



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

May 23, 2022

Dear Colleagues:

Based upon feedback from the SMU community during the spring 2022 semester, and in accordance with the policy that SMU's Deans be reviewed periodically, I am pleased to announce that Dr. Stephanie Knight, Dean of the Simmons School of Education and Human Development, has received a five-year extension on her contract.

To inform my reappointment decision, letters requesting feedback were sent to the faculty and administrative staff of Simmons; 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 Simmons Executive Board. Those solicitations did not preclude others from providing feedback.

Faculty and staff respondents expressed appreciation for Dean Knight's strong and decisive leadership, particularly in response to COVID-19, and her focus on standardizing administrative policies such as faculty workload. Her decanal peers value the insights she brings to their deliberations – most notably with regards to research and strategic planning. SMU and Simmons have benefited from Dean Knight's contributions during her first term, and we look forward to continued success and collaboration in the days and years to come.

Please join me in congratulating Dean Knight on her reappointment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth 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>