

To: President's Cabinet  
From: Denise M. Trauth  
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting  
July 26, 2021

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

Dr. Carranco compared data from the week of July 19, 2021, to data from the week of July 12, 2021. There was much to talk about and little good news.

Week-to-week comparisons revealed:

- In Texas, the average daily case counts increased from 2,130 to 3,804 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate increased from 10.2 to 14 percent;
- In Williamson county, the average daily case counts increased from 61 to 111, and the average daily positivity rate increased from 8.5 to 9.7 percent;
- In Travis county, the average daily case counts increased from 103 to 172 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate increased from 6.6 to 9.6 percent; and
- In Hays county, the average daily case counts increased from 33 to 46 cases per day.  
(Note: The average daily positivity rate for the week of July 19, 2021, had not been released by meeting time).

Texas State had 16 positive tests out of 267 tests. As of July 26, 2021, there were 20 active cases at Texas State. Similar trends are reported by other Texas institutions.

COVID-19 cases per 100,000:

- Texas: 109 cases = High transmission,
- Hays county: 173 cases = High transmission,
- Williamson county: 155 cases = High transmission, and
- Travis county: 95 cases = High transmission.

Texas is in the midst of a surge. Most cases are in unvaccinated individuals. To reduce the risk of COVID-19 infections across the university community, mitigation strategies were identified:

#### Face coverings

- An aggressive marketing/communication campaign recommending the wearing of face coverings -- asking Bobcats to do their part to keep the university community safe -- will be launched.

#### Testing

Texas State will ask:

- All unvaccinated faculty, staff, and students to get a PCR test for COVID-19 two weeks before the start of the fall semester and every two weeks during the fall semester,
- Students living in residence halls, regardless of vaccination status, to get a PCR test for COVID-19 two weeks before move-in for the fall semester, and
- Anyone who develops cold-like symptoms, regardless of vaccination status, to get tested for COVID-19.

#### Summer Commencement

- Employees, stationed at entrances, will hand out face coverings, and
- Messages will be sent via email and other channels to candidates and their guests, recommending them to wear face coverings.

Dr. Teis reviewed key aspects of the Sun Belt Conference's COVID-19 protocol. Student-athletes, who are not vaccinated, will be tested once per week. The band/spirit protocols have been finalized; they will be allowed on the field, but not near the players.

Mr. Algoe and Dr. Lloyd led a discussion on incentivizing vaccinations at the start of the fall semester. Dr. Lloyd will seek guidance from The TSUS Office of General Counsel to determine if this is permissible in light of [Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-36](#).

### **Protocol for Student Deaths**

Dr. Hernandez and guest Dr. Vincent Morton, Associate Vice President and Dean of Students, reviewed the protocol for student death notifications and UPPS 07.11.06, Responding to Student Deaths. The Dean of Students Office is the primary point of contact to the affected family; and is responsible for coordinating the university's response to a student death. Mr. Algoe recommended streamlining/simplifying section 03.02 of the notification process. When a student death occurs during a university-sponsored event that is off university property, the faculty, staff, or student leader accompanying the students should be directed to contact UPD, who will then contact the Dean of Students. The UPPS will be revised based on the feedback given to Cabinet and will then go through the standard review process.

### **Student Affairs Reorganization**

Dr. Hernandez discussed the reorganization of the Division of Student Affairs. The most significant change is the reorganization of some departments into three clusters: Advocacy and Support; Engagement and Involvement; and Health, Counseling, and Wellbeing. A few small units have morphed into a Student Cares Center in the Dean of Students Office.

### **Website Accessibility Plan (#731)**

Mr. Pierce discussed the current state of organizational charts on Texas State webpages as related to accessibility. Mr. Pierce proposed that the IT Division's new standard serve as the university standard for displaying organizational charts. President Trauth and Mr. Algoe recalled that Dr. Best Wuest may be leading a work group to establish a university standard for how organizational charts are to be displayed on Texas State webpages that comply with SACSCOC and accessibility standards. Dr. Lloyd will reach out to Dr. Wuest for more information.

**RTA 8/30/2021 Discuss university standard for displaying organizational charts in a way that complies with SACSCOC and accessibility standards.**

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

President Trauth announced that on July 28, 2021, Dr. Teis and she will participate in a joint conversation with Sun Belt Conference Athletic Directors and CEOs to discuss recent conference reconfigurations.

President Trauth discussed her schedule for the upcoming week.

**Significant Issues (#01)**

Dr. Hernandez provided an update on housing contracts, with capacity hovering at 101 percent. The number of contracts is higher by 41 compared to the same time two years ago (before the COVID-19 pandemic).

Dr. Silva announced that answers to follow-up questions to Texas State's recent application for the Seal of Excelencia will be submitted by July 28, 2021.

Mr. Algoe announced that Mr. Gordon Green will return from retirement to serve as interim Associate Vice President for Facilities until a permanent replacement can be hired.

Mr. Pierce announced that Dr. Kelly Visnak will join Texas State as the new Associate Vice President and University Librarian effective August 16, 2021.

Dr. Chittenden discussed his recent publication "Canceling student loan debt will barely boost the economy, but a targeted approach could help certain groups" in The Conversation.

DMT:ta

Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on August 6, 2021.