



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

May 26, 2022

Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Robin S. Poston as the new dean of the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and Associate Provost for Graduate Education effective August 15, 2022. Please read more about her appointment [here](#).

Dr. Poston comes to SMU from the University of Memphis (U of M) where she has served as Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School since 2018. At the U of M, she has overseen the university's strategies in support of graduate enrollment growth, student success and timely graduation – key themes for SMU in our current pursuit of greater academic and research excellence. She was also a lead architect behind the University of Memphis' 2021 rise from R2 to R1 in the Carnegie rankings.

SMU launched the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies during the 2020 – 2021 academic year after a landmark \$100M commitment from the Moody Foundation in November 2019. The investment in a more strategic approach to graduate-level education and research signaled the University's determination to be a full partner in global and commercial problem-solving, and a pipeline for leaders to tackle those challenges. Such commitment has garnered national attention and resulted in a very strong applicant pool for the deanship. Dr. Poston's proven experience, leading at the intersection of

graduate studies and interdisciplinary research, made her a natural choice, and I am excited that she will be joining SMU's academic leadership team.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the search process. I would also like to thank the members of the search committee, chaired by Tom DiPiero, dean of Dedman College. Finally, thanks to Renee McDonald for serving as *ad interim* Dean of the Moody School and Associate Provost for Graduate Education until Robin's arrival in August.

Congratulations and welcome, Dr. Poston!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth G. Lobo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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