet for approval later in the summer.

ICE Implementation

Dr. Lloyd and guest Mr. Bobby Mason, Assistant Vice President for Institutional Compliance and Chief Compliance Officer, discussed implementation of the Institutional Compliance and Ethics Program Implementation Plan and the establishment of the Compliance Executive Committee. The five-Step Plan will:

- 1) Establish a Compliance Partners Committee,
- 2) Develop an Institutional Compliance Matrix,
- 3) Develop an Institutional Compliance Reports Calendar,
- 4) Conduct compliance assessments via questionnaires (annually, then in the future, add random audits) and Compliance Risk Register; and
- 5) Establish a Compliance Executive Committee.

Cabinet members will review the Compliance Partners Committee list and provide feedback.

Commencement (#143)

Provost Bourgeois and guest Dr. Vedaraman Sriraman, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, presented final plans for spring commencement ceremonies.

Bobcat Preview (#764)

Dr. Hernandez presented the final plans for Bobcat Preview.

Merrick Funds (#44)

This item was not discussed due to a lack of time.

President's Update (#556)

President Trauth discussed the status of the Director of Athletics search. The main focus for Texas State and the Department of Athletics over the upcoming months is to prepare for a post-COVID fall semester that will safely bring a full-slate of in-person classes and experiences to the campuses. Texas State is at the front end of planning to determine how to best support our student-athletes and coaches this fall. To provide stability to this effort, we will not begin a national search for a permanent Director of Athletics at this time. As Interim Director of Athletics, Mr. Don Coryell's experience and connection with Texas State student-athletes, donors, alumni, and fans will help bring the stability Texas State needs during this transition to the fall semester.

President Trauth provided a brief legislative update.

President Trauth discussed ways to address employee morale during the summer, including hosting lunches and open houses for staff.

Significant Issues (#01)

Mr. Alge discussed diversity, inclusion, equity, and access initiatives, and announced that the 60th anniversary of the first black students that integrated into Texas State will be in 2023.

Dr. Hernandez announced that Bobcat Build was cancelled due to weather.

Dr. Hernandez announced that the Student Association for Campus Activities will host its third annual Gaillardia Fest on May 4, 2021.

DMT:ta

Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on May 25, 2021.