

To: President's Cabinet
From: Kelly R. Damphousse
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting
January 21, 2026

Run to R1

Ms. Pantlik and Dr. Mandayam provided an overview of the Research Awareness and Recruitment national campaign. The yearlong campaign focuses on priority research areas: water, semiconductors, artificial intelligence, aging and dementia, and digital humanities. The campaign uses targeted print and digital outreach to reach faculty and academic leaders.

The partnership with *The Chronicle of Higher Education* includes exclusive ad placement around *The Research Issue*. An upcoming feature will highlight water and the environment. Ads for the first two TUF positions are also running as part of [the Bring Everything campaign](#).

Dr. Mandayam announced that Dr. Mushtaq Gunja, Executive Director of the Carnegie Classification Systems and Senior Vice President at the American Council on Education, will return to campus on January 23 to provide updates on the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

Provost Aswath shared that TXST is convening campuswide town halls this year in five priority research areas: water, semiconductors, artificial intelligence, digital humanities, and aging/dementia. The town halls will foster research collaboration. They will also support the recruitment of senior scholars with strong research records. These efforts will strengthen extramural funding and elevate TXST's national research profile.

Improve Operations and Enhance Infrastructure

Dr. Sivakumaran discussed the management of minors on campus and proposed a mandatory \$5 per-student program fee campuswide. The fee would support dedicated personnel and software and ensure compliance with policy. Cabinet approved the proposal.

Mr. Algoe reviewed the budget development process and timeline. He referenced the timeline posted on [the Office of Budget and Financial Analysis website](#). He will present a proposed budget for fiscal year 2026–2027 at a Cabinet meeting in March.

President's Report

President Damphousse led a discussion on how TXST communicates with parents and families of students. Cabinet members noted that [the Bobcat Family Portal](#) serves as the primary communication. The portal provides information to keep families informed about the university and their students.

President Damphousse reminded Cabinet that he will host his annual State of TXST on January 23. The event will include a student panel, student performances, his annual address, and the debut of the new brand campaign and anthem video.

President Damphousse shared themes he will highlight in his address. He emphasized the importance of sustaining momentum by continuing to invest in faculty and staff. He noted that TXST employs nearly 1,000 more employees than in 2021. While enrollment has grown by 18%, the size of the faculty has increased by 22% and staff by 19%. A [public dashboard](#) is available to illustrate this growth.

President Damphousse commended the Department of Athletics for its support of the MLK March held by the Dunbar Heritage Association on January 19. He noted strong participation from athletics staff and student-athletes.

New Business

Dr. Sivakumaran led a discussion on the university's financial aid strategy. He reviewed the financial aid budget and its role in supporting responsible enrollment growth. He discussed the potential establishment of priority award and acceptance deadlines for guaranteed aid. He also emphasized monitoring early registrations to assess enrollment trends and to inform admission cutoff decisions.

Dr. Sivakumaran provided a Fall 2026 enrollment update on the TXST–Lamar State College Orange Gateway program. As of January 19, 212 students have applied and 205 have been admitted.

Mr. Alge led a discussion on anticipated weather conditions for the upcoming weekend. He reviewed related campus messaging and discussed university preparedness and response planning.

KRD:ta

Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on February 3, 2026.