

To: President's Cabinet  
From: Denise M. Trauth  
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting  
January 31, 2022

### **Impact of COVID-19 (#770)**

Dr. Carranco compared data for the week ending on January 30, 2022, to data for the week ending January 23, 2022.

Week-to-week comparisons revealed:

- In Texas, the average daily case counts decreased from 48,900 to 30,627 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 33.7 to 29.4 percent.
- In Williamson county, the average daily case counts decreased from 1,124 to 976, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 29.6 to 25.1 percent.
- In Travis county, the average daily case counts increased from 1,565 to 1,738 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate decreased 30.5 to 29.1 percent.
- In Hays county, the average daily case counts increased from 461 to 532 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate for the week ending January 23, 2022, was 34 percent. By Cabinet meeting, Hays had yet to release the positivity rate for the week ending January 30, 2022.
- In Texas, hospitalizations decreased from 13,099 to 12,392.

On the Texas State campuses, there were 203 positives out of 1,195 tests for a positivity rate of 17 percent. (Note. Data does not include test results from MD Diagnostic. Results are still pending.)

The spread of the infection has diminished considerably from the previous week, though an increase in reports to Bobcat Trace is expected for the week of January 31, 2022 -- the first week of face-to-face classes. Last fall, 532 reports were received the first week of face-to-face classes. Over the weekend, 100 reports were received. Thereafter, a continuing decline in spread is expected.

Dr. Carranco shared a COVID update on January 25, 2022, and an update on Bobcat Trace on January 28, 2022, with the university community. The new Bobcat Trace system was launched on January 28, 2022, with no problems reported.

Antigen testing will be available on both campuses beginning the week of January 31, 2022. The Round Rock Campus testing center is open three days each week. Testing availability and turnaround times are improving, and testing capacity is increasing.

The Student Health Center has ordered 900 at-home tests for distribution at \$10 each.

The Child Development Center is experiencing frequent closures because even one positive child in a class means the entire class must isolate or quarantine. The federal CDC recommendation of a 10-day quarantine period for children in a childcare setting is making it difficult for the Child Development Center to remain open. Cabinet members approved implementation of a "test-to-stay" approach where a child can wear a mask and test to stay in class even if another class member tests positive. Cabinet members approved the acceptance of negative test results from at-home self-testing kits.

### **Development Update (#588)**

Dr. Breier reviewed the fiscal year quarterly reports and provided an update on the NEXT IS NOW capital campaign.

### **Merit Pool**

President Trauth discussed whether to distribute a three percent bonus to all eligible employees or to provide a pool of merit-based bonus funds equal to three percent of total salary dollars in each division to all eligible employees and tied to performance management and salary review processes. Last year was the only year when a merit-based increase was not implemented. Cabinet members agreed to return to the university's usual practice of rewarding bonuses based on merit.

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

President Trauth discussed the DEIA update email that she shared with the university community on January 27, 2022.

President Trauth discussed her calendar for the month of February.

### **Significant Issues (#01)**

Provost Bourgeois reported that preliminary enrollment for fall 2022 is better than fall 2021 (during the pandemic) and fall 2019 (pre-pandemic). For example, compared to fall 2021, freshman applications are up over 16 percent, and freshman admits are up 32 percent.

Provost Bourgeois reported that persistence from fall 2021 to spring 2022 remains steady at 93.1 percent. Dr. Hernandez added that residence halls occupancy rate is 95 to 96 percent.

Provost Bourgeois discussed a proposal to raise academic advisor salaries, noting that the academic advisor I job title has one of the highest turnover rates at the university and is the most underpaid relative to the market. Implementation of this plan is critical for growing enrollment and strengthening retention.

Dr. Breier announced that President Trauth recently made a presentation to the Greater Texas Foundation and at that meeting, the Foundation announced a \$100,000 contribution to the Denise M. Trauth Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Dr. Breier discussed challenges to hire and retain gift officers in a competitive Texas market.

Dr. Breier discussed staffing levels in university communications.

Mr. Coryell recapped recent athletic events, including:

- A men's basketball win over the University of Texas at Arlington in front of a great crowd;
- Two women's basketball road wins against Arkansas State and Little Rock; and
- Program records set in the Women's Pentathlon by Mathilde Canet and in the Men's Heptathlon by Ben Collerton at the Adidas Classic.

Mr. Coryell provided an update on national signing day events. The initiation of the transfer portal has impacted signing day, as many transfers will not make their final decisions until after signing day. Thus, the Department of Athletics will not host its traditional signing day event. Instead, they will most likely host an event the same day as the spring game to formally recognize all new scholarship football players.

Mr. Coryell discussed challenges with recruiting due to competitive Name Image and Likeness packages offered by other institutions.

Dr. Ekin announced that he met with a subcommittee of the Student Success Executive Committee to discuss the Retention Analysis Report. President Trauth asked him to present the report to Cabinet at a later date.

Dr. Hernandez discussed recruiting strategies to fill vacant positions in the Department of Housing and Residential Life.

Dr. Hernandez announced that the review of student service fee proposals has begun.

Dr. Hernandez expressed her appreciation to Dr. Trauth and the rest of the Cabinet for spearheading a comprehensive and inclusive process that led to the renaming of a residence hall.

Mr. Ken Pierce discussed challenges with software maintenance contracts once they exceed Texas State's local \$500,000 signature authority and suggested that Texas State consider proposing possible changes to the Board of Regent's Rules and Regulations to address these challenges.

DMT:ta

Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on February 8, 2022.