

To: President's Cabinet  
From: Denise M. Trauth  
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting  
January 27, 2022

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

Dr. Carranco compared data for the week ending on January 23, 2022, to data for the week ending January 16, 2022.

Week-to-week comparisons revealed:

- In Texas, the average daily case counts decreased from 50,943 to 48,900 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 34.4 to 33.7 percent.
- In Williamson county, the average daily case counts increased from 1,043 to 1,124, and the average daily positivity rate increased from 25.8 to 29.6 percent.
- In Travis county, the average daily case counts increased from 969 to 1,565 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate decreased 31.1 to 30.5 percent.
- In Hays county, the average daily case counts increased from 145 to 461 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate increased from 31.8 to 34 percent.
- In Texas, hospitalizations increased from 12,220 to 13,099.

On the Texas State campuses, there were 416 positives out of 1,947 tests for a positivity rate of 21.4 percent.

COVID-19 transmission levels, as defined by the CDC, in Texas as well as Hays, Williamson, and Travis counties remain "high."

In short, counties surrounding Texas State campuses continued to experience an increase in cases and high positivity rates during the past week. However, the state appears to be entering a downward trend with a drop in both cases and positivity rates over the last two weeks. If this downward trend holds, case counts during the first week of in-person classes are expected to be high, but then steadily decline thereafter. By March 2022, positivity rates of less than eight percent are expected, and some mitigation measures may be relaxed.

Dr. Carranco reviewed effectiveness of COVID-19 medications and the federal government free masks and tests kits program.

Email notices from Bobcat Trace have been updated to reflect the latest CDC guidance. Also, as soon as someone reports to Bobcat Trace, they and their close contacts will receive an automated email with customized guidance.

Testing is on both campuses. However, demand is low on the Round Rock Campus. Test turnaround times are improving after the initial surge in demand and returning to their normal 24 to 48-hour response time. MD Diagnostics is expected to add antigen testing the week of January 31, 2022.

Two messages are being prepared. A Bobcat Trace message will be shared with the entire university community, and another communication will be shared with students.

Face-to-face events should implement Texas State's mitigation strategies.

Mr. Algoe and guest Ms. Carole Clerie, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources, discussed with Cabinet members possible changes to sick leave pool eligibility. Currently, for employees who have exhausted their sick leave, they cannot access the sick leave pool until they have missed 30 working days in the immediate preceding six months. Cabinet approved reducing this 30-day period to 10 days.

### **Review and Recommendations Task Force**

Dr. Silva discussed the renaming of a residence hall based on the recommendations from the Review and Recommendations Task Force. Dr. Silva provided a recap of the work that paved the way for these recommendations. In February 2021, President Trauth convened the Scholars Task Force, comprised of scholars in history, sociology, political science, and library studies, to undertake a scholarly analysis of the historical facts about and contexts of the lives and careers of Sallie Ward Beretta, the namesake of Beretta Hall on the San Marcos Campus, and John Garland Flowers, namesake of Flowers Hall on the San Marcos Campus. The Task Force produced a report titled "Historical Background and Context: Sallie Ward Beretta and John Garland Flowers." She, then, charged the Review and Recommendations Task Force in September 2021, comprised of students, alumni, faculty, and staff, to review the report and make recommendations based on its contents. The Task Force recommended to the President's Cabinet members to retain the name Flowers on the building named after former Texas State president John Garland Flowers and to remove "Beretta" from the building named after Sallie Ward Beretta. The recommendations were approved during a December 15, 2021, cabinet meeting. At the current meeting, Cabinet members reviewed a list of preapproved building names and approved Mesquite Hall as the new name of the residence hall.

### **Inclusion and Diversity (#747)**

Dr. Silva discussed a report submitted by the Council on Inclusive Excellence and how President's Cabinet members will respond. Dr. Silva provided a recap of the events that led up to the report. In partnership with the organization Life Anew, starting in January 2021, over 100 students, staff, and faculty, including President Trauth and President's Cabinet members, engaged first in individual, then in integrated, dialogue sessions. These conversations focused on racial injustice and restorative justice with the goal of producing a report that reflected the interests, concerns, and voices of our Texas State community.

The Life Anew process resulted in a framework to create a long-term strategic plan for building and maintaining equitable relationships across the university. The Council on Inclusive Excellence (CIE) identified themes and recommended strategies into a report titled "Themes and Recommended Strategies to Building Equitable Relationships Across Texas State University." President's Cabinet members are reviewing the report and will provide a response during the spring 2022 semester.

Because equity and inclusion are foundational principles for Texas State, Texas State will include DEIA as one of the university's five institutional goals in its next strategic planning process. The information gleaned from the CIE recommendations, in part, will be used to inform the strategies for this goal and ensure Texas State stays focused on a forward trajectory for DEIA initiatives.

**RTA: 03/28/2022 Cabinet members will discuss their responses to the Council on Inclusive Excellence report titled "Themes and Recommended Strategies to Building Equitable Relationships Across Texas State University."**

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

President Trauth engaged Cabinet members in discussion about posting of criminal trespass warnings. Mr. Algoe provided benchmarking information and discussed the pros and cons. Mr. Algoe will compile additional information and return this item to another cabinet agenda meeting.

**RTA: 3/7/22 Chief Carmichael to discuss his philosophy to university policing and criminal trespass warnings.**

President Trauth discussed the possibility of offering a bonus to employees during the next fiscal year.

President Trauth asked Cabinet members to review their internal policies related to organizations affiliated with the university that have bank accounts outside of the university.

**Significant Issues (#01)**

Mr. Algoe discussed an issue involving a student.

Provost Bourgeois made several announcements:

- The current fall to spring retention rate is 93.1 percent.
- A new assured scholarship program for new transfer students is about to be launched.
- Freshmen applications increased 32 percent over fall 2021 and is higher than fall 2019 (the last prepandemic numbers semester).
- An application for Phi Beta Kappa has been submitted. Achieving this designation will bolster Texas State's progress toward achieving Research 1 status.

Provost Bourgeois indicated that his team is exploring ways to offer graduate online programs to non-resident students at in-state rates.

Mr. Algoe summarized topics discussed at a meeting of the Texas State Associations of State Senior College and University Business Officers.

Mr. Coryell provided updates to the Sun Belt Conference realignment and the new NCAA constitution and reviewed the schedule of upcoming athletic events.

Dr. Hernandez reported on student engagement activities.

DMT:ta

Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on March 31, 2022.