

To: President's Cabinet
From: Kelly R. Damphousse
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting
December 2, 2024



Increase Enrollment (San Marcos Campus, Round Rock Campus, and TXST Global)

Dr. Sivakumaran reviewed the 2025-2026 Academic Calendar recommendations submitted by the Registration and Academic Calendar Coordinating Committee. Following thorough discussion, the Cabinet approved starting the fall semester earlier to accommodate a two-day mid-fall break in October and a full week off for Thanksgiving. While classes will be canceled during these periods, the university will remain open, and employees may have the option of working remotely where appropriate. Dr. Sivakumaran will consult with the committee to determine whether these changes can be implemented in the 2025-2026 or 2026-2027 academic year.

Dr. Sivakumaran will also ask the committee:

- to consider condensing the final exam schedule to no more than five days
- to ensure that our academic calendars comply with federal, state, and accreditation guidelines.

Dr. Sivakumaran presented Enrollment Management's comprehensive strategy to achieve an enrollment target of 50,000 students by 2030. The strategy focuses on enhancing enrollment across the San Marcos, Round Rock, and Queretaro campuses, expanding regional locations, growing accelerated online programs, and increasing international student recruitment.

Improve Operations and Enhance Infrastructure

Mr. Algoe presented proposed revisions to UPPS General Workplace Policy 04.04.01, which included updates to terminology to describe the university as being open for "public business" instead of "essential services" and to revisit "energy conservation days" to ensure alignment with Texas Government Code §662. On these days, essential offices shall have enough employees on duty to conduct the public business of the institution. Where appropriate, these employees may work remotely. A revised list of essential offices was also introduced. Cabinet members agreed with the intent of the changes and approved the policy to proceed to the formal review process.

Cabinet members discussed reducing expenses by selecting a single virtual meeting platform (Microsoft Teams or Zoom). Mr. Hall presented a comprehensive analysis, including a 10-year cost comparison and detailed feature evaluation. Because choosing a single virtual meeting platform would result in significant cost savings, the Cabinet members asked Mr. Hall and Provost Aswath to consult with Deans and departments with high utilization rates for input before a final decision can be made.

Advance Academic Excellence

Provost Aswath and Dr. Lloyd discussed the university's strategic planning process, highlighting areas for improvement. The 2023-2029 University Strategic Plan, launched in fall 2023 amidst a leadership transition, was primarily developed before the new leadership team assumed their roles. Consequently, its objectives did not fully align with the evolving strategic priorities, and newly established divisions were excluded from the planning process. Additionally, plans for Information Technology and Academic Affairs were shaped by former vice presidents, further underscoring the need for updates.

To address these challenges, Cabinet members committed to refreshing the strategic plan in spring 2025. The revised plan will adopt a streamlined structure centered on five core pillars: student success, research, enrollment, the Round Rock Campus, and becoming an employer of choice as outlined in *Hopes and Aspirations High*, TXST's vision for its future. Cabinet members also outlined key performance indicators and targets to ensure measurable progress toward achieving these aspirational goals.

President's Report

President Damphousse reviewed questions submitted in preparation for the upcoming PAAG meeting on December 4, 2024, focusing on mini-mesters, the Bobcat Promise program, and study abroad.

New Business

No new business was discussed.

KRD:ta

Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on December 19, 2024.