

Department Chairs, Associate Deans, and Deans,

With a goal of staying connected on internal governance issues, the Provost Office sends a monthly Roundup on the final Friday of each month to the internal university leadership.

**Supreme Court ruling on race in university admissions.** Following President Turner's message on 6/29/23, SMU is developing several talking points for faculty leadership. SMU is dedicated to maintaining a diverse student body, faculty, and staff. Embracing different backgrounds and experiences is not only essential, but transformative, for our students' growth as critical thinkers and compassionate citizens. SMU is studying the ruling to understand its implications and update our admission procedures to comply with the law, while maintaining our commitment to inclusion. Our admission practices will remain fair and holistic, considering the overall qualities of each applicant, including their academic achievements, personal experiences, and potential contributions to our community. SMU remains committed to providing scholarship and financial aid and offering services to ensure equal access to education for all students. Transparency and open communications are essential during times of change, and we will keep our campus community informed as information evolves. Please participate in discussions, ask questions, and share perspectives as we navigate these changes together. For more information, reach out to Dr. Wes Waggoner, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management and Chief Enrollment Officer at [wwaggoner@smu.edu](mailto:wwaggoner@smu.edu).

### **Spring 2024 Schedule of Classes**

The production calendar for 1241/1242 (January/Spring 2023) will become available on **July 17** and the schedule must be entered and finalized by **September 1**. There are many important milestones before September 1 and we would all appreciate every effort to meet the milestones. Please note that departments now have more time to work on this request but a slightly earlier deadline to have the information in this system. This is necessary in order to accommodate the most efficient use of classrooms and faculty preferences resulting from their course schedules (e.g. try to keep the faculty in the same building when they teach back to back). Your department schedulers will be invited to a series of meetings along the way. Please do everything possible to provide them with the information that they need to meet the deadlines.

### **Fall 2023 Continuing and New Undergraduate Student Enrollment**

Approximately 91% of continuing students and 50% of new students have enrolled for the fall. We are still anticipating 1600 first year students and approximately 300 transfer students to join us this fall for the first time. We appreciate your help in monitoring your Mustang Start Up reserved seats and the wait lists for your courses. Allowing additional students to enroll earlier in the enrollment period is always helpful. If you need to cancel a course for any reason please have a plan to reassign students to another course or notify [academicsuccess@smu.edu](mailto:academicsuccess@smu.edu) so that we can try to help you. Please encourage faculty to make their Canvas courses available as soon as possible so that students might order their books before the start of the semester if possible and appropriate.

**Important reminders regarding F/J international students:** International graduate students must enroll full-time, usually in at least 9 credit hours. Students can use a maximum three credit hours of online instruction towards their full-time enrollment requirement in order to maintain their visa status. New PhD students must complete coursework before being eligible to enroll exclusively in research hours. New international graduate students must attend the [Mandatory International Graduate Student Orientation](#) on August 17<sup>th</sup>. New international students must also complete a [Mandatory Government](#)

[Document Check-in](#) upon arrival to get their enrollment holds lifted. New international students facing academic difficulties must work with an International Student Advisor/Designated School Official to discuss options for a reduced course load (RCL). For more information, reach out to Claudia Sotomayor Hart at [claudiahart@smu.edu](mailto:claudiahart@smu.edu).

**Department Chair feedback requested on Degree Planner—final call for survey participation.** Our April “Lunch and Learn” centered around [Degree Planner](#), the my.SMU tool for undergraduates that will help students plan their path to graduation and aid departments' planning of future class schedules. Advisors have had a chance to weigh in with their feedback on how to incentivize students to use Degree Planner; we would like to hear from Department Chairs. [This concise survey](#) will tell us more about how you want to receive the course demand data from Degree Planner – data that can guide your future course planning. Please take 5 minutes to provide feedback if you have not yet had a chance to do so.

**Faculty search and hiring process: updates.** Decisions about new faculty searches will be announced to all faculty leadership in July, at which point all search processes can begin with the deans’ formation of search committees and the development of robust recruitment plans. Please note that all search committee members must have taken Searching Intelligently training to be added to a search committee, so please encourage your faculty colleagues to participate in this training as early as possible—[registration information can be found here](#). This year, we will use a digital process for signatures for all searches to streamline the processes and communications. For more information, please reach out to [facultysuccess@smu.edu](mailto:facultysuccess@smu.edu).

**Keep the community informed about faculty awards:** Please let us know if you have received or have been nominated for an award – or if you have nominated an SMU colleague [at this link](#).

We welcome your suggestions for future areas to feature in the monthly roundup; email [facultysuccess@smu.edu](mailto:facultysuccess@smu.edu). You can [find past issues at this link](#).