

To: President's Cabinet  
From: Denise M. Trauth  
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting  
September 16, 2019

### **TXST Mobile App**

Mr. Pierce and guests Mr. Mark Hughes and Ms. Rori Sheffield discussed the TXST Mobile App. Mr. Hughes reviewed the history, successes, and future plans for the app. The newest version of the app was developed in-house and based on student input. The app is focused on providing a sleek set of content requested by students. Fiscal year 2020 initiatives include upgrades related to personalizing information within the app, billing, financial aid, reporting issues, meal plans, dining, the library, university maps, parking, and notifications.

### **Enrollment Management (#9)**

Provost Bourgeois and guest Mr. Gary Ray reviewed the fall enrollment report. Scholarship optimization played a key role in recruiting students in the top quarter of their high school graduating class. Texas Education Agency projections indicate that the number of economically disadvantaged high school students will continue to rise; thus, financial aid will continue to play a role in recruiting students and growing enrollments. Highlights of the 2019 enrollment report center around a record enrollment of new students: 10,900 total new students, up 1.1 percent from fall 2018; 6,314 new freshmen, up 3.7 percent from fall 2018, and topping off seven straight years for freshman class enrollment; 1,105 new master's students, up 1.1 percent from fall 2018; and 85 new doctoral students, up 16 percent from fall 2018. Student success was underscored by a record number of graduates receiving degrees, with 8,900 or 4 percent increase for academic year 2018-19. Overall, total enrollment is 38,230 students. Factors challenging enrollment growth include, but are not limited to, students are enrolling with more college credits from dual credit programs and the Texas economy is strong, thereby unemployment rates are low.

Mr. Ray provided data on retention rates, which led to a discussion on the need to better understand factors that strengthen retention and factors that challenge retention. Dr. Smith agreed to work with Residence Life staff to identify factors that may have an impact on freshmen living in residence halls.

### **Telecommuting Policy**

Mr. Algoe discussed the proposed telecommuting policy. Telecommuting is currently a part of UPPS 04.04.01 Miscellaneous HR Policies and Procedures. The proposed policy is based on Staff Council's recommendations and a review of best practices of 10 universities across the nation that are associated with the College and University Professional Association. The proposed policy identifies the divisional vice president as the approver of the arrangement and addresses accountability, considerations when evaluating telecommuting requests, how often

arrangements are reviewed, and the workspace requirements. The policy clearly states that the agreement is not a substitute for childcare or eldercare. Cabinet members discussed Information Technology requirements of employees working from home and raised concerns about workers compensation in the event that an employee, who is telecommuting, is injured while working from home. Based on the discussion, President Trauth asked Cabinet members to review the current policy and the proposed policy and be prepared to discuss further at a future cabinet meeting.

**RTA 9/30/19 Continue discussion on proposed telecommuting policy.**

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

President Trauth asked questions about the reporting deficiencies identified in the previous two Annual Security Reports. The current report, which will be released on October 1, 2019, is fully compliant. The previous two reports are in the process of being corrected. Cabinet members discussed factors that may have caused these reporting errors and identified specific actions to ensure that reports, herein, are fully compliant. These actions include but are not limited to: working with a nationally known Clery consultant that has worked with other universities on similar Clery reporting challenges, the University Police Department joining the Clery Center, which helps identify best practices and reviews annually university processes geared towards fulfilling the requirements set forth by the Clery Act, and establishing an Office of University Compliance and hiring a Director of University Compliance and a Compliance Specialist.

**Significant Issues (#01)**

Provost Bourgeois, following-up on a previous discussion about improving student engagement and success at the Round Rock Campus, reported that he is exploring the possibility of increasing library hours on Saturdays and allowing students swipe access to the Avery building after hours.

Provost Bourgeois reported that the Student Regalia Committee is recommending custom regalia for undergraduate and graduate students.

Provost Bourgeois provided a preliminary update on restricted research expenditures and total research and development for fiscal year 2019.

DMT:ta

Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on October 2, 2019.