

To: President's Cabinet  
From: Denise M. Trauth  
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting  
August 10, 2020

### **Board of Regents' Review (#500)**

Mr. Algoe, Provost Bourgeois, guests Dr. Janet Bezner, Faculty Senate Chair; Mr. Noel Fuller, Staff Council Chair; Mr. Catching Valentinis-Dee, Student Government President; and Mr. Jayme Blaschke reviewed the August 2020 agenda items.

### **Board of Regents News Release (#626)**

Dr. Breier and guest Mr. Jayme Blaschke reviewed possible topics for inclusion in the news release on the August 2020 Board of Regents meeting. Mr. Blaschke will highlight Dr. Ann Burnette's Piper Professor recognition by The Texas State University System Board of Regents and will work with Mr. Algoe to draft a construction update.

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

Guest Dr. Emilio Carranco provided an update on the COVID-19 pandemic and the strategies in play to mitigate the spread. In Texas and in Hays and Williamson counties, daily case counts continue to decrease. Because hospitalizations lag case count trends, Dr. Carranco expects hospitalizations to decrease, as well, in the next few weeks. Case counts and positivity rates are trending downward, which is evidence that the spread of COVID-19 is decreasing. Dr. Carranco believes that the strategies that Texas State has in place will mitigate spread.

Cabinet members discussed the metrics used to determine university operations. The spread of COVID-19 and the magnitude of its spread will be closely monitored.

Dr. Carranco underscored that faster diagnosis leads to faster contact tracing. Therefore, the Student Health Center (SHC) has purchased three rapid testing machines. These machines will allow the SHC to conduct 100 tests per day. The SHC testing strategy is comprehensive and includes multiple testing options. If needed, testing capacity can quickly scale to 500 tests per day.

Dr. Carranco announced that both Bobcat Trace and COVID-19 Supervisor and Faculty Questions web application are ready to be launched.

Surveillance testing and sewage testing was discussed. Dr. Trauth asked Dr. Cavitt to work with Dr. Carranco to explore the feasibility of surveillance testing in residence halls.

Dr. Teis provided an update on moving the Southern Methodist University football game back to its originally scheduled date of September 5, 2020. The University of Texas at San Antonio

game will remain on September 12, 2020. The Ohio University game scheduled for September 26, 2020, has been cancelled because the Mid-American Conference has cancelled all fall sports.

Dr. Lloyd proposed that the new [Compliance and Enforcement](#) webpage in the [Roadmap](#) addresses when and when not to call the University Police Department (UPD) for acts of health and safety noncompliance. Cabinet members agreed that UPD should not be called for noncompliance. The steps described in the [Compliance and Enforcement](#) webpage should be utilized. However, if matters escalate to the point that an individual is threatening others or causing a major disturbance to university operations, UPD will assist.

Dr. Trauth discussed soliciting volunteers to encourage students during the first week of fall 2020 classes to comply with Texas State's [health and safety measures](#). Cabinet members discussed strategies for encouraging compliance. Dr. Cavitt and Mr. Algoe will devise a first week of school plan that will include involving staff in welcoming students back to our campuses and educating them about Texas State's [health and safety measures](#).

Mr. Algoe discussed traffic patterns inside and outside of buildings and reviewed the strategies (e.g., entrance and exit signs and keep right signs) in place to promote physical distancing.

Provost Bourgeois reported that for fall 2020 about 40 percent of classes will be offered online and 60 percent of classes will be offered face-to-face/hybrid. Most of the face-to-face classes will have an online component to reduce classroom density.

Cabinet members approved a request to move tables from the Quad to Bobcat Trail.

### **Demonstration Practices and Scenario Planning**

Mr. Algoe and guests Chief Laurie Clouse and Dr. Brenda Rodriguez continued the discussion on preparing the university for the fall 2020 semester. Dr. Rodriguez presented proposed changes to UPPS 07.04.07, Demonstrations on University Property. Cabinet members approved. This UPPS will be routed through the standard review and approval process.

Communication during a demonstration was discussed. Mr. Algoe, Dr. Breier, and Dr. Cavitt will work together with their respective teams to operationalize a communication plan.

Cabinet members engaged in demonstration scenario-based tabletop exercises to inform standard operating procedures.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the demonstration team will be fitted properly with personal protective equipment.

Dr. Breier will review red team activation procedures.

### **Enrollment Management (#9)**

Provost Bourgeois and guests Mr. Gary Ray and Mr. Elias Martinez provided a weekly update on fall 2020 enrollment. Student headcount is down 1.9 percent and student credit hours are down 4 percent. Official withdrawals have increased 18 percent, with most cited reasons falling into three main areas: COVID-19-related safety concerns, distance from home, and financial difficulties.

Mr. Martinez provided an update on the health and safety promotional items developed by University Marketing. Stickers and face masks have been delivered and buttons are in production. Once all items arrive, University Marketing will work with its student-facing university partners for distribution.

Mr. Martinez reported that during the previous week, social media centered around virtual commencement and engagement.

### **New Faculty and Staff Organizations (#775)**

Dr. Lloyd discussed a recent application for a new faculty and staff organization. Cabinet members asked Dr. Silva to seek clarification on the name and intention of the proposed organization.

**RTA 09/28/2020 Continue discussion on a recent application for a new faculty and staff organization.**

### **Recreation and Sports Fee (#170)**

Dr. Cavitt and Mr. Algoe discussed the Student Recreation Center and Student Health Center fees for fully online students. Cabinet members agreed that fully online students will be allowed access to the Student Health Center and the Student Recreation Center.

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

Dr. Trauth summarized the Board of Governors meeting held on August 4, 2020.

Dr. Trauth announced that beginning on August 24, 2020, Cabinet meetings will be held in-person and physical distancing measures will be followed.

President Trauth and Dr. Cavitt announced that outdoor activities will be limited to 100 students, and physical distancing measures will be followed.

President Trauth discussed the naming of residence halls. The President's Cabinet will discuss this item at a future meeting.

**Significant Issues (#01)**

Dr. Cavitt requested to keep Sewell Park closed at least until the end of the fall 2020 semester. Cabinet members approved.

Mr. Pierce announced that two computer labs in the LBJ Student Center ballrooms have been set-up and all classroom technology upgrades have been completed.

Mr. Pierce shared that a crowdfunding page to help cover costs to the raising of the Buck Winn Cattle Ranching Mural has been set up.

DMT:ta

Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on September 29, 2020.