



Elizabeth G. Lobo, Ph. D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Office of the Provost

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Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for your interest in, and commitment to, advancing SMU's academic mission. These weekly updates will serve as a tool to keep you informed and engaged with SMU's Academic Affairs division as, together, we manage a safe, healthy and productive spring semester. If you have suggestions for what we should include in future communications, please send your ideas to this [email address](#). Previous newsletters are available [here](#).

Spring 2022

- **SMU's plans to sunset COVID-19 procedures** – As President Turner [announced on Wednesday](#), SMU will follow local, state and national trends by sunsetting our COVID-19 pandemic procedures by the end of the spring 2022 semester. Faculty mask guidelines in classrooms that were established earlier this term will remain in place for the remainder of the spring 2022 semester at the faculty's discretion. For more information including details and dates of all modifications, [please see the sunsetting grid in President Turner's letter](#).

For the remainder of spring 2022, SMU continues to provide access to convenient COVID-19 testing for employees and their families. The University covers 100% of the cost and no insurance paperwork is needed for those who have SMU health benefits.

- **Virtual Care for Families** has [locations](#) around the DFW area. (Make sure to click on the Dallas/Fort Worth tab at the top of the page to view area locations). Screening and testing costs are covered by SMU. In order to schedule a test, you must first book a virtual visit using this [link](#). Enter "SMU - COVID-19 test" in the reason for the video visit and click on the "self-pay" button. The closest location to campus is on the corner of Preston Road and Forest Lane. Other locations in Arlington, Frisco,

Garland, McKinney, and Plano may be convenient to your home or along your commute to and from work. They are open 7 days a week.

- **My Labs Direct** provides drive-through PCR testing for employees and their families at various [locations](#) throughout the metroplex including an SMU on-site location, which is available through May 15, 2022. The on-site testing location is on East Campus in the Expressway Tower parking lot (6116 N. Central Expressway). Testing times are Monday through Friday 9:00 - 11:00 am. To schedule an appointment at Expressway Tower, use this [link](#). Appointments may be scheduled for all other locations Monday through Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. No virtual visit is required prior to testing.
- **Listening sessions with Lyle stakeholders to inform Dean search** – This week and next, I will be meeting with Lyle stakeholders to answer questions about the search process in order to guide my decision on an Interim Dean and to inform the search for our next Dean of the Lyle School of Engineering.
 - This week's meetings included sessions with Lyle's Executive Board, faculty and staff.
 - Next week, I will meet with Lyle's Assistant and Associate Deans, Center and Institute directors and Department Chairs.
 - At the recommendation of Lyle's Executive Board members, I will also schedule a listening session with Lyle students (undergraduate and graduate) for their perspective on a new Dean.
- **Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE)** – This week, many of you received a survey invitation from an external vendor (FSSE Survey) to complete the Faculty Survey of Student Engagement. We had planned to distribute this survey next week after providing a brief overview in this week's newsletter; however, the survey was released a week prematurely. Our apologies for the confusion, and thank you to everyone who checked with me to confirm the survey's validity prior to completion. Please know that the survey is valid and we greatly appreciate your feedback. You will receive another email reminder about the survey next week.

The FSSE helps us meet our SMU in Four goals by providing a faculty perspective on a parallel survey that we have used each year with our students, called the National

Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). The FSSE also provides an opportunity for you to share how you spend your time on professorial activities, such as teaching and scholarship, and what kinds of learning experiences you see emphasized at SMU. Your responses to this survey will help inform the on-going efforts of SMU in Four.

We will provide a report and share what we learn from both the student and faculty surveys. Thanks in advance for your feedback and for your efforts, big and small, to support our students.

- **Reminders from previous newsletters:**
 - **Faculty accommodations for alternative teaching needs after spring 2022** – Moving forward after the spring 2022 semester, faculty who need to request a reasonable accommodation on the basis of a disability for teaching will need to request accommodation through the Office of Institutional Access and Equity (IAE).

Road to R1/Scholarly Creative Excellence:

- **SMU libraries offers \$1,000 research assignment stipends** – SMU Libraries' Research Assignment Stipend awards \$1,000 to faculty for winning proposals to integrate new information literacy components into undergraduate and graduate coursework in collaboration with librarians. Information literacy gained from well-designed research assignments allows students to think more critically, to translate information into knowledge, and to use what they've learned outside of the classroom to support their own understanding. [Submit your proposals](#) for summer/fall 2022 by May 28, 2022.
- **Research and Innovation Week** – You can find information about all of the Research & Innovation Week events at www.smu.edu/riw. Dr. Anima Anandkumar, Director of Machine Learning at NVIDIA and Bren Professor in Computer & Mathematical Sciences at Caltech, delivered the 2022 [Research & Innovation Week keynote talk](#) via Zoom webinar last Monday, March 28th. Other events included the Undergraduate Poster Session on Tuesday, March 29th, the Graduate Poster Session on Wednesday, March 30th, and Panels with Student Winners of National Fellowships today, Friday, April 1st from 1:30 - 2:30 pm in Hughes-Trigg Student Center 121 and 226. In addition, a number of departments organized events in conjunction with Research & Innovation Week. A listing of departmental events can be found here: [R&I Week Departmental Events](#).

- **Key leadership searches underway**

- **Dedman Law Dean** – Click [here](#) to go to the website where the position profile is posted that will guide our search for the next Dean of the Dedman School of Law. And, please share with prospective candidates from within your network. The search committee will review the developing applicant pool during a half-day meeting scheduled for April 6, and I will be meeting with Dedman Law faculty that week to provide an update on the search process and ask for any final recommendations they would like to provide with respect to their desires for an Interim Dean.
- **Vice Provost for Research and Chief Innovation Officer** – Interviews and campus visits for two of our four finalists took place last week with the remaining two campus visits originally scheduled for next week. Unfortunately, circumstances require rescheduling for one of the two remaining candidates. We will provide a revised schedule as quickly as possible. Click [here](#) for more information as well as details on how to participate in the next week's campus visit. As a reminder, all candidates arriving to Campus should remain confidential. Please do not share candidates' names or visits with anyone outside of SMU.
- **Dean of the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and Associate Provost for Graduate Education** – Last week, search committee members and I conducted airport interviews with our seven semifinalists with plans to narrow the field and bring 3-5 finalists to campus for interviews in late April/early May.
- **Lyle School of Engineering Dean** – Listening sessions to inform the search, as well as the appointment of an Interim Dean, are underway as noted above. The search committee will be appointed and charged at the start of the fall 2022 semester and Sam Holland, Dean of the Meadows School, will chair the committee.

News and Noteworthy:

- **SMU Engineering Dean named President of Clarkson University** – As [announced last week](#), Marc Christensen, Dean and Lyle Professor of Engineering Innovation in the Lyle School of Engineering, has accepted an offer to become the next president of Clarkson University in Potsdam, New York on July 1, 2022.

Dean Christensen has been at SMU for 20 years and served as Department Chair or Dean for 15 of those years. He has worked very effectively with leaders and supporters of the Lyle School of Engineering, including Bobby Lyle, to construct new facilities and to develop and expand the scope of the school. His contributions and leadership on campus will be missed. We will have a University-wide reception for Dean Christensen and his wife before the end of the academic year and will provide additional information in subsequent newsletters.

- **SMU faculty member ranked amongst the top 1,000 engineering and technology scientists in the world** – Dr. Nicos Makris, Addy Family Centennial Professor in Civil Engineering in the Lyle School of Engineering’s Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, was ranked amongst the [top 1,000 engineering and technology scientists in the world](#) (926 in the world; 403 in the United States). The rankings were published by research.com, one of the major websites for Engineering and Technology research, and were derived from h-index, publications and citations values collected on December 6, 2021. Congratulations, Dr. Makris, for this well-earned recognition.
- **SMU advertising and preaching experts collaborate on book to promote preaching efficacy** – Dr. Carrie La Ferle, Marriott Endowed Professor of Ethics and Culture, in the Meadows School of the Arts’ Temerlin Advertising Institute, and Reverend Dr. O. Wesley Allen, Lois Craddock Perkins Professor of Homiletics in the Perkins School of Theology, have co-authored a book entitled *Preaching and the Thirty-second Infomercial: Lessons from Advertising for the Pulpit*. Their great work was featured last month in the following [article](#).

Sincerely,



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World Changers Shaped Here