

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

Impact of COVID-19 (#770)

Dr. Carranco compared data from the week of October 4, 2021, to data from the week of September 27, 2021.

Week-to-week comparisons revealed:

- In Texas, the average daily case counts decreased from 7,151 to 5,380 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 9.9 to 8.7 percent;
- In Williamson county, the average daily case counts decreased from 176 to 140, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 9.1 to 8.5 percent;
- In Travis county, the average daily case counts decreased from 230 to 159 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 7.4 to 5.9 percent; and
- In Hays county, the average daily case counts decreased from 61 to 52 cases per day. By meeting time, the positivity rate was not available.

Across Texas, hospitalizations continue to decline. Over the previous month, hospitalizations across Texas have decreased by 52 percent. Over the previous week, hospitalizations in Travis county have decreased by 22 percent.

On October 10, 2021, active cases at Texas State were 79 cases.

Preliminary data for the week of October 4, 2021, indicate that Texas State had 20 positive tests out of 1,771 tests for a positivity rate of 1.1 percent.

The decline in cases is expected up to the holiday season. Texas State will continue to advocate for vaccination/boosters and testing. In case there is a surge during and post-holiday season, President's Cabinet discussed plans and messaging for the end of the fall 2021 semester and beginning of the spring 2022 semester.

Texas State continues to review contact tracing data. Results continue to show no evidence of broad transmission occurring in classrooms or residence halls. Most exposures are still occurring out in the community, within households, during gatherings of friends or family, or crowded indoor settings like bars.

Dr. Carranco reported that the new automated notification system seems to be working well, and contact tracers are investigating cases in a timely manner.

A vaccination clinic is being planned for the Round Rock Campus. Vaccinations are available by appointment at the Student Health Center on both campuses. Vaccinations for children five years of age and older are expected to be approved by the FDA at the end of October.

Several new medications are now available to treat persons with mild to moderate disease who are at high risk for complications. The FDA has authorized several monoclonal antibody treatments that can reduce the risk of hospitalizations and deaths by 50-80 percent. The FDA is also considering a request for an oral antiviral medication that has been shown to reduce hospitalization and death by 50 percent.

Another COVID-19 update will be sent out to the university community on October 12, 2021.

Budget Cycle (#160)

Mr. Algoe presented the budget forecast for fiscal years 2023 and 2024. The plan is conservative in that it is based on flat enrollment.

To bolster enrollment, the plan includes a strategic investment in financial aid and scholarships of \$10,850,379 for fiscal year 2023 and \$8,768,437 for fiscal year 2024.

President Trauth added that the plan does not include merit pay. However, President Trauth is working with Mr. Algoe to determine whether three percent bonuses can be awarded for the next fiscal year (FY 2023).

Texas Higher Education Distinguished Service Award (#316)

President Trauth discussed the possibility of a Texas State nomination for the Texas Higher Education Distinguished Service Award (formerly known as the Mirabeau B. Lamar Award). Last year, Texas State successfully submitted a proposal for Mr. Richard Castro. President Trauth suggested a potential nominee, who has made a significant impact on higher education across the state of Texas, and Dr. Breier will gather more information about the potential nominee and whether to move forward with submitting a nomination package.

Coordinating Board Meeting (#5)

Dr. Lloyd discussed the upcoming Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board meeting. At the next meeting, Texas State's request to offer a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering will be considered for approval.

It was noted that Texas State will face additional competition in educational leadership and administration with the approval of Texas Women's University's request to add a doctoral program in education, leadership, and organization.

Also included on the meeting agenda was reference to the approval of Texas State's Bachelor of Arts in Education on August 16, 2021, and the phase-out of Texas State's Bachelor of Science in

Interdisciplinary Students and Master's of Science in Software Engineering by August 15, 2026, and August 15, 2025, respectively.

Texas State was listed as a performing agent for the following contracts executed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board: Texas Reskilling Support Fund Grant, GEER Funds Open Educational Resource Grant Program, two College Readiness and Completion Models Grants, Work-Study Student Mentorship Program, Texas Research Incentive Program, and Financial Aid Program Participation Agreement.

The proposed updates to the 60X30 plan will focus on adult learners and high-value credentials. The updates will most likely impact technical and community colleges. However, as more information becomes available, Texas State will monitor whether four-year institutions must report out on apprenticeships, licenses, micro-credentials, etc.

Related to Texas Transfer Initiatives, Ms. Kambra Bosch continues to serve on the Transfer Advisory Committee. Two discipline-specific subcommittees were appointed by Commissioner Harrison Keller in August 2021; Dr. Michael Supancic is serving on the criminal justice subcommittee.

The Financial Aid Report indicates that Texas State has the third highest number of TEXAS grants behind Texas A&M University and The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

Provost Bourgeois discussed additional degree proposals. For example, Texas A&M University has submitted a request to add a Doctor of Nursing Practitioner, which would make it the 14th in the state.

The Board will also consider increasing the number of baccalaureate programs a public junior college can offer from three to five programs.

President's Update (#556)

President Trauth discussed two upcoming events celebrating trailblazers from the Black and Hispanic communities. On October 11, 2021, an event will be held celebrating the renaming of two unnamed streets on the Round Rock Campus after Dr. Adolfo "Sunny" Barrera and Dr. Elvin Holt. On November 12, 2021, a naming event will be held celebrating the renaming of San Gabriel Hall to Elena Zamora O'Shea Hall and Angelina Hall to First Five Freedom Hall.

President Trauth expressed her appreciation of University Advancement staff's hard work during the centennial celebration of the university bands.

President Trauth provided an update on accreditation reviews and how well they are going.

Significant Issues (#01)

Provost Bourgeois announced that the first large in-person Bobcat Day since the start of the pandemic will be held on October 16, 2021.

Mr. Algoe announced that a new residence for the university president has been purchased. A replacement for the president's residence is necessary for the Board of Regents approved Master Plan demolition of the current President's House to proceed. The new residence is important in recruiting the next president and removing the current house will allow for the completion of the 50-year vision for Bobcat Trail, fully connecting and integrating the western side of the San Marcos campus to the middle of the campus.

Mr. Algoe provided an update to the JCK building renovation project, which involves renovation of the front door and 11th floor.

Mr. Algoe reported that the search committee has selected the finalists for the University Police Chief position.

Mr. Algoe announced that the search committee for the next president will meet on October 15, 2021.

Dr. Breier discussed the launch of the NEXT IS NOW capital campaign and reported that the campaign has received good media coverage. Dr. Breier expressed her appreciation of University Marketing staff's assistance with the successful launch of the campaign.

Mr. Coryell provided updates on athletic events.

- Texas State will host Troy University for our home football game on October 16, 2021. Texas State Heroes will be honored during half-time. A concert by Dylan Wheeler inside Bobcat Stadium will immediately follow the game.
- The volleyball team beat The University of Texas at Arlington on both October 7, 2021, and October 9, 2021.
- The Jim West Challenge will be held at the Kissing Tree Golf Club on October 17-18, 2021; this will be the first women's golf tournament hosted by a Sun Belt Conference school to be broadcasted on ESPN+ that a school produced.

Dr. Ekin announced that the final meeting of the Chief Research Officer Selection Committee will be held on October 11, 2021.

Mr. Pierce announced that October is Cybersecurity month, and the Information Security Office is hosting a series of events.

Mr. Pierce announced that in October 2021, Information Technology (IT) began installing printers in buildings that do not have an IT-supported laboratory. At present, printers have been installed in seven buildings, with a goal of eventually installing printers in 20 buildings.

Dr. Silva announced that Hispanic Heritage Month continues into October, and the Inclusive Excellence Showcase Reception will be held on October 18, 2021.

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Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on October 18, 2021.