

To: President's Cabinet
From: Denise M. Trauth
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting
April 16, 2020

Sallie Beretta Award

Dr. Smith reviewed the final draft of this SA/PPS, clarifying the committee structure and its criteria. Cabinet members approved the policy.

Faculty Grievance

Dr. Lloyd discussed the implementation of an alternate method of delivery of the faculty grievance form during the COVID-19 crisis. In reference to paragraph 04.01 of the AA/PPS No. 04.02.32 Faculty Grievance Policy, Provost Bourgeois suggested adding the option of electronic delivery of the faculty grievance directly to the university president. Dr. Lloyd will provide the recommended language to Associate Professor Dr. Debbie Thorne, who will submit the change for "pen and ink" review of the AA/PPS.

Federal Stimulus Package

Dr. Trauth continued the discussion on the federal stimulus package and how the funds may be used by institutions of higher education. Cabinet members focused the discussion on the portion of funding (approximately \$15.4 million) that will go directly to students. Provost Bourgeois stated that considering funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economy Security (CARES) Act and refunds/credits (e.g., \$6.5 million in housing and \$1 million in parking credits), Texas State will award more than \$23 million in direct aid to students within the next 90 days.

Texas State is working with The Texas State University System to solidify plans for how to disseminate funds. While it is a rapidly evolving situation, funds are expected to begin being disbursed within the next week. Mr. Algoe and Provost Bourgeois outlined the three most likely ways the funds will be awarded to students.

The first tranche will be awarded in the most expeditious manner to students with the greatest financial need. Criteria will be used to determine financial need.

The second tranche will award \$50 per semester credit hour of emergency financial aid to students taking online courses during summer session I. Mr. Algoe clarified that fees are not being waived. Fees vary based on instructional method. Students who are exclusively enrolled in off-campus or internet courses are not assessed a Bus Fee, Recreational Sports Fee, Student Center Fee, and a Medical Service Fee.

The third tranche will award emergency aid on a case-by-case basis, as some students' financial needs may not be easily discernable via traditional procedures, such as from review of a Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Funds will target students, who prior to the COVID-19 crisis did not require financial aid, but because of the impact of the COVID-19 crisis, now need financial aid due to a recent job loss, loss of savings, etc. An application process will be developed to allow students to describe how their financial circumstances have changed due to the COVID-19 crisis. Mr. Algoe suggested that the Dean of Students or a task force made up of staff from student affairs be charged with reviewing applications. President Trauth asked Provost Bourgeois, Mr. Algoe, Dr. Smith, and Dr. Cavitt to return to the next Cabinet meeting with a recommendation on how the applications will be reviewed, as well as how funds will be awarded. Provost Bourgeois stated that the first tranche and the third tranche are mutually exclusive; if a student receives an award from the first tranche, then they are not eligible to receive an award from the third tranche.

Cabinet members discussed whether DACA students are eligible to receive CARES Act-related financial aid awards. The National Association of Student Personnel Administrators recommends to not distribute these types of awards to DACA students, as guidance from the Department of Education is pending. Cabinet members discussed making other sources of emergency aid (e.g., from student emergency services or philanthropic funds) available to DACA students. Dr. Silva will ask the DACA Advisory and Resource Network to gather information, benchmarking against other universities.

Dr. Breier and Ms. Pantlik will develop a plan to communicate Texas State's strategy to utilize its portion of the federal stimulus package and its proactive steps to conserve resources, including deferring construction projects, instituting a hiring freeze, and reserving 50 percent of remaining maintenance and operating budgets.

RTA: 4/20/20 Guest: Sandy Pantlik Continue discussion on federal stimulus package, with a focus on how funds will be distributed to the students and how this process will be communicated to the university community.

President's Update (#556)

President Trauth asked Mr. Pierce for an update on the construction status of the Starbucks in the Albert B. Alkek Library. While Starbucks will be ready to be opened on June 1, 2020, it will not be opened until students return to campus.

Mr. Pierce provided an update on the safety initiatives that have been implemented in the Library. Environmental Health, Safety, and Risk Management staff are working with Library staff to ensure these initiatives have been properly implemented. Mr. Pierce reported that of the approximately 150 students utilizing the Library per day, only about five percent are students who are living on campus. These data suggest that students living off campus need access to Wi-Fi, computers, library resources, and quiet study spaces. Mr. Pierce shared that Texas State's Library is not the only university library open in Texas; several libraries in the University of Texas and A&M systems remain open.

President Trauth asked Mr. Pierce to bring back to the next Cabinet meeting a proposed schedule for Library operating hours between the spring and summer semesters.

RTA: 4/20/20 Discuss library hours between spring and summer I session.

Dr. Smith discussed a meeting that she had with advisors of student organizations who have been active on social media. The advisors and the student officers were unaware of their respective student organizations' recent posts on social media. Dr. Smith suggested ways to engage and inform students by hosting virtual student town halls or Zoom meetings. These are stressful times for students and information shared through email and on the Texas State COVID-19 webpage are not getting to some students. President Trauth agreed that Texas State needs to be sensitive to what is happening in the country and asked Dr. Smith to recommend ways to engage students.

President Trauth announced that Texas State will host the May 2021 TSUS Board of Regents meeting.

President Trauth reported that Texas State continues to be asked to allow one of its parking lots to be used on the weekends for drive-up COVID-19 testing. Based on guidance from Chief Medical Officer Dr. Emilio Carranco, Cabinet members agreed that Texas State will host a testing center as long as the test has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration and/or endorsed by the Centers for Disease Control. Mr. Algoe added that the local Emergency Operations Center is the venue for receiving and assessing such requests.

President Trauth continued the discussion of convening a post-pandemic task force. The task force should include all key stakeholders, including representatives from the Division of Student Affairs and the Department of Athletics.

RTA: 04/20/20 Discuss convening a post-pandemic task force to engage in discussions about how the pandemic may impact the next 12 months and the long-lasting changes to higher education that may result.

Significant Issues (#01)

Provost Bourgeois shared that he will be meeting with the Council of Academic Deans to discuss instructional modes of delivery during summer session II and whether to extend the \$50 per semester credit hour emergency financial aid to summer session II. Provost Bourgeois announced that summer I and II sessions are experiencing robust enrollments.

Mr. Algoe announced that for the May 2020 Board of Regents meeting, an additional item will be submitted to the meeting agenda. The fire system in Bexar Hall needs to be upgraded. Since the cost will be over \$1 million, it needs to be added to the CIP.

Mr. Algoe reported that the CARES Act includes financial support for public transportation. The City of San Marcos will receive more than \$6 million; of which, a large portion is due to Texas State's ridership.

Dr. Breier recommended that Texas State buses, providing interurban service between San Marcos and Austin, be wrapped with the Texas State logo.

Dr. Smith provided an update on housing requests. Year-over-year comparisons indicate that housing requests are down by about 500 beds. For the time being, one residence hall will be held back and possibly closed. Cabinet members suggested opening housing requests to sophomores. Dr. Smith shared that timing is an issue, as there may be a late surge in freshman applications once expansion of the Bobcat Promise is announced and if the COVID-19 crisis begins to subside.

DMT:ta

Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on May 15, 2020.