

To: President's Cabinet  
From: Denise M. Trauth  
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting  
September 2, 2014

### **Graduate Student Employment Issues (#706)**

Mr. Nance noted that we currently call all non-teaching graduate assistants "research assistants." Graduate College Dean Andrea Golato shared the most recent United States Department of Labor definition of Graduate Research Assistants and reported that she has recently reviewed of the duties of current graduate student employees. Mr. Nance and Dean Golato recommended the establishment of a new title for non-teaching graduate assistants, noting that some revisions of the existing UPPS 07.07.06 covering these positions will be necessary. Cabinet members agreed that we should ask Human Resources and The Graduate College to work together to assure that all affected graduate student positions are classified appropriately with necessary changes to become effective in January 2015.

**RTA 10/6/14 Guest: Dr. Andrea Golato Review progress on revisions of Texas State graduate student employment categories and definitions.**

### **Board of Regents Follow-Up (#57)**

Mr. Nance distributed a memorandum summarizing follow-up actions needed based on Board of Regents' decisions. President Trauth noted that Texas State will next host a Board of Regents' meeting in November 2015.

### **Chancellor's Meeting with the Presidents Follow-Up (#623)**

President Trauth reported that Chancellor Brian McCall has asked for a security review of president's houses and offices. She asked for senior-level representatives from UPD, Information Technology, and Facilities to assist her on follow-up. She noted that tuition and fee increases for next year were discussed. Although no formal cap on requests exists, components were encouraged to be as conservative as possible in requests and to provide the System office with information about proposed increases at an early date. The Chancellor also announced that no honorary doctoral degrees should be proposed for sitting legislators or for individuals who have served in the Legislature except in the rarest of cases.

The President reported that the meeting included an extended discussion on recent federal court rulings on same-sex marriages following the Supreme Court's overturning of the Defense of Marriage Act and on university non-discrimination statements. The Department of Education has sent "Dear Colleague" letters to postsecondary institutions related to spousal benefits in areas such as financial aid, military spousal benefits, and FMLA benefits for married couples, and individuals who are legally married in other states will be awarded these benefits in Texas as well. However, spousal insurance benefits for state employees are provided through a separate

state agency, so cannot be provided at this point. Vice Chancellor Fernando Gomez discussed transgender students, noting that any gender-based discrimination is outlawed. He, therefore, directed schools to add sexual orientation and gender identity to their non-discrimination statements if they have not already done so. Although Texas State's non-discrimination statement already includes sexual orientation and gender identity, President Trauth asked for a review of our statement to determine whether we should change the construction of any of the language in our non-discrimination statement. Vice Chancellor Fernando Gomez also said in the area of academic records, if a student requests a change in gender identification, we should make the change. This is already our practice. President Trauth noted that on the morning of September 5, 2014, we have our Legislative Appropriations Request hearing with Joint Budget Hearing with the Governor's Office of Budget, Planning and Policy and the Legislative Budget Board.

The President reported that Mr. Randy Best of Academic Partnerships discussed a proposal for non-degree specialization certificate to be offered internationally. Lamar University will pilot these programs. The President also reported that the Texas State University System is hiring a risk management consultant to review a number of areas including student insurance for study abroad programs.

**RTA 9/24/14 University Non-discrimination Statement Guest: Dr. Gilda Garcia Review University Non-discrimination Statement**

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Signing of the Higher Education Act (#572)**

President Trauth has drafted a letter to committee members. The committee is to be co-chaired by Dr. Ron Brown and a co-chair is to be determined, with the event following a format similar to the Lady Bird anniversary celebration. The President invited Cabinet members to offer their suggestions for a co-chair.

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

President Trauth had no additional issues for this meeting.

**Significant Issues (#01)**

Provost Bourgeois reported that fall 2014 enrollment still looks strong.

Mr. Nance reported that the tennis courts were affected by a recent City water tank leak. Mr. Nance is following up with the System regarding a potential insurance claim.

Dr. Teis reported that we have a big volleyball game with Baylor on September 3, 2014.

**University Golf Carts (#622)**

Mr. Nance said he and Dr. Breier met with Mr. Patrick Graham representing tailgaters who still want to be able to use golf carts at pre-game events. Cabinet members agreed that we should not change our current policy regarding golf carts.

**Football (#601)**

Dr. Smith shared counts by student classification for student football attendance at the August 30, 2014, football game. She is developing strategies for additional student attendance. President Trauth noted that five members of the Board of Regents plan to attend the Navy game as well as a number of public officials.

**Title IX (#704)**

Dr. Smith noted that we have already had Title IX cases this fall 2014, and student affairs staff members are carrying a heavier workload in this area.

DMT:ta

Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on September 16, 2014.