

Department Chairs, Associate Deans, and Deans,

With a goal of staying connected, the Provost Office sends a monthly Roundup on the final Friday of each month to the internal university leadership. The November Roundup has been delayed by one week due to the Thanksgiving break.

Clarifying “Adverse Events and Inclement Weather” Guidelines. Together with Faculty Senate, the deans and Provost Office have been working toward the development of an evergreen webpage that will provide an FAQ for faculty related to our Emergency Operations policy that should help smooth communications during crises. These guidelines will provide greater clarity to account for the contextual differences between undergraduate and graduate programs, as well as for factors that differentiate approaches taken within graduate and professional programs. For more information or to provide input, reach out to either Rob Frank (robfrank@smu.edu) as Faculty Senate President, to your deans’ offices or to facultysuccess@smu.edu. We hope to post a formal web presence before the end of this fall term.

Equity and Transparency Working Group. The working group brought forward suggestions to the deans and Provost in November. All chairs and associate deans are invited to two upcoming, optional touchpoint meetings to learn more about the progress of this group and to provide input on a template for faculty in-load being proposed as a pilot during the upcoming FAR cycle. For more information, please join one of the following discussion sessions via Zoom: <https://smu.zoom.us/j/4476337190>: Friday, December 9th, 9:30-10:00 or Wednesday, December 14th, 9:30-10:00.

SMU-in-Four: Progress Report and Faculty-in-Four Call to Action. The half-day department chair retreat was largely focused on SMU-in-Four, and the discussion provided constructive feedback for the involved teams to work through in the coming months. This week the full Year One Progress Report was made available to all faculty and staff and can be [found at this link](#). In addition, the attached call-to-action for faculty (called “Faculty-in-Four for SMU-in-Four”) will be launched in December to help support faculty in better understanding why and how they can support the goals of improving campus-wide retention and four-year graduation rates, closing equity gaps in courses, first-year retention, and graduate rates, and ensuring coordinated wraparound supports to help students thrive.

Degree Planner Tool is Live. This planning tool helps students and advisors develop and sequence a personalized path to on-time graduation. Degree Planner will not only benefit students and advisors, but will also aid academic departments in data-drive course scheduling and seat capacity planning. The [new tool is available](#) now, with a formal communications plan and adoption campaign to launch in the spring term.

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](#).