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.

New Faculty Orientation: Upcoming Activities. SMU will welcome over 70 new faculty this August. The Office of Faculty Success is hosting a *required* new faculty orientation on Wednesday, August 21st that covers key information and introduces our new colleagues to the many resources available to them on campus. [For more details, please see the agenda here](). All department chairs have been invited to join for lunch in the Moody School Auditorium—if you have not yet RSVP'ed, please look for a reminder invitation in the coming weeks. We are also encouraging all new faculty to join in the Opening Convocation Ceremony and in the CTE Teaching Effectiveness Symposium, so please encourage the new faculty in your areas to participate in these events.

Center for Teaching Excellence Updates. Under the leadership of Constantin Icleanu, the CTE will host its 32nd Annual Teaching Effectiveness Symposium on Thursday, August 22nd. Please encourage faculty to attend what promises to be a great lineup. Please also note that Addy Tolliver, as Associate Director of the CTE, will be the point of contact for all questions related to faculty course evaluations, including EvaluationKit, beginning on August 1st. We are grateful to Molly Ellis, who has transitioned into the role of Director of Strategic Faculty Initiatives, for supporting the implementation and management of the SMU course evaluation management system for over 5 years.

Promotion and Tenure Guidelines: Updates. Please submit any revisions to promotion and tenure documents made at the department level over the course of the last academic year to the Office of Faculty Success. All departments must ensure that internal guidelines are consistent with the revisions to SMU [Policy 2.11 Guidelines for the Award of Rank and Tenure]() that were finalized in 2022. For questions, reach out to your Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and to [facultysuccess@smu.edu]().

Time-Sensitive Update on Turnitin Contract Negotiations. The [Faculty Technology Council]() has been reviewing an unexpected and time-sensitive situation regarding SMU's new contract negotiations with the Turnitin anti-plagiarism platform used in Canvas. Due to unsustainable annual cost increases, there is a growing likelihood that Turnitin will be replaced by an equivalent but new anti-plagiarism tool for the upcoming academic year. As co-facilitators of the Faculty Technology Council, Paige Ware and Jason Warner have been seeking emergency feedback from this faculty governance group to help develop contingency plans to ensure a smooth transition. Please be aware that all technology changes cause some disruption; however, OIT will fully support and help mitigate disruptive experiences. More detailed communications will follow as the situation develops. If you have any specific questions about this issue—please contact Jason Warner ([jasonw@smu.edu]()) directly.

Generative AI Syllabus Statement. We appreciate the input provided by faculty and students to help refine and finalize the [Generative AI Syllabus Statement Builder](#). This link will be made available in Simple Syllabus for faculty as they decide how to communicate their expectations about classroom AI use. Faculty can also select from the two choices that were made available during the fall/spring 2023-24 academic year. Starting this fall 2024, all courses must include a statement on expectations for Generative AI use. The Provost's reminder about required syllabus language will be sent early next week.

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. You can find past issues at this link.