April 27, 2020
Chancellor Updates:

Revised Calendar-June 1
We are moving a planned “soft opening” of the campuses tentatively to June 1. The Presidents and Vice Chancellors have submitted reopening protocols and schedules so that we are consistent in safety, social distancing, sanitizing, masks, thermometers and guidelines moving forward. We may have a few essential workforce programs as identified by the State and local officials opening before that, if allowed.
We are directly involved in State, County and City discussions on a gradual and strategic reopening.

Work Options
We are also developing a clearer plan of action that includes offices or groups of individuals and services that can work remotely and what that entails. We are a public entity entrusted with spending over $500 million each year in operations and construction. We have an obligation to use that money wisely, efficiently, and in the best interests of our students and taxpayers.
It’s now obvious that the circumstances will require us to reevaluate our work environments and heighten our need for better accountability than we have traditionally needed working in buildings side by side. We have many options for most of our employees to work from home, and we need your cooperation in navigating these difficult times so that we can keep as many of our employees employed while serving our students as best as possible.
We intend to comply with all legal requirements governing leaves, absences, and accountability measures. We all know the many reasons Lone Star College has been named a three-time Best College to Work For over the last three years, but right now we all need to get used to the reality that what we are going through is not normal business operations. Over the past six weeks, the College has gone well above and beyond what the law requires at a time when an estimated 225,000 Houstonians (12-15% of the workforce) will be unemployed in the near future. We will have options for everyone with personal circumstances preventing them from returning to campus.

Based on the information we have at the moment, and the positive trends in enrollment, we do not have any scenarios in which employees lose their jobs due to the virus.
More information on this is forthcoming.

Stimulus Grants to Students
The CARES Act provides Lone Star College with $28 million with a stipulation that $14 million be awarded to students impacted by COVID-19, and the other $14 million used to cover lost revenues or expenses by the institution.
Initially, Lone Star College will award over 11,000 Pell Grant recipients $400 each and have other students apply with a web-based application. We also are identifying other grant funds to assist our students the best we can.

Computers for Online Students
We are using stimulus funds to purchase 5000 computers for students needing assistance this fall. We will make those available as loaners (similar to library checkout) through the Office of Technology Services (OTS) in late summer and will create bootcamps or seminars for entering or returning students. Will purchase more as funds become available.
**Budgets**
Our projected expenses and lost revenue for the summer and next year are projected to be $25-30 million. The final amount depends on our summer and fall enrollments. As of today, we have a decline of about 16% in summer and it’s too early to accurately gauge the fall. We also are closely monitoring the local and State economy and planning for several different possibilities of reduced assessed value and/or State appropriations.
We are continually reviewing our expenditures and the freezes and cost saving measures will probably be in effect through the fall semester. A reminder that ALL expenditures are being reviewed including any compensation increases for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

**Marketing/Recruiting**
Summer and fall enrollments are essential to our financial well being. You will see a marked increase in ads, radio and tv spots in the near future. LSC Online Campus will be a major focus of these ads.
We know we have the opportunity to gain additional students from area high schools since many parents will be reluctant to send their children to live off campus.
A key for LSC is to have our current students register for the summer and the fall. We don’t want to lose them and want to help them persevere through all this.
Regards,
Steve Head