

To: President's Cabinet
From: Denise M. Trauth
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting
January 11, 2021

President Trauth opened the meeting by welcoming our new Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Cynthia Hernandez.

Impact of COVID-19 (#770)

Guest Dr. Emilio Carranco provided an update on the COVID-19 pandemic. Guest Ms. Sandy Pantlik joined the meeting to discuss strategies for communicating messages about COVID-19.

Dr. Carranco compared data from the week of January 4, 2021, to data from the week of December 27, 2020. In Texas, these comparisons revealed an increase in the average daily case counts from 14,686 to 18,900 cases per day, and a slight increase in the average daily positivity rate from 20.2 to 20.5 percent.

In Hays county, the average daily case counts decreased from 209 to 130 cases per day. Hays county had yet to post the positivity rate for the week of January 4, 2020.

In Williamson county, the average daily case counts increased from 222 to 339 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate increased from 12.4 to 16.7 percent.

The Student Health Center conducted 58 tests, with four returning positive, and Curative Inc. conducted 1,596 tests, with 62 returning positive. Combined, there were 66 positive results out of 1,654 tests for a positivity rate of four percent.

As of January 12, 2021, there are 86 active cases, and no students are in isolation or quarantine.

In comparison, the University of Texas at Austin reported 32 positive results out of 2,121 tests for a positivity rate of 1.5 percent, and Texas A&M University reported 228 positive results out of 5,465 tests for a positivity rate of 4.2 percent.

Dr. Carranco expects the current surge to continue through the end of January 2021 and lauded the university for its recent adoption of additional mitigation measures.

Texas State has been approved as a vaccine provider by the Texas Department of State Health Services. Texas State has been authorized to distribute the vaccine to university community members only. It is unclear, however, when Texas State will receive the vaccine. Hays county continues to trail other counties in terms of vaccine allocations.

The Mass Vaccination Planning Work Group will finalize Texas State's mass vaccination plans by the end of the week of January 11, 2021. Certain preparations are underway and summarized as follows:

- Vaccinations will be available on the Round Rock Campus. Dr. Carranco is working with Round Rock Campus personnel to identify a location for vaccination.
- Vaccinations will be available on the San Marcos Campus in the LBJ Ballrooms.
- A registration application is nearly finished.
- The priority groups have been identified in accordance with the Department of State Health Services guidelines.
- To ensure that all vaccine allocations are distributed in a timely manner, a waiting list will be maintained.
- A vaccination webpage will go live towards the end of the week of January 11, 2021.
- There will be no out-of-pocket cost to receive the vaccine.

In collaboration with the College of Health Professions, the Office of Human Resources, the Office of Disability Services, and the ADA Compliance Coordinator, Dr. Carranco is developing a process for identifying university community members eligible for the vaccine, when it comes available, by priority group.

Dr. Carranco discussed staffing for the vaccinations. President Trauth asked Mr. Algoe and Provost Bourgeois to assist in identifying staff and students to help.

Dr. Carranco discussed the upcoming mass Antigen testing event. Upon arriving to the San Marcos Campus for move-in, each student will be required to present evidence of a negative test result prior to proceeding to their assigned housing facility. The verification process will be conducted as a "drive-through" event at parking lot P-9 located between Bobcat Stadium and the University Event Center. Students presenting appropriate testing evidence will be approved for move-in and will receive a Move-in Certificate to present when they arrive at their respective residence hall. For students who had difficulty getting a test and do not have a result prior to move-in, a limited number of rapid Antigen tests (about 1,000 per day) will be available on January 17 and 18, 2021. Clinical laboratory science students and athletics trainers are assisting the Student Health Center staff with this event.

The San Marcos Campus will soon have a second testing location. A Curative, Inc. mobile van will be parked in the Student Health Center parking lot. This location will be open weekly, Monday through Saturday, and will only test Texas State faculty, staff, and students.

Dr. Carranco reported that the FDA Safety Communication released a Safety Communication on January 4, 2021, about the Curative SARS-CoV-2 Assay and the potential risk of false negative results. According to a statement release by Curative, Inc., "Curative's test has been validated and is being offered during the pandemic under an Emergency Use Authorization, and is labeled with specific warnings, precautions, and limitations that FDA reiterated in the Safety Communication. The test performance and labeling, however, have not changed, nor has the company observed any changes in test performance." Dr. Carranco added that KorvaLabs, the laboratory that developed Curative's test, was one of the first laboratories to apply for

Emergency Use Authorization, and the data included in the application was limited to test subjects experiencing COVID-19-related symptoms. The FDA Safety Communication does not indicate that the test is not accurate or reliable; rather, its use has only been authorized on symptomatic subjects and that there is a risk of false negatives when used on symptomatic persons beyond 14 days since the start of symptoms. As part of its testing strategy, the State of Texas has funded free testing by Curative, Inc., for residents throughout the entire state. As such, its use has been expanded to include asymptomatic residents. Curative, Inc. has been working with the FDA to address their concerns and these limitations, and they will continue to work interactively with the FDA through the Emergency Use Authorization process. Dr. Carranco recommended that the university continue using Curative testing on its campuses while Curative works with the FDA to address their concerns.

The Town Hall on January 15, 2021, at 1:30 p.m., will address the beginning of the spring 2021 semester for the Round Rock and San Marcos Campuses and provide a COVID-19 update, including information about the university's vaccine distribution plan.

Commencement (#143)

Dr. Bourgeois and guest Dr. Vedaraman Sriraman discussed holding in-person commencement ceremonies for spring 2021 in Bobcat Stadium. Cabinet members approved in-person commencement ceremonies to be held May 13-14, 2021, and identified May 15, 2021, as a make-up day in case of bad weather. The following mitigation strategies will be implemented:

- All attendees will be required to wear face coverings.
- Candidates will be at least four feet apart.
- Groups of guests will be separated by at least two empty seats and one empty row in the stands.
- Candidates may invite up to seven guests.

There will be no virtual commencement ceremony. Instead, the in-person ceremonies will be streamed live.

President Trauth discussed possible ways (e.g., via video) to incorporate Texas State University System Board of Regent Alan Tinsley as the guest speaker and to present Mr. Earl Maxwell with an honorary doctorate degree during an in-person commencement.

Cabinet members began a preliminary discussion on whether to allow high school commencement ceremonies and athletic camps in our facilities during summer 2021. Dr. Teis will discuss these topics with the Department of Athletics staff and bring the item back to Cabinet at a later date.

Coordinating Board Meeting (#5)

Dr. Lloyd discussed the January 21, 2021, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board meeting. Agenda items highlighted were the National Research University Fund certification report for fiscal year 2020, the percentage of eligible developmental education students enrolled in both a

developmental-level and college-level math course at the same time, and contracts related to 60x30TX. Dr. Lloyd shared that the supporting materials included a reference to Dr. Emily Summers as a member of the EduPolicy Research, LLC, team.

Provost Bourgeois shared that members of his staff have been actively involved in the development of a new Texas transfer framework.

Chartwells Partnership Review

Mr. Algoe presented a video summarizing challenges that Chartwell's faced during the COVID-19 pandemic, and highlighting new renovations, products, menus, and services.

President's Update (#556)

President Trauth announced that The Texas State University System Office Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations Sean Cunningham is setting up meetings between President Trauth, certain Cabinet members, and state legislators including Texas State Senator Donna Campbell, Texas State Senator Charles Schwertner, Texas State Senator Judith Zaffirini, and Texas State Representative James Talarico. President Trauth has already met with Texas State Representative Erin Zweiner.

Significant Issues (#01)

Provost Bourgeois provided an enrollment update. As of January 11, 2021, spring 2021 enrollment is the same as spring enrollment 2020. Fall 2020 to spring 2021 retention is 90.6 percent, which is similar to last year's retention rate. These metrics are remarkable given the impact that COVID-19 has on higher education.

Provost Bourgeois noted the wide-spread media coverage that Dr. Kate Spradley has received for her forensic anthropology work.

Mr. Pierce announced that Associate Vice President and University Librarian Joan Heath, will be retiring on June 30, 2021. Mr. Pierce expressed his appreciation of Ms. Heath for her 40 years of service at Texas State.

Mr. Algoe announced that Assistant Vice President for Human Resources candidate, Ms. Carole Clerie, will meet with Cabinet members on January 12, 2021.

Dr. Silva announced that a ceremony will be held on January 29, 2021, for faculty and staff who have completed the Bobcat J.E.D.I. Program.

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Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on January 15, 2021.