

To: President's Cabinet
From: Denise M. Trauth
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting
November 8, 2021

Impact of COVID-19 (#770)

Dr. Carranco compared data from the week of November 1, 2021, to data from the week of October 25, 2021.

Week-to-week comparisons revealed:

- In Texas, the average daily case counts decreased from 2,876 to 2,295 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 5.4 to five percent;
- In Williamson county, the average daily case counts decreased from 76 to 61, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 5.4 to five percent;
- In Travis county, the average daily case counts decreased from 116 to 86 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate increased from 3.3 to 3.7 percent; and
- In Hays county, the average daily case counts decreased from 34 to 19 cases per day. By meeting time, the positive rate for the week of November 1, 2021, had not been reported.

Across Texas, hospitalizations continue to trend downwards.

On November 7, 2021, active cases at Texas State were 62 cases.

Preliminary data for the week of November 1, 2021, indicate that Texas State had 19 positive tests out of 1,036 tests for a positivity rate of 1.8 percent. Positivity rates of The University of Texas at Austin is 0.26 percent and Texas A&M University is 1.2 percent.

The CDC now recommends that children ages five to 11 years old be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Pfizer and Merck have antiviral drugs under evaluation for treatment of COVID-19. Preliminary results are encouraging.

Texas State is preparing for an increase in case counts following the holidays. Messaging is forthcoming to encourage vaccination, mask wearing, testing, and reporting to Bobcat Trace.

President Trauth reported that during a recent meeting, Sun Belt Conference Commissioner Keith Gill expressed his appreciation of Dr. Carranco for working with the Sun Belt Conference on their COVID-19 protocols during the pandemic.

Commencement (#143)

Provost Bourgeois and guest Dr. Vedaraman Sriraman, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, discussed plans for December 2021 commencement ceremonies, including dates and times, ceremony elements, and parking. Students can request up to seven tickets for guests. Candidate count is expected to range from 442 to 533 per ceremony.

Cabinet approved the following:

- Interpreters will be at all ceremonies.
- The platform party will recess by taking a path to the left of the platform on the floor and making their way back to the robing room using the stairway near the volleyball locker room.
- Faculty will recess using the exit on the floor right behind them.

The commencement team will communicate with faculty regarding the revised exit procedures and have staff on hand during the ceremonies to guide faculty to the proper exit.

Communications After Action Report to Cabinet: Winter Storm Uri

Dr. Breier and guests Ms. Sandy Pantlik, Assistant Vice President for University Advancement, and Mr. Elias Martinez, Assistant Vice President, University Marketing, continued the discussion on the University Communications and University Marketing After Action Report for winter storm Uri in February 2021. Important points raised included:

- Salesforce will be used for internal email communication during a crisis.
- Implementation of a RAVE emergency alert opt out protocol will require collection of university members' current cell phone numbers. Mr. Martinez and Ms. Pantlik will follow-up with the Registrar's Office and return to President's Cabinet at a later date with a recommendation on how to operationalize the collection of cell phone numbers.

RTA: 02/28/2022 Discuss implementation of a RAVE emergency opt out protocol.

President's Update (#556)

President Trauth and Mr. Coryell discussed realignment of the Sun Belt Conference. Old Dominion, Marshall, Southern Mississippi, and James Madison are entering into the Sun Belt Conference, though the year of entry (2022 versus 2023) into the conference is pending. The number of bowl games has not increased, but Sun Belt Commissioner Keith Gill is leading efforts to increase bowl games from five to seven.

President Trauth and Dr. Breier expressed their appreciation to all who were involved in the recent Homecoming festivities.

President Trauth discussed the upcoming TSUS Board of Regents meeting.

Significant Issues (#01)

Dr. Breier announced that the Wittliff Fest Gala will be held December 2, 2021.

Mr. Coryell lauded the Homecoming events, including the Alumni Association pre-football game tailgate, the half-time tributes, and the post-game concert, that enhanced the November 6, 2021, game day experience

Mr. Coryell announced that Kwanele Mthembu has been named Sun Belt Conference Men's Cross Country Newcomer of the Year.

Dr. Silva announced the Texas State Inclusive Excellence Showcase award recipients for 2020 and 2021. The names of the award recipients are highlighted on the Institutional Inclusive Excellence webpage.

DMT:ta

Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on November 17, 2021.