



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

March 4, 2022

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

- **Office of Engaged Learning hosted second ever “lab-hopping” day** – After receiving positive response in fall 2021, the Office of Engaged Learning hosted SMU's second lab hopping day on Tuesday, March 1. This event provided undergraduate students exposure to the broad range of research and employment opportunities available through SMU's faculty researchers. My thanks to Engaged Learning staff for organizing this event and to this week's faculty participants.
- **FY 2023 budget process complete** – Earlier this week, the Deans and Associate Provosts received preliminary notification (pending May Board of Trustees approval) of their budgets for fiscal year 2023, which begins this June. Like last year, the focus throughout this year's budget deliberations has been to have each request aligned to one or more of our

four academic priority areas: 1) Academic Excellence, 2) Research and Creative Excellence/Road to R1, 3) the 2016 – 2025 Strategic Plan, and 4) Inclusive Excellence Initiatives.

Looking ahead to summer 2022, and in addition to planning for the FY 2024 process, our work together will be focused on establishing a three-year view of SMU's budget prospectus for academic affairs. Having a longer-term budget view will enhance our ability to think and act strategically in pursuit of our strategic goals and objectives.

Thanks to the Deans and Associate Provosts for their collaborative approaches to strategic budget prioritization once again this year.

- **Update on fall 2022 class schedule** – After considerable planning, time and effort, we anticipate an on-time public release of the fall 2022 class schedule next week on March 7. Sincere thanks to Rachel Mulry, Associate CIO for Planning and Customer Service; Darrah Rippy, Senior Manager of Academic Scheduling; Deans; Associate Deans; Department Chairs; and college/school schedulers for their efforts on this complex but vital activity.
- **Reminder: SMU Fraud Reporting Program Update** – As mentioned last week, the Internal Audit Office has updated the SMU Fraud Reporting Program. SMU now utilizes NAVEX's EthicsPoint hotline reporting solution. If you observe a situation or have knowledge that appears to involve fraud or illegal acts concerning SMU, please file a report through [EthicsPoint](#). All individuals, whether they prefer to report anonymously or not, will be protected from retaliation.



EthicsPoint Hotline (Toll-free): 844-995-4895

Online Reporting Portal: smu.ethicspoint.com

Mobile: smumobile.ethicspoint.com or scan the QR code

For additional information on the SMU Fraud Reporting Program, please visit <https://smu.edu/fraud> or contact the Director of Internal Audit, Chandra McQueen, at (214) 768-4767 or chandram@smu.edu.

- **COVID-19 health and safety reminders** – Please continue consulting the [Mustang Strong website](#) regularly for the latest information, as our pandemic response is dynamic. SMU continues to provide [testing options](#) for faculty, staff and their eligible dependents as well as [vaccinations and boosters](#). If you test positive (including using an at-home kit), please report the results to your supervisor and complete the [SMU Health Reporting Form](#). SMU also continues to provide [N-95 masks](#) for faculty and staff who wish to use them in their workspace.

Road to R1/Scholarly Creative Excellence:

- **Statement from President Turner regarding tenure** – Last week, and in response to a request from Dr. Pia Vogel, Faculty Senate President, President Turner provided the following [statement](#) affirming SMU’s commitment to the principles of academic freedom and tenure.

I join President Turner to affirm SMU’s commitment to academic freedom and tenure. This an important reminder, particularly as the [Provost’s Advisory Committee on Promotion and Tenure](#) has begun its deliberations on the 21 faculty members whose dossiers are under consideration for promotion, tenure and/or promotion and tenure this year.

- **University Research Council (URC) announces call for research and travel grant proposals** – We are pleased to announce resumption of the URC research and travel grant program for the spring proposal cycle of academic year 2022 – 2023. Proposals for research and travel grants may be submitted for consideration at this time, and the deadline for submission is Monday, April 4, by 5:00 p.m. See [here](#) for additional details and submission instructions.
- **Key leadership searches underway**
 - **Peter O’Donnell, Jr. Data Science Institute Director:** Jim Quick, Dean of the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and Associate

Provost for Research; and Peter Moore, Associate Provost for Curricular Innovation and Policy, will co-chair our search for the newly-endowed Peter O'Donnell, Jr., Director of SMU's Data Science Institute. Next week, we plan to notify search committee members of their selection.

- **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.
- **Vice Provost for Research and Chief Innovation Officer** - Click [here](#) to review the position profile that is guiding our search for SMU's new Vice Provost for Research and Chief Innovation Officer. This week, search committee members conducted airport interviews with our six semifinalists. Finalist interviews are currently slated for late March/early April.
- **Dean of the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and Associate Provost for Graduate Education**– Click [here](#) to review the position profile that is guiding our search for SMU's new Dean of the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and Associate Provost for Graduate Education. Later this month, the search committee will review our pool of applicants to recommend a slate of 5 – 8 candidates for airport interviews.

News and Noteworthy:

- **Dean Matt Myers, Cox School of Business, extended for five years** – As [announced](#) this week, Matt B. Myers, Dean of the Cox School of Business, has received a five-year extension of his decanal contract. To inform the reappointment decision, letters requesting feedback were sent to the faculty and administrative staff of Cox; to SMU's senior administrators (e.g., President's Executive Council, Deans); to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees' Committee on Academic Affairs; and to the Chair, and Past Chair, of the Cox School Executive Board. Those solicitations did

not preclude others from providing feedback. Please join me in congratulating Dean Myers on his reappointment.

- **Perkins' Baptist House of Studies receives \$2.7M grant from Baugh Foundation** – The Perkins School of Theology's Baptist House of Studies has been awarded a \$2.7 million, three-year grant from the Eula Mae and John Baugh Foundation, a Texas-based foundation committed to supporting the work of faith-based, nonprofit organizations.

The grant will fund approximately ten full-time Baptist students — enrolled in Perkins' Masters, Doctor of Ministry, and Doctor of Pastoral Music degree programs — as Baugh Scholars. In addition to covering full tuition and fees, the fund will provide emergency aid for students enrolled in the program.

Kudos to Rev. Dr. Jamie Clark-Soles, Founding Director of the Baptist House, for this award. Dr. Andy Keck, Director of Strategic Initiatives, and Perkins MDiv students Lindsay Bruehl and Bryson Hill have been essential to the success of the initiative.

- **SMU librarian selected as fellow in the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) Leadership and Career Development Program** – Rahni Kennedy has been selected as a fellow for the prestigious and competitive 2022-2023 [ARL Leadership and Career Development Program](#). The LCDP is a yearlong, cohort based, experience shared by 25 librarians from the U.S. and Canada. The program is open to mid-career BIPOC professionals from within academic and research institutions. Please join me in congratulating Rahni on being selected to participate in the 2022-2023 LCDP!
- **Campus call for Faculty-in-Residence (FiR) applications** – The Offices of the Provost and the Vice President for Student Affairs are now seeking faculty candidates to serve as the Faculty-in-Residence (FiR) in McElvaney Commons. The successful candidate will begin a three-year appointment in the fall 2022 semester.

Additional information about the FiR position is available at the [Residential Commons recruitment and selection website](#). Please submit your completed application via the [web form](#) on the recruitment and selection website. Questions about the application process should be directed to Dr. Dustin Grabsch at 214-768-4887, or by email at dgrabsch@smu.edu. The deadline to apply is **March 27, 2022, at 11:59 pm**.

- **Outstanding graduate student instruction award** – Sponsored by the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and the Office of Student Academic Engagement and Success, the outstanding graduate student instruction awards recognize exemplary contributions to the teaching of SMU undergraduates by graduate student instructors and teaching assistants. Starting this year, two awards, each including a \$1,000 prize, will be made annually.

We received many strong nominations for these awards this year, indicative of the excellent teaching being done by graduate students across disciplines. This year's winners are: Danyal Ahsanullah, Ph.D. student in Electrical and Computer Engineering, recognized for his exemplary performance as a teaching assistant and his ingenuity in developing new materials in lab classes; and Anne Parfitt, Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology, recognized for her outstanding performance as a teaching assistant and instructor of numerous courses in archeology and cultural anthropology.

- **Dallas Museum of Art exhibit features items from the Jerry Bywaters Special Collections Library in SMU's Hamon Arts Library** – [Art Daily](#) and the [Dallas Observer](#) covered the opening of the Dallas Museum of Art's exhibit "Octavio Medellin: Spirit and Form," featuring items from the Jerry Bywaters Special Collections Library in SMU's Hamon Arts Library. The exhibition will be on view at the Dallas Museum of Art through January 15, 2023.
- **Research and Innovation week March 28 – April 1** – Research Days will become [SMU Research and Innovation Week](#) this year, with events

organized by the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies, the Office of Engaged Learning, and the Office of National Student Fellowships taking place March 28 – April 1, 2022.

Please encourage students who are conducting research under your supervision to be a part of this exciting event by participating in the poster sessions. Students can find more information, as well as the link to register for the poster sessions on the [Research and Innovation Week website](#).

- **University testing center opening in fall 2022** – As announced last week, plans are underway to open a dedicated university-wide testing center in fall 2022. As a reminder, students can schedule tests to be proctored by Disability Accommodation & Success Strategies (DASS) in the Altshuler Learning Enhancement Center (A-LEC) in the meantime. Review our [policies and procedures about accommodated testing](#).

Sincerely,



Elizabeth G. Lobo, PhD
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Southern Methodist University
<https://www.smu.edu/provost>

World Changers Shaped Here