

To: President's Cabinet
From: Denise M. Trauth
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting
May 11, 2020

Impact of COVID-19 (#770)

Provost Bourgeois and guests Dr. Vedaraman Sriraman and Ms. Sandy Pantlik discussed recommendations from the commencement feasibility work group and the Texas Education Agency's (TEA) guidance for 2020 seniors. The commencement feasibility work group, which included six student representatives, two faculty senators, a Dean representative, the Registrar, the commencement coordinator, the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the Chief Medical Officer, were charged with recommending the safest options to hold commencement events for more than 6,000 graduates as well as their families and friends over a span of three consecutive days. The work group recommended proceeding with virtual commencement ceremonies in lieu of traditional ceremonies for August 2020. Dr. Sriraman shared that University Marketing is working on a plan to honor spring graduates. Cabinet members approved the recommendations. President Trauth tasked Dr. Sriraman with leading efforts to develop the virtual commencement ceremonies.

President Trauth noted TEA's guidance referring to Governor Abbott's Executive Order allowing schools to hold outdoor graduation ceremonies on or after June 1, 2020; indoor graduation ceremonies are not permissible. President Trauth will email superintendents to let them know that the University Events Center will not be available for indoor graduation ceremonies.

Cabinet members discussed mitigating the spread of COVID-19. Summer I classes will be online. Face-to-face classes will begin to be phased back for Summer II. Non-academic venues, including The Wittliff Collections, Student Recreation Center, and Sewell Park will remain closed at least until July 6, 2020.

Dr. Cavitt led a discussion on camps. Cabinet members agreed that no other camps will be held except for Cat Camps.

Dr. Smith described how the Dean of Students is awarding CARES funding. Dr. Smith shared the rubric that will be used to make funding decisions. Cabinet members provided recommendations to the awarding process.

Mr. Algoe continued the conversation on financial planning that began at the President's Cabinet Retreat on May 7, 2020. Mr. Algoe provided more information about the launch of a voluntary separation program, which is an incentive program for employees who are interested in leaving the university. Mr. Algoe discussed both the components of the program and the application process. While all applications will be evaluated, not all applications will be approved.

Messaging about the program will be shared with faculty and staff during the week of May 11, 2020.

Mr. Algoe announced that the financial plan for fiscal year 2021 will be finalized by the President's Cabinet and will be communicated to the university community by the end of May 2020.

Mr. Algoe discussed memberships paid out by an institutional account. Cabinet members identified the memberships that should be reduced/eliminated.

Dr. Lloyd discussed establishing the Continuity of Student Life Work Group to address delivery of extra and co-curricular activities in fall 2020. Cabinet members recommended changes to the membership. Provost Bourgeois and Dr. Smith will provide membership suggestions before May 13, 2020.

Bobcat Preview (#764)

Provost Bourgeois and Dr. Smith discussed recommendations from the Registration and Academic Calendar Coordinating Committee. Cabinet approved the calendar.

Dr. Cavitt discussed Bobcat Preview 2020 and the Department of Housing and Residential Life move-in schedule. Cabinet members suggested to postpone finalizing the schedule until the Health, Wellness, and Safety Work Group presents its final recommendations.

President's Update (#556)

President Trauth summarized a conference call she had with other presidents associated with the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities. Most presidents reported that their respective institutions are focused on returning to face-to-face instruction in fall 2020 and are planning for three possible scenarios (regular face-to-face, hybrid, and fully online). President Trauth asked that the work groups base their recommendations on these scenarios.

Significant Issues (#01)

Provost Bourgeois provided an enrollment update.

Provost Bourgeois provided an update on Bobcat Cares. More than 14,000 applications have been submitted.

Mr. Algoe discussed how Texas State will ensure the safety of at-risk populations. Benchmarking indicates that most universities are making workplace modifications for people who are at high risk of developing complications from COVID-19, but the process is unclear.

Mr. Pierce announced that mounting of the Buck Winn Mural has begun and will take about six weeks to complete.

Mr. Pierce shared that he held a virtual town hall with the Division of Information Technology.

Dr. Smith provided an update on housing for fall 2020.

Mr. Algoe led a discussion on the broad charges of the work groups. Dr. Lloyd, who has been charged with coordination across work groups, is in communication with the work group chairs, will work to ensure that their individual charges are clear and that their recommendations will align with one another.

Dr. Cavitt announced that she is preparing communication for dissemination about the closing of academic summer camps.

DMT:ta

Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on July 13, 2020.