

To: President's Cabinet  
From: Denise M. Trauth  
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting  
November 17, 2020

### **Commencement (#143)**

Provost Bourgeois and guest Dr. Vedaraman Sriraman discussed plans for fall 2020 commencement ceremonies. As of 4:00 p.m., on November 16, 2020, Dr. Sriraman reported that 736 spring 2020 and summer 2020 graduates and 1,452 fall 2020 candidates RSVP'd to attend the fall safe and socially distanced in-person commencement ceremonies. Cabinet members agreed to wait to finalize the decision to when Dr. Carranco updates the President's Cabinet on the COVID-19 pandemic at the November 20, 2020, President's Cabinet meeting.

Dr. Sriraman provided an update on the virtual commencement ceremony.

### **Clery Act (#772)**

Dr. Lloyd and guests Mr. Bobby Mason, Chief Compliance Officer, and Ms. Kristina Morales, Clery Act Coordinator, reviewed the draft of the 2020 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report (ASFSR) and discussed the U. S. Department of Education's rescission of a replacement for the 2016 Handbook for Campus Safety and Security Reporting. Cabinet members provided feedback. Ms. Morales will work with Margolis Healy Consultants to integrate the feedback. The 2020 ASFSR will be released during the week of November 30, 2020.

Strategies were discussed to strengthen safety and security. Dr. Cavitt will conduct benchmarking on security personnel and self-locking doors in residence halls.

### **Pandemic/Post Pandemic Work Groups (#771)**

Dr. Lloyd and guest Ms. Sandy Pantlik discussed responses to the recent thematic feedback survey. Ms. Pantlik discussed strategies to strengthen the messaging around the COVID-19 pandemic, including supervisor communication, streamlining the Roadmap, and bolstering social media by leveraging Texas State's campus communicators. Based on the qualitative comments, several questions remain for employees: "What will the university operational status look like after Thanksgiving and into the spring semester?", "Will in-person fall commencement ceremonies be held?", and "Will there be a spring break?" Collectively, respondents asked that: when decisions are made, the data and scientific sources used to inform those decisions are shared with the community, as well; more information is shared about positive cases (e.g., impacted buildings); clear instructions about testing prior to and after holidays, as well as in the spring 2021 semester, are provided; and students are asked to quarantine prior to the start of the spring 2021 semester. Cabinet members requested that more information about mental health be shared with the university community.

Ms. Pantlik shared that she is on the COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Planning Work Group and will be leading efforts in developing a communications plan around Texas State's plans for inoculating community members. Ms. Pantlik and her team will continue to work with The University Star to ensure accurate information is reported.

Ms. Pantlik provided an update from her first meeting with the COVID-19 Communications Response Work Group. The focus will be to identify: opportunities for administrators and supervisors to build trust within the university community, types of training for managers to improve how they communicate with their staff, an effective way for employees to submit questions and concerns; ways to share administrative heroes' stories, additional opportunities for administrators and supervisors to listen to faculty and staff.

To improve transparency, Ms. Pantlik will work with University Marketing to find a highly visible place to post President's Cabinet meeting minutes as well as Texas State's quarterly Board of Regents meeting briefing that is shared with The Texas State University System Board of Regents.

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

Since the hiring freeze was imposed, President Trauth has been approving waivers to fill select positions. The hiring freeze is still in place, but to improve efficiency, Cabinet members approved shifting the exception process from the President to the Vice Presidents and the Director of Athletics, effective immediately. Account managers need to continue to be mindful of the current budget situation when submitting requests for waivers.

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

Provost Bourgeois announced that McCoy College of Business Administration graduate student Javyn Stubbs was named Entrepreneur of the Year at the 2020 Global Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization Conference.

Provost Bourgeois announced that Dr. Rodhe Rodney published an article titled "What monoclonal antibodies are - and why we need them as well as a vaccine" in The Conversation. Faculty members were lauded for publishing their research for public consumption.

Dr. Cavitt discussed a large party at a local apartment complex that occurred over the weekend of November 14, 2020. San Marcos Police responded to reports of shots being fired. Dr. Vincent Morton, Dean of Students, is working with the San Marcos Police Department to address the dangerous situations that seem to be resulting from off-campus weekend parties. Mr. Algoe shared that UPD sent out a safety message over the weekend. President Trauth stated that Texas State needs an aggressive strategy to curtail these parties and protect students from these dangerous situations.

Dr. Bill Chittenden announced that he was the target of a spear phishing attack and warned President's Cabinet members to remain vigilant.

DMT:ta

Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on November 25, 2020.