

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 6, 2024

Present:

Absent:

Visitors: Wes Waggoner, Sheri Kunovich, Chandra McQueen, Carone Carson

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m.
2. The agenda and the October minutes were reviewed.
3. Updates on Enrollment: Wes Waggoner, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management and Chief Enrollment Officer, and Sheri Kunovich, Associate Provost for Student Academic Engagement and Success Management
 - a. In this condensed version of the presentation shared with the Board of Trustees earlier this year, Vice Provost Waggoner and Associate Provost Kunovich highlighted current enrollment trends and projections. Some demographic changes include an increase in non-white and first-generation students. SMU has experienced steady growth since the mid-1990s, including a robust and consistent increase in transfer students; the student population has risen by 25-30 first-year students each year for the last 30 years, totaling about a 600 increase in first-year students since 1994. It is projected that the first-year class of 2034 will grow to about 1,900 students, which is 200 more than the first-year class of 2024. The anticipated decline in enrollment due to birth rate decreases in the next few years does not appear as drastic as once expected. SMU will address this gradual decline by focusing on diversity and inclusion. These strategies align with national trends and those seen in Texas, including cohort and ACC peers, and growth is expected to continue. The strategic focus includes moderating class size (managing intentional growth and improving retention), continuing academic growth, and ensuring SMU has adequate resources. They also discussed possible measures to increase net tuition revenue, such as raising tuition, headcount, and unrestricted discounts (reducing financial aid/scholarships and the percentage of financial assistance from unrestricted tuition dollars). The Provost's office will collaborate with Deans on resource allocation and growth management to ensure departments understand their roles and expectations, such as absorbing growth, improving career and placement outcomes, and aligning academic programs with student interests. There are five foundational solutions to manage enrollment and

retention: strengthening the value proposition, enhancing the academic experience, differentiating the campus life experience, increasing applications and selectivity, and optimizing campus infrastructure, which falls into three main categories of strategic investing, culture change, and policy and practice.

4. Roadmap to SMU Projects, Michael Molina, Associate Vice President of Facilities Planning and Management and University Architect
 - a. Land Use Impact: This overview covers new developments, acquisitions, renovations, and improvements across the campus. The discussion included infrastructure such as tunnels and hydronic systems. Campus Infrastructure Impact: Notable projects include Patterson Hall and Central Plant upgrades. There is an emphasis on maximizing existing facilities and land owned by the university. Horizon Considerations: The goals focus on growth while adhering to land restrictions, including codes and zoning. Utility capacity considerations for electrical needs are also addressed. Current and Future Projects include the Thomas House (51,106 sq ft, budgeted at \$16.08M), Gerald J. Ford Hall (50,407 sq ft, budgeted at \$35M), Hughes-Trigg (94,386 sq ft, budgeted at \$27M), Holt Hickman Outdoor Pool (12,324 sq ft, budgeted at \$13.5M), Smith-Perkins Hall Renovation (49,360 sq ft, budgeted at \$40M), Fondren Library Renovations (8,556 sq ft, budgeted at \$2.4M), Rees-Jones Library (84,208 sq ft, budgeted at \$78.8M), and the President's Residence (10,831 + 668 sq ft for the main house and cabana, respectively, budgeted at \$10M). Future development plans include a new Dedman School of Law building and renovations to existing law facilities, as well as plans for new residential commons and a parking center. Additionally, there are plans to expand the Styslinger/Altec Tennis Complex and Owen Arts/Meadows School of the Arts. Parking and Zoning Considerations: There is potential for new facilities with significant square footage in various areas. There were discussions on parking impact and zoning requirements for new developments. The Taos Campus dining/student hall is currently being renovated and will be completed by the beginning of JanTerm 2025; they are working with David Lee to determine what the needs are there, notably campus upkeep, as the regional climate accelerates decay.
5. Overview of Internal Auditing and Consulting Services, Chandra McQueen, Director of Internal Auditing and Consulting Services.
 - a. This team aims to protect organizational value by providing risk-based and objective assurance, advice, and insight. They help SMU achieve its objectives through a systematic approach to evaluating and improving governance, risk management, and control processes. The Internal Audit Charter outlines the standards for professional practice, including adherence to the Institute of Internal Auditors' International Professional Practices Framework, grants the audit team authority to access necessary

resources, and ensures independence and objectivity. Benefits of Internal Audit include strengthening internal controls, providing objective assurance, identifying critical risks, enhancing efficiency, supporting compliance, and improving governance. Types of Audit Engagements include financial, operational, compliance, IT, investigations, advisory, and integrated audits. Recent and upcoming projects include enterprise fraud risk assessment and ransomware preparedness. Upcoming projects focus on grants modules, research security procedures, data protection, and governance. The Audit Lifecycle provides risk assessment, planning, fieldwork, reporting, and follow-up. Additional resources include the SMU EthicsPoint Hotline (844-995-4895) and the [Internal Audit Website](#).

6. Closed Session.

7. Meeting adjourned: 5:02 p.m.

Submitted by Lourdes Molina