

July Roundup

Department Chairs, Associate Deans, and Deans,

With a goal of staying connected, the Provost Office is sending a monthly Roundup on the final Friday of each month to the internal university leadership. We know that your time is limited, so no action will be required on your part in response to these messages. Sometimes topics arise about which you would like an opportunity to provide input, and we hope this mechanism will serve the goal of keeping you informed around internal communications and governance issues.

Decisions about Faculty Searches and Improvements to the Search Cycle. All final decisions for faculty searches are being announced in this week's Provost Friday update. In addition to these new searches for AY 22-23 (for new faculty who would join in AY 23-24), all previously approved, but unfilled, positions from this past year have been automatically approved for renewed searches in 2022-23. To improve our internal search process, a team of faculty administrators met over the summer and made several recommendations that will launch this fall. In September, mandatory workshops for all chairs of faculty searches, together with their designated administrative support staff, will help ensure that these recommended improvements lead to smooth search processes.

Guidelines for the Use of Technology. An announcement about updated guidelines around the use of technology related to absences and/or requests for flexibility with modalities is close to a finalized announcement. In late July, the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate crafted and approved a formal written statement that is attached here. To inform their discussion, they drew on a two-page memo that laid out faculty and student questions and concerns that had been circulated among the associate deans and deans during June (and shared with this leadership team in the May Roundup). This current version will be circulated to the Faculty Senate and the PEC, with the anticipation of any final edits and a formal announcement from the Provost Office the week of August 8th. For more information, contact Faculty Senate President Rob Frank at robfrank@smu.edu. Please note that the forthcoming guidelines for using technology to manage absences from class should be followed in conjunction with the current attendance policies provided in the undergraduate catalog for AY22-23. We have attached the relevant policies to this email, which you can circulate to faculty in your areas.

Decisions Related to COVID Operations. The Emergency Operations Council will continue to monitor information that will guide university operational plans to determine whether any adjustments to current guidelines will be made as we approach the fall semester. Decisions will be announced as they are made during early August. As with past terms, faculty with underlying health conditions may seek approval for accommodations on the basis of a disability at any time through the Office of Institutional Access and Equity. Students may seek accommodations through the DASS Office.

SMU in Four and Canvas Use for Fall 2022. A team of faculty and administrators from all five undergraduate schools has built out a strategy to support our undergraduate students in on-time, four-year graduation plans. One aspect of that approach continues to be Canvas utilization to support students' access to course syllabi, assignment due dates, and grade standing in class. All 3-credit courses offered as part of the undergraduate curriculum (with the exception of independent studies) are required to include three technical tools in Canvas: Simple Syllabus,

assignment/gradebook, and calendar. Our Instructional Technology colleagues have developed a number of supports to help faculty with this initiative: 1) [self-help, all-in-one website](#); 2) [individualized School/College support through ATSD's](#), and 3) [a workshop series August 8-25](#).

University Testing Center Operational for Fall 2022. Since 2018, conversations to establish a testing center to serve the SMU community were occurring. A Provost Office Testing Center Strategic Committee was formed, and working with the University Space Committee, space was identified in 2021 to establish the University Testing Center (UTC) in the basement of Clements Hall (G15). On August 22, 2022, a three-phased opening of the center will begin. In phase one, most accommodated testing - for students with testing accommodations approved by Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS) – will be proctored by the center. Accommodated testing will be conducted by the UTC as a backup to instructors and academic departments. The test proctoring process and reservations of testing seats remains the same within DASS Link. In spring 2023, phase two will pilot the expansion of services to student athletes during their sport's competition season. The final phase, depending on space usage and demand, will be to add placement testing, evaluation services. [A handful of other campus test proctoring services will remain operational as resources to instructors.](#) Learn more about the new testing center, eligibility for testing, policies, and booking processes at smu.edu/testing.

We welcome your suggestions for future areas to feature in the monthly roundup: email facultysuccess@smu.edu.