

Weekly Update | October 14, 2022

Elizabeth G. Loba, Ph.D. Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dear Faculty and Staff,

These weekly updates will serve as a tool to keep you informed and engaged with SMU's Academic Affairs division as, together, we work toward achieving the goals that fall within our four priority areas through 2025: 1) Academic Excellence/ *US News and World Report* top 50, 2) Road to R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence, 3) 2016 – 2025 Strategic Plan and 4) Inclusive Excellence.

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](#).

Today's update falls into three categories: 1) Fall 2022, 2) Road to R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence, and 3) News and Noteworthy.

Fall 2022

Cox School of Business Executive Board Meeting This Week

Today, President Turner, Vice President for Development and External Affairs Brad Cheves and I joined Dean Myers to update Cox board members on SMU's – and the Cox School's – recent accomplishments in our priority area of academic excellence. I concluded my remarks by introducing Jason Nance, Judge James Noel Dean of the Dedman School of Law and Robin Poston, Dean of the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and Associate Provost for Graduate Education.

SMU Joins the National Tuition Exchange Consortium

This week, SMU [announced](#) that it would be joining [Tuition Exchange](#) (TE), a national consortium of colleges and universities that provides educational scholarships to its more than 670 member institutions. Beginning in spring 2023, dependents of SMU benefits-eligible employees will be able to apply for full or partial tuition awards at other TE member institutions. More information about eligibility requirements and the application process can be found here on the [HR website](#).

SMU in Four: Year-One Progress Shared

SMU in Four, our Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), is the University's comprehensive approach to improving SMU's retention and four-year graduation rates. To this end, our QEP advances student academic success through its most essential form: progress toward degree. On September 28, the SMU in Four team shared updates related to early-alert mechanisms, undergraduate academic advising, technology enhancements, plus gateway and introductory courses. Student retention and graduation numbers were also shared along with goals for year two of the five-year initiative. [A copy of the slide deck along with additional information is now available on the SMU in Four blog.](#)

Call for Nominations: Faculty Teaching Awards

Each year, we have the honor to award a number of teaching awards to deserving SMU faculty, underscoring our commitment to excellence in teaching. This week, I sent the [following email](#) with a call for nominations. To learn more about these awards and to view past award recipients, visit [this website](#).

Please, take a few minutes to nominate a deserving colleague today. Please send the name of your nominees to the Center for Teaching Excellence, cte@smu.edu. The deadline for nominations is 5:00 pm on **Friday, October 28**.

Road to R-1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence

Register Now: Federal Research Workshop Scheduled for Thursday, October 27

On Thursday, October 27, SMU will be hosting a federal research workshop on campus to support the development of research projects to be submitted to the U.S Congress as part of the FY 2024 earmark and/or appropriation process. See [this email](#) for additional information.

Be on the lookout for information about how to participate in the workshop as well as additional details about the FY 2024 submission process. Thanks in advance for your participation. Please direct questions to [Suku Nair](#), Vice Provost for Research *ad interim*.

Key Leadership Search Underway:

Lyle School of Engineering

Last month, I launched [the search committee](#) for our next dean of the Lyle School of Engineering. My thanks to committee members for their service and to Sam Holland, Dean of the Meadows School of the Arts, for agreeing to chair this committee.

The search committee's kickoff meeting took place on Tuesday, September 27 and this week committee members received copies of the draft position description for review and feedback. I will continue to provide regular updates in subsequent newsletters.

News and Noteworthy

Lyle Faculty Member Receives \$2M Grant from the Department of Energy (DOE)

Congratulations to Harsha Gangammanavar, Assistant Professor in the Lyle School of Engineering's department of Operations Research and Engineering Management (OREM). His team has been awarded \$2M from the DOE to develop mathematical and computational tools that will address complex hierarchical multiscale problems arising from, for example, the planning and operations of power systems with significant renewable resources. To learn more about the award click [here](#).

Meadows Museum Expands its Collection to Celebrate the Late Mark Roglan

To honor the life and leadership of the late Mark Roglan, the museum's long-time director, the Meadows Museum of Art has added seven pieces of Spanish Art to its collection. For more information, [Patron Magazine](#) covered the acquisitions.

Register for Virtual Book Discussions of *Inclusive Teaching*

As mentioned last week, the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) continues this year's focus on Viji Sathy's book, *Inclusive Teaching*, by offering both in-person and virtual book discussion opportunities for interested faculty:

In-Person Book Discussion: Yesterday

CTE hosted an in-person book discussion yesterday afternoon at Harold Clark Simmons Hall 107. The session was led by Constantin Icleanu (World Languages & Literatures) and Laura Eigel (Psychology).

Virtual Book Discussion: October 27

CTE will host a virtual book discussion via Zoom on October 27, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm. The session will be led by Johnitha Johnson (Teaching & Learning) and Robyn Peterson (English). Click [here](#) to register.

Subscribe for Regular Updates from SMU's Office of Student Academic Engagement and Success

The Office of Student Academic Engagement and Success has developed a new blog containing a digest of recent news and announcements. To access the blog and subscribe go to the [following page](#) and click the word 'subscribe' in the top right corner.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth G. Loba, PhD

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Southern Methodist University

<https://www.smu.edu/provost>

World Changers Shaped Here