

To: President's Cabinet
From: Denise M. Trauth
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting
September 21, 2020

Impact of COVID-19 (#770)

Guest Dr. Emilio Carranco provided an update on the COVID-19 pandemic and the strategies in play to mitigate the spread. In Texas, conditions are stable. Compared to the previous week, new cases per day have increased slightly and the positivity rate for Texas has remained steady at eight percent. At the local level, conditions are stable, as well. Hays and Williamson counties are averaging about 20 and 35 new cases per day, respectively. At the Student Health Center (SHC), 519 tests were administered during the week of September 14, 2020. Of these, daily cases counts have decreased slightly from 17 to 14 per day, and active cases and the positivity rate remains steady at 149 and 6.2 percent, respectively. In short, Texas State is holding steady. This is considered good news given the recent Labor Day holiday weekend.

Dr. Carranco reported that the SHC sent 1,200 invitations to randomly selected students for testing. Of the 51 students tested, three were diagnosed positive for COVID-19.

Dr. Carranco provided an update on students living in isolation and quarantine units; 21 students are in isolation, and 31 are in quarantine. Contact tracing suggests transmission is occurring through small social gatherings; there continues to be no evidence of transmission on Texas State campuses, neither in the classrooms nor the residence halls. Cabinet members discussed the measures to keep the classroom environment safe -- nightly viral spraying, HEPA filters, face covering requirements, and at least three feet of physical distancing.

The local public health department has added another epidemiologist, Dr. Gregory Drew, who will focus on case clusters. The definition of case clusters and the communication strategy for if a cluster occurs were discussed.

The public health disaster declaration issued by Department of State Health Services Commissioner Dr. John Hellerstedt in response to the COVID-19 pandemic remains in place. Governor Greg Abbott's Executive order GA30 was discussed. Outdoor gatherings remain limited to 10 people. While the order allows certain venues to increase occupancy rates to 75 percent, Texas State will maintain 50 percent occupancy rates of classrooms.

Dr. Carranco discussed "COVID fatigue" and the need to communicate messages encouraging community members to continue to adhere to safety measures.

Dr. Carranco proposed expanding testing capacity by 700 tests per day by installing a CURATIVE kiosk on the San Marcos Campus for three weeks. This would be funded by the State of Texas. CURATIVE will provide the kiosk and staff. The testing utilizes supervised oral swab collection, has been shown to be accurate, and turnaround time is 24 to 36 hours. Cabinet members discussed ways to encourage students to participate in this free testing.

Cabinet members discussed whether mandatory testing is permissible.

The Department of Housing and Residential Life is in the process of increasing its capacity to isolate students to 72. At Bobcat Village, 22 students have completed their moves to their new apartments. Moving students out of Sterry Hall has not yet begun, but the move out of one floor is expected to be completed by the end of the week of September 21, 2020.

Abbott test kits for the new rapid test machines are expected to be delivered within one week.

Video Surveillance Camera Maintenance Plan (#695)

This item was postponed to a later date.

President's Update (#556)

Mr. Algoe provided an update on a case investigated by UPD, and lauded UPD efforts on this case.

Significant Issues (#01)

Provost Bourgeois and Mr. Algoe provided an update on a grant to support infrastructure research capabilities at STAR Park.

Provost Bourgeois provided an update on funding for the Texas School Safety Center.

Mr. Algoe shared that there were more than 20 nominations for the Texas State Quarterly Team Award. This was the greatest number of nominations ever received. President Trauth asked Mr. Algoe to develop recommendations for honoring more than one team.

Mr. Algoe discussed a recent request to illuminate certain buildings in blue on both Texas State campuses in honor of teachers and to highlight the #TeachersCan movement. Dr. Cavitt also suggested turning the web page blue with a banner. President Trauth requested a process for vetting related requests.

Dr. Cavitt reported that nine students have been referred to the Dean of Students for not wearing face coverings.

Dr. Silva announced that the 2020 Institutional Inclusive Excellence Showcase has been launched. Dr. Lloyd expressed her appreciation to Dr. Silva and her staff for their hard work. Mr. Algoe suggested featuring segments from the showcase on social media.

DMT:ta

Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on October 19, 2020.