

To: President's Cabinet
From: Denise M. Trauth
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting
September 20, 2021

Impact of COVID-19 (#770)

Dr. Carranco expressed his appreciation to the Department of Athletics for recognizing health care workers during the Texas State versus the University of Incarnate Word football game on September 18, 2021.

Dr. Carranco compared data from the week of September 13, 2021, to data from the week of September 6, 2021. In general, case counts and positivity rates are continuing a slow decent.

Week-to-week comparisons revealed:

- In Texas, the average daily case counts decreased from 12,950 to 12,559 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 16.2 to 16.1 percent;
- In Williamson county, the average daily case counts decreased from 335 to 290 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 14.4 to 10.6 percent;
- In Travis county, the average daily case counts decreased from 522 to 349 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 10.1 to 9.7 percent; and
- In Hays county, the average daily case counts increased from 119 to 129 cases per day. The average daily positivity rate had not been reported by meeting time.

Across Texas, hospitalizations have decreased from 13,230 to 11,838, and in Travis county, hospitalizations have decreased from 547 to 518.

College campuses continue to have lower COVID-19 positivity rates than their surrounding communities. Preliminary data for the week of September 13, 2021, indicate that Texas State had 70 positive tests out of 2,024 tests for a positivity rate of 3.5 percent. The University of Texas and Texas A&M University reported positivity rates of 0.35 percent (29 positive tests out of 8,362 tests) and 5.4 percent (1,498 positive tests out of 27,880 tests), respectively.

On September 12, 2021, active cases at Texas State were 340, and on September 19, 2021, that number declined to 267 active cases.

Dr. Carranco discussed an upcoming enhancement to Bobcat Trace to further streamline the notification process and contact tracing efforts. The Bobcat Trace reporting system will be enhanced to provide instructors with the name of the positive case as soon as a report is submitted and an opportunity for instructors to identify close contacts in the class (those sitting within six feet of the positive case) for immediate notification via an automated process.

Testing remains a key mitigation measure. The addition of a second testing site during the previous week did not result in a significant increase in number of tests administered. Thus, the

second testing site will be moved from the Student Recreation Center to a more visible location in front of the LBJ Student Center near the bus loop. Additional messaging will follow via multiple platforms including email, social media, digital signage, and posters.

Dr. Carranco reported that the Student Health Center's 20 contact tracers are able to get to cases within 24 hours and to complete all investigations with within 48 hours.

Dr. Carranco provided an update to the protocol for assessing classroom transmission in classrooms. Reports by classes are regularly run and reviewed. When multiple cases are observed in a class, the contact tracers look for linkages. To date, contact tracing has revealed no linkages; positive cases are mainly coming from social gatherings.

Dr. Carranco reported that vaccinations are increasing most likely due to the news; additional efforts to incentivize vaccinations seem to have limited effect on vaccination numbers at Texas State.

Dr. Carranco announced that the FDA is expected to approve a third dose (boosters) for individuals 65 years and older and for healthcare workers by the end of the week of September 20, 2021.

Cabinet Retreat

President Trauth discussed topics to include in a briefing document for the next university president. A President's Cabinet Retreat will be held early in the spring 2022 semester to develop this document. Cabinet members suggested several topics, including: enrollment trends and plans to boost enrollment; plans to achieve National Research University Funding Status; endowments and plans to increase the total endowment; academic programs and the strategic planning process to support new programs and other initiatives; infrastructure, approved projects, and the master planning process; the Albert B. Alkek Library and The Wittliff Collections; the budget and revenue fee structure; alumni; University Communications, University Marketing, and branding via a national public relations campaign; Legislative priorities; Department of Athletics, an overview of the Sun Belt Conference, and athletic and academic successes; organization of diversity, equity, inclusion, and access and related initiatives; government relations (federal, state, and local); and Clery Act Compliance.

President's Update (#556)

President Trauth expressed her appreciation to the faculty, staff, and students who were involved in putting on the events held during Hispanic Serving Institution week.

President Trauth discussed upcoming events, including the 2020 and 2021 Presidential Seminar Awards Reception on September 22, 2021, and underscored the importance of celebrating faculty and staff accomplishments in person.

Significant Issues (#01)

Dr. Breier discussed the Development Foundation meeting on September 17, 2021.

Dr. Breier announced that university endowments reached \$290 million.

Dr. Breier announced that on October 8, 2021, the Capital Campaign and the Texas State NEXT branding campaign will be launched during the Centennial Celebration of the university bands.

Mr. Pierce announced The Wittliff Collections Festival will be held on December 2, 2021, at Austin City Limits in the Moody Theater.

Dr. Breier announced that the Distinguished Alumni Gala will be held on November 5, 2021.

Mr. Coryell lauded women's soccer for their recent wins over Coastal Carolina University and Georgia State University.

Dr. Lloyd discussed the Institutional Compliance and Ethics five-step plan to build a university-wide compliance program. Currently, Chief Compliance Officer Bobby Mason and 32 Compliance Partners from across the university are on the fourth step -- compliance self-assessment. In the final phase of the self-assessment, the Compliance Partners, subject matter experts, and managers are engaged in a gap analysis which entails reviewing area-specific requirements based on state and federal regulations they must comply with, assessing gaps and consequences, developing a plan of action, etc. Dr. Lloyd encouraged Cabinet members to discuss this self-assessment process with the Partners that are within their division.

Mr. Pierce invited President Cabinet to attend the Ray Benson – In conversation with Hector Saldaña event at The Wittliff on September 26, 2021,

Mr. Pierce discussed the process for centralizing digital signage and its benefits. Cabinet members provided suggestions to the policy that is currently being developed. President Trauth requested that this item be placed on a future Cabinet agenda once the policy is drafted.

RTA 11/22/21 Discuss centralizing digital signage and a related draft policy.

Dr. Silva announced that the naming streets ceremony for Dr. Adolfo Barrera and Dr. Elvin Holt will be held on October 11, 2021, on the Round Rock Campus and the event celebrating the renaming of Angelina Hall to the First Five Freedom Hall and of San Gabriel Hall to the Elena Zamora O'Shea Hall will be November 2, 2021, on the San Marcos Campus.

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