

To: President's Cabinet  
From: Denise M. Trauth  
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting  
June 10, 2021

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

Dr. Carranco compared data from the week of May 24, 2021, to data from the week of May 31, 2021. Week-to-week comparisons revealed:

- In Texas, the average daily case counts increased from 720 to 857 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate is holding steady at 2.9 percent;
- In Williamson county, the average daily case counts decreased from 14 to eight, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 1.4 to 0.9 percent;
- In Hays county, the average daily case counts decreased from 15 to 10 cases per day. By meeting time, Hays county had not yet reported data for the week of May 31, 2021. For the week of May 24, the positivity rate was 3.7 percent; and
- In Travis county, the average daily case counts increased from 21 to 27 cases per day and the average daily positivity has held steady at 2.2 percent.

These metrics indicate the situation in Texas looks promising, as positivity rates mostly below three percent confirms low transmission rates.

As of June 9, 2021, there were five active cases at Texas State. For the week of May 31, 2021, 62 tests were performed, with two tests returning positive.

As of June 9, 2021, the one-dose COVID-19 vaccination rates of those 12 and older are:

- 54 percent of the Texas population,
- 58 percent of Hays county,
- 64 percent of Williamson county,
- 67 percent of Travis county, and
- 61 percent of the U. S. population.

The Student Health Center is offering no cost vaccinations by appointment and can vaccinate about 50 per day. Currently, they are vaccinating about 12 per day; a mass vaccination event set for June 11, 2021, has about 60 registered.

Progress toward getting Texans vaccinated is beginning to stall, as vaccination rates have slowed drastically.

Messaging about the benefits of getting vaccinated were discussed. For example, if one is vaccinated, then they are less likely to get sick and transmit to virus.

Dr. Carranco will work with the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs to develop vaccine, testing, and contact tracing messaging for faculty syllabi, as well as a corresponding slide with information to debunk vaccine myths that faculty can show on the first day of classes.

University Marketing and University Communications will provide support to vaccine messaging efforts and assist with elevating faculty and student voices in the messaging. Undergraduate Admissions and the Texas State Family Association will be good partners in promoting these messages. Dr. Hernandez will facilitate the development of a return to campus guide for students and targeted messages to presidents and advisors of student organizations, on-campus residence halls, orientation leaders, and residence assistants.

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

Dr. Silva, Dr. Sherri Benn, Assistant Vice President for Institutional Inclusive Excellence-Student Initiatives, Dr. Victoria Black, Director, Peer Mentoring, and Dr. Toni Moreno, Assistant Director for Hispanic and First-Generation Student Retention, provided an update on the application for the Seal of Excelencia prepared by the Seal of Excelencia Work Group. Texas State's strengths and areas of growth in supporting Latino students at Texas State were discussed. Dr. Moreno and Dr. Black will present this information to key groups, including the Council of Academic Deans, Council of Chairs, and Retention Management Council; ultimately, this information will be used to inform strategic plans.

The application will be submitted on June 11, 2021. Once awarded, the Seal (certification) will be good for three years. Cabinet members discussed appointing a permanent group of key leaders to ensure the sustainability of the Task Force's work.

President Trauth lauded their work and stated that the final application will serve as a good model/template for other underserved populations.

### **Current Student Profile and Characteristics**

Dr. Hernandez and Dr. Silva continued discussion on the current student profile and Generation Z student characteristics, including education, social justice, economy and work, communication, technology, demographics, cultural awareness, and environment. For example, Generation Z students are concerned about college affordability, want to create an equitable environment, prefer texting and Instagram over email and Facebook, are high technology users, are more racially and ethnically diverse, and are passionate about making the world a better place.

### **Significant Issues (#01)**

Provost Bourgeois announced that Dr. Tania Betancourt and a team of faculty from the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and the Department of Physics received notification that their grant proposal to the National Science Foundation Partnership for Research and Education in Materials program was awarded for \$3.82 million over six years.

Provost Bourgeois announced that Texas Grant Funding for fiscal year 2022 is \$29.9 million, up \$2.7 million from fiscal year 2021.

Provost Bourgeois provided an update on New Student Orientation; registration numbers are tracking higher than the same time last year.

Provost Bourgeois reported that enrollment for summer is down, with McCoy College of Business Administration taking the largest hit.

In response to President Trauth's call to identify ways to bolster faculty and staff morale:

- Provost Bourgeois shared that faculty and staff will receive free passes to performing arts events held in fall 2021,
- Mr. Coryell shared that the Department of Athletics is planning to host a movie night in Bobcat Stadium, and
- Mr. Algoe discussed employee appreciation events being scheduled for July 2021.

Provost Bourgeois provided an update on industry partnerships being cultivated through the Connected Infrastructure for Education, Demonstration, and Applied Research initiative.

Dr. Breier provided an update on the Division of University Advancement's activities and Texas Research Incentive Program-eligible research awards.

Dr. Hernandez discussed the Division of Student Affairs' director retreat, and its focus on reviewing and updating the Student Affairs strategic plan.

Dr. Hernandez provided an update on three searches in Student Affairs.

Dr. Silva discussed an upcoming Institutional Inclusive Excellence-Faculty and Staff Initiatives retreat, and its focus on identifying ways to streamline/improve the hiring process.

Dr. Silva discussed the 2021 Institutional Inclusive Excellence Showcase planned for fall 2021, and asked the Cabinet members to encourage their staff to present diversity, equity, inclusion, and access activities that they implemented during the last year.

Mr. Coryell highlighted upcoming events, including the Jake Spavital Meet and Greet Series, and provided an update on the progress that the Department of Athletics has made on encouraging their student-athletes to get vaccinated.

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Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on June 22, 2021.