

To: President's Cabinet  
From: Denise M. Trauth  
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting  
April 19, 2021

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

Dr. Carranco compared data from the week of April 5, 2021, to data from the week of April 12, 2021. Week-to-week comparisons revealed:

- In Texas, the average daily case counts increased from 1,962 to 2,257 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate decreased slightly from 5.5 to 5.3 percent;
- In Williamson county, the average daily case counts decreased slightly from 50 to 47, while the average daily positivity rate increased from 4.1 to 6.1 percent;
- In Hays county, the average daily case counts increased from 37 to 45 cases per day. By meeting time, Hays county had not yet reported data for the week of April 12, 2021.

In Texas, hospitalization rates are not on the rise, as most adults at risk for a COVID-19 complication have either been vaccinated or infected.

As of April 16, 2021, there were 185 active cases at Texas State; four students were in on-campus quarantine and nine students were in on-campus isolation.

For the week of April 12, 2021, at Texas State, 71 out of 1,076 tests returned positive for a positivity rate of 6.6 percent. However, several hundred fewer tests were performed than previous weeks. With fewer university community members being tested, the increase in positivity rates is likely to be an overestimation of the local transmission rate.

For the same week, The University of Texas at Austin reported 18 positive results out of 2,315 tests for a positivity rate of 0.8 percent. By meeting time, Texas A&M University had yet to report its latest numbers. For the previous week (week of April 5, 2021), Texas A&M University reported 64 positives out of 1,080 tests for a positivity rate of 3.4 percent.

A post-Easter weekend increase in COVID-19 was expected, and does not indicate a surge.

Vaccination is the best way to reduce the number of case counts and positivity rates. In Texas, of those who are 65 and older, 73 percent have received at least one dose and 60 percent are fully vaccinated; of those who are 16 years and older, 45 percent have received at least one dose and 25 percent have been fully vaccinated.

Dr. Carranco will send out a COVID-19 update following the Town Hall on April 20, 2021. The message will address current COVID-19 data trends; vaccine administration data; vaccine safety, effectiveness, and benefits (such as freeing one up to visit friends and relatives, and no longer being subject to isolation and quarantine); the upcoming mass vaccination event on April 22, 2021; and effectiveness of prevention and safety measures.

### **Bobcat Preview (#764)**

Dr. Hernandez discussed Bobcat Preview and New Student Convocation. President's Cabinet provided suggestions for consideration. The format and dates of Bobcat Preview will be finalized at a later day.

**RTA: 5/3/2021 Finalize plans for Bobcat Preview.**

### **Coordinating Board Meeting (#5)**

Dr. Lloyd discussed the agenda for the April 22, 2021, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board regular quarterly meeting. At the upcoming meeting, the Board will review facilities projects, including the construction of Texas State's Infrastructure Research Laboratory, and contracts executed by the agency, including \$1.5 million in Governors Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funds to support reskilling initiatives and \$10,000 in GEER funds to support the development of open educational resources at Texas State.

Provost Bourgeois provided an update on the Texas Transfer Framework. Dr. Kambra Bolch, Associate Dean, University College, and Ms. Jaimie Haider, Director, PACE Advising Center, have been nominated to serve on the Texas Transfer Advisory Committee, a 24-member committee of faculty, administrators, academic advisors, and students who will oversee parts of the Texas Transfer Framework and develop new transfer initiatives for Texas.

Provost Bourgeois discussed requests for doctoral degrees proposed by institutions, including: Texas A&M International University's request to offer a Doctor of Philosophy degree with a major in Criminal Justice fully online; and the University of North Texas' request to offer a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Biomedical Engineering.

Provost Bourgeois discussed the state of Texas' 60x30TX plan and the challenges the state is facing in achieving the plan's goals.

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

President Trauth announced that she will send a message to the university community addressing the Derek Chauvin trial. Dr. Silva and Dr. Lloyd provided a recap of the nine-point plan to prepare the university community for the outcome.

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

Provost Bourgeois expressed his appreciation for the work of Dr. Dwonna Goldstone and Dr. Scott Bowman as faculty leaders in diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

Mr. Algoe announced that Texas State is in the self-evaluation phase of the performance management cycle. The performance evaluation must be completed in order for employees to be eligible for the three percent bonus.

Mr. Algoe discussed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Effective April 1, 2021, through the ARPA, Texas State is providing all employees with a new allocation of leave and expanding reasons to include getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Further details about the Emergency Paid Sick Leave and Expanded Family Medical Leave are outlined on the Office of Human Resources website. Employees should review the guidance for eligibility and the process to request the leave and timekeeping procedures.

Dr. Hernandez announced that Dr. Kevin Krueger, President, National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, recently spoke to the Division of Student Affairs. Dr. Hernandez will share Dr. Krueger's presentation slides and recording with Cabinet members.

Mr. Pierce announced that the Banner and Ellucian Degree Works system upgrades are expected to be completed by April 20, 2021.

DMT:ta

Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on May 12, 2021.