



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

March 18, 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

- **Policy changes in response to adverse events and inclement weather** – We are very grateful for your resilience and willingness to maintain academic continuity during this February's two winter weather events. Based on faculty and staff suggestions, as well as feedback stemming from the working group of faculty and academic staff assembled to review SMU's response to adverse events and inclement weather, the PEC has decided to return to our previous (prior to spring 2020) approach of canceling class during inclement weather. See [this week's announcement](#) for additional information.
- **Planning for May and summer terms** – We are pleased that both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Dallas County currently report our community risk level as low. In light of recent trends, SMU anticipates that the May and summer terms will be mask optional across campus, including classrooms. Please see this [email](#), sent to all faculty currently scheduled to teach during either the May or summer terms, for additional information.

- **Statement in response to Faculty Senate’s resolution regarding our transgender and non-binary community** – On March 3, the Faculty Senate passed a resolution in support of non-binary and transgender members of the SMU Community. On Monday, President Turner and I provided the following [response](#), affirming that SMU will “remain a place where our LGBTQ+ community, who identify as transgender, can work, learn, teach, and thrive in the safety afforded to all members of SMU.”
- **Reminders from previous newsletters:**
 - **Please complete the brief survey you received from OIT last week to improve our facilities/OIT data** – On Tuesday, March 8, you received an email from SMU IT Communications with access instructions, including a user-specific link, for a mandatory space and asset survey that will allow SMU to improve the accuracy of our data for reporting. If you have difficulty locating the email, be on the lookout for follow-up messages with personalized instructions on how to access the survey.

The information you provide will allow SMU to update its workspace (e.g., offices, classrooms, and research spaces) and asset data (e.g., keys, computer hardware) in STABLE, my.SMU, and the IT inventory system. This survey should take no more than five minutes to complete. Thank you for your attention to this important request.

- **Complete midterm progress grade reporting** – Midterm progress grade reporting (MPR) opened last week. Completing MPRs helps students better understand their grades and allows campus offices to reach out to those at risk. If you are concerned about a student with excessive absences, you can select FA (failure due to attendance) as their MPR grade. Faculty may report MPR grades until March 23rd. Thank you for your participation.
- **SMU to extend its temporary, test-optional policy for undergraduate admission** – At the recommendation of the Faculty Senate Subcommittee on Admission and Financial Aid and with the endorsement of the Academic Deans, SMU will extend its temporary test-optional policy for undergraduate admission for another year. Applicants for first-year admission to start at SMU in fall 2023 or spring 2024 may choose whether or not to submit SAT or ACT scores as part of their application.

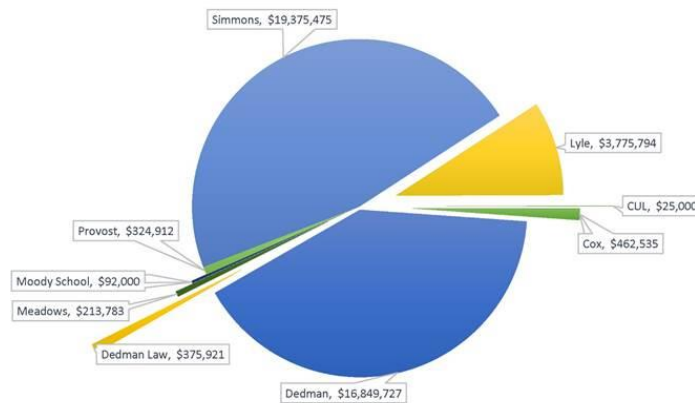
The Provost's Office is actively engaged in an ongoing study of classroom performance of new first-year students to identify future recommendations for admission, advising and academic support related to this policy. Graduate and professional programs are not included in this extension and will consider their admission policies in consultation with their respective Academic Dean.

- **Fall 2022 class schedule released** – Last week, the fall 2022 class schedule released in my.SMU for review prior to the start of fall 2022 enrollment on April 4. 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.
- **COVID-19 health and safety reminders** – Please consult 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:

- **SMU's FY 2022 research awards surpass \$41M** – Our faculty's historic pace for securing research awards in FY 2022 continues to set new SMU records. We closed the month of February with just under \$41.5M in research awards. As shown in the chart below, the majority of these awards come from our faculty in the Simmons School of Education and Human Development (\$19.375M), Dedman College (\$16.85M), and the Lyle School of Engineering (\$3.776M). However, and also for the first time in SMU's history, faculty from all of SMU's schools and college have earned research awards this year. This is an already incredible accomplishment, and we have three months remaining in the fiscal year. Thank you to all the faculty who have submitted research proposals and to the staff and students who provide vital support.

\$41,495,147



RUNNING TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT FOR AWARDS RECEIVED & PROCESSED YTD

- **University Research Council (URC) announces call for research and travel grant proposals** – SMU has resumed 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**
 - **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.
 - **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. Interviews and campus visits for our four finalists are being scheduled for late March/early April, and we will share more details in subsequent newsletters. Click [here](#) for information on how to participate in the

campus visits of our first two finalists next week. Please note: SMU ID and password required for access. Also, 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** – 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 and I will conduct airport interviews with our seven semifinalists.

News and Noteworthy:

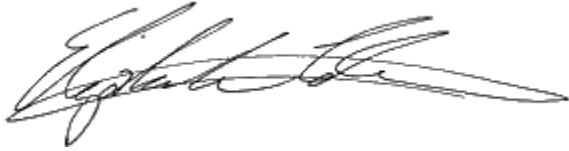
- **Record-setting performance by Meadows and Perkins faculty member, Dr. Christopher Anderson** – On March 8, as a part of [A Festival of Form: John Cage & the Infinite Human \(March 7–9\)](#) sponsored by the Bridwell Library and Perkins School of Theology, Dr. Christopher Anderson (Perkins – Meadows) presented a record-setting performance of John Cage's organ work Organ2/ASLSP (As Slow as Possible) over a 16-hour span in Perkins Chapel, making it the longest recorded and completed performance of that work by a single human! Anderson's extreme slow tempo demanded new techniques of registration and performance that resulted in sounds not commonly heard from the traditional pipe organ.
- **Reminder: Campus call for Faculty-in-Residence (FiR) applications** – The Office of the Provost and the Office of 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**.

- **Call for applications: The Office of Engaged Learning's Summer Research Intensive program** – The Office of Engaged Learning is accepting

applications through April 1, for the [Summer Research Intensive](#) program. Faculty may apply for match funding for two (2) undergraduate research assistants. Participating students are funded up to 30 hours per week and will attend workshops on data science, research methods, presentation techniques, and professional development skills. [Apply now](#) or [read more](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth G. Lobo', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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

World Changers Shaped Here