

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. Because the final Friday of November fell during the break, we are sending on the last day of November.

Inclement Weather Guidelines Found on Evergreen Website. As we head in to the winter season, we ask you to re-familiarize yourselves with the [Inclement Weather and Emergency Operations Guidelines found here](#). Communications plans should include messages that direct faculty and students to this website. President Turner will make a formal announcement of any decisions related to campus closure or class cancellations, at which point all undergraduate courses and most graduate classes (with the exceptions listed on the website) must be cancelled and may not shift to technology-enhanced modes of learning. School-specific information boxes on the evergreen website outline which exceptions have been made for graduate and professional programs. The following associate deans will serve as the points of contact for each of the School-specific questions that arise about graduate and professional classes: Bill Dillon (Cox), Tom Carr (Dedman College), Christine Leatherberry (Dedman Law), Dinesh Rajan (Lyle Engineering), Derek Kompare (Meadows), Alan Itkin (Moody), Andy Keck (Theology), and Tony Petrosino (Simmons).

Importance of On-Time Grade Submission. As we near graduation, we are also nearing the time of frequently asked questions about entering student grades. Please help communicate the importance of entering grades on time. Missing grades add many complications for our faculty and staff colleagues -- and for students-- in a variety of ways: staff time must be re-purposed for trouble-shooting when focus needs to be on other areas; students experience road blocks in getting job offers; schools cannot process probations/suspensions on time; graduate school applications are delayed; students who are athletes cannot be cleared to compete; and diplomas cannot be issued. Please help communicate the importance of entering grades on time (within 72 hours of the final scheduled exam) to shift away from this bottleneck of issues. You can send this [FAQ link on End-of-Term Grading](#) that was developed in collaboration with the Registrar's Office to help navigate questions that might arise. For more information, contact facultysuccess@smu.edu.

CTE Resources for Teaching in Times of Conflict. The CTE sent an email to all faculty to announce a selection of resources to provide support and to enable them to help students navigate difficult conversations that may arise in the classroom. These resources outline strategies for maintaining the open and respectful dialogue we prize here at SMU, including how to express care for students and how to care for themselves as well. [You can find these resources on the CTE's website](#). Please know that workshops are also being developed for January and will be announced in the coming weeks. For more information, contact cte@smu.edu.

SMU to Purchase SteppingBlocks Graduate Career Outcomes Platform. In Spring of 2024 SMU will be making a new tool available to academic departments to provide them access to data about graduate career and employment outcomes. SteppingBlocks is an AI-driven platform that will gather and provide data on SMU graduates, their career pathways and outcomes, and the skills they have used to get the jobs they have and the jobs they seek. The system has been adopted by universities across the country. Departments will be given access to the platform, once it is in place. Departments will be able to use the system to gain detailed information about market demand for students in their majors and degree programs. They will also be able to obtain detailed information about their graduates' employment outcomes as well as information about which skills acquired during their academic studies

students have leveraged in their careers. We hope that this platform will allow departments to better understand and leverage student employment outcomes, to guide students during their academic careers toward their desired career pathways, and to ensure SMU students are well-positioned for success after graduation. The Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness will communicate with departments and offer training on the system once it is in place.

Interested in Participating in the Fulbright Scholars-in-Residence Program? SMU will be applying to serve as a site for the [Fulbright Scholars-in-Residence Program](#). We will be developing clear and written processes as a campus-wide effort to clarify the processes for bringing visiting scholars to SMU, providing them with faculty status, supporting them with HR and ISSS logistics, and helping them transition to the Dallas and the campus (e.g., office space, housing, etc.). We need to learn from department chairs about which countries or regions you would like to recruit from, as well as which specific disciplines in which we might want to host scholars. If are interested in participating or learning more, reach out to Brenna Rivas **before December 11th** at brivas@smu.edu.

Teaching opportunities in the new online Master of Public Policy program. The Moody School of Graduate and Advanced studies is set to launch its new online Master of Public Policy program in the fall of 2024 (pending December board approval). A steering committee of SMU faculty oversees the program, ensuring a curriculum that reflects the latest trends and best practices in public policy. We are seeking course designers and instructors for a variety of courses. If you or the faculty in your department have questions or would like to learn more about course design and/or teaching in the program, please reach out to Eva Chiang (echiang@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](#).

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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](#).