

Academic Leadership,

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.

SMU Faculty Awards Director hosts discussion. All department chairs and associate deans were invited to a Zoom-based presentation and discussion with the new Faculty Awards Director, Dr. Brenna Rivas. After her presentation that laid out overarching strategies and services that will build toward a “culture of recognition,” a conversation among the 25 participants laid out a number of ways in which SMU can foster this culture through coordinated efforts. For access to the recording or for more information, contact Brenna Rivas at brivas@smu.edu.

New Postdoctoral Hiring Process. We are excited to announce a new process for hiring postdoctoral trainees at SMU. This new process was developed with input from school dean’s offices, HR, ISSS, IAE, DEI, department administrators, and faculty. In this new, expedited hiring process, PI/Supervisors will work with their department administrators and Postdoc Hiring Contacts in their school’s dean’s office to manage postdoctoral recruitment and appointments. A step-by-step overview of the hiring process may be seen on the [Postdoctoral Affairs Website](#). For more information, contact Rob Pearson at pearsonr@smu.edu.

Retiring faculty updates. All faculty who are retiring this academic year, including tenured and teaching/professional faculty, will be invited to a dinner hosted by Provost Lobo in May and will be recognized at May Commencement, if they choose to attend. For faculty who are retiring with tenure, a new process has been put into place to allow the date of retirement to move from May 31 to July 31, upon request, such that there is continuity in access to campus resources across the summer. For more information, contact facultysuccess@smu.edu.

Equity and Transparency in Workload survey is forthcoming. The Working Group will be sending a survey next week to all full-time faculty to gather feedback on Year 3 of the 5-year project focused on developing more equity and transparency in faculty workload. The email invitation to complete the survey will include the launch of a webpage where more information about this 5-year plan can be found. For more information, email facultysuccess@smu.edu.

Mid-Term Progress Reports. Thank you to the undergraduate-serving Schools and College for supporting efforts to encourage faculty to complete their early alert grade reports as part of “Faculty-in-Four for SMU-in-Four.” Our faculty had an all-time high of 80.3% of mid-term grades reported (with over 90% in Dedman College and Lyle). Based on this information, records offices, advisors, and academic support staff reach out to any student with two or more reported deficiencies to invite students to discuss what they can still do to improve these grades and to encourage them to meet with their faculty. Students with deficiencies in specific courses with peer tutoring will be notified about these opportunities. Finally, family members who have a FERPA release are notified that mid-term grades are available for their students to review.

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