



SMU

Steven C. Currall
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Office of the Provost

12 June 2017

TO: Elizabeth Killingsworth (Chair) Dean *ad interim*, Central University Libraries
Katie Dziminski, Head of Public Services, DeGolyer Library
Curt Herridge, Application Support, OIT
Greg Ivy, Associate Dean for Library and Technology, Underwood
Law Library
Paul Krueger, Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering; President
of Faculty Senate
Sandal Miller, Director, Business Library
Paulette Mulry, Major Gifts Officer, Development
Toni Nolen, Technology Services, Central University Libraries
Sarah Sanabria, Technology Services, Central University Libraries
Roberta Schaafsma, Director and J.S. Bridwell Endowed Librarian,
Bridwell Library
Zoltan Szentkiralyi, Director of Assessment, Central University Libraries
Larrie Weil, SMU Libraries Executive Board Member

FROM: Steve Currall, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: Task Force on the Future of Libraries at SMU

Dear Colleagues:

SMU is currently in the process of elaborating its vision for academic excellence. The future of our libraries merits special consideration during this process, because they uniquely intersect all aspects of the academic enterprise.

We embark on this journey mindful of the advancements SMU's libraries have already reached in establishing a trajectory for a strong future. Dean and Director of Central University Libraries (CUL) Gillian McCombs' upcoming retirement in summer 2017 from her long-standing and successful tenure, provides a unique opportunity to consider a refreshed blueprint for the library's future – one that fosters even greater coordination across all our libraries. This blueprint will inform our search for a new Dean and chart a course for libraries at SMU that aligns with the University's evolving academic vision.

12 June 2017

Page 2

Section nine, chapter one of SMU's 1963 Master Plan concludes with the statement that "The libraries of the University will be coordinated and constantly strengthened." In the introductory paragraph to Goal One of Launching SMU's Second Century: 2016-2025 Strategic Plan, we are reminded that "a university is measured by the quality of its faculty, students, alumni, libraries, and facilities. These are – and always will be – the primary areas where qualitative growth and development are essential."

Even with strong progress and the mindfulness of the need for greater collaboration, opportunities exist to do more. In this time of leadership transition in CUL and articulation of academic strategy, the time is right to find new, lasting ways to foster coordination.

Therefore, I ask that you serve on the Task Force on the "Future of Libraries at SMU," with the following charge:

1. Describe how all SMU university libraries can work together in a more coordinated fashion in the future. Identify the greatest challenges and obstacles to greater cohesion and develop proposals to mitigate them.
2. Make recommendations regarding organizational structures and processes that allow all of SMU's Libraries to coalesce in a new and more coherent manner, while simultaneously remaining responsive to stakeholders in both their respective fields and the University as a whole. In so doing, recognize that we will remain mindful of accreditation requirements, particularly within the professional schools.
3. Propose the most effective structure and processes that encourages greater coordination across SMU's libraries in the area of development and major gifts.

Individuals outside of SMU with national and international prominence in academic and research libraries may provide valuable input. Therefore, I urge the Task Force to engage with a small number of selected individuals outside SMU to seek their thoughts and guidance.

The Task Force will prepare a report that includes recommendations for the future of libraries in a manner consistent with, and enhancing, SMU's academic mission, presenting the advantages and disadvantages of each of the recommendations. The Task Force will complete its work and submit the report to me by 1 September 2017.

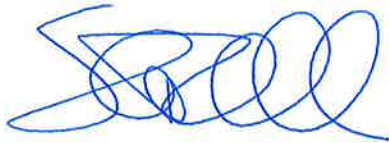
I am holding a kick-off meeting for the Task Force from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, 22 June 2017, in the President's Board Room. Your attendance at the meeting is mandatory. Please contact Carolyn Jeter in my office either by email (cwjeter@smu.edu) or by phone (214-768-1491) to let me know whether or not you will be able to serve.

12 June 2017

Page 3

Thank you in advance for agreeing to serve on the Task Force. Your work will have a lasting impact on advancing academic excellence at SMU.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SCurrall', with several loops and flourishes.

Steven C. Currall, Ph.D.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

David B. Miller Endowed Professor

Professor of Management and Organization

Professor of Psychology

Professor of Engineering Management, Information, and Systems