

April 9, 2024

Dear Colleagues:

I want to update you on leadership changes within the Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences in response to Dean Tom DiPiero's plans to step down from the role effective May 31, 2024, at the conclusion of his second, five-year appointment.

Nathan Balke, 2007 Dedman Family Distinguished Professor in the Department of Economics, has agreed to serve as Dean *ad interim* of Dedman College effective June 1, 2024, until a permanent dean has been named. In my conversations with College constituents this spring to inform our search for a permanent dean, Nathan was a natural fit for the interim, and we are very grateful for his willingness to serve in this capacity.

Professor Balke has twice been department chair in Economics, from 2000 – 2006, and again from 2010 – 2013. He has also been a Research Associate at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas since 1994 and currently chairs the Faculty Senate's All-University Finance Committee. His research areas are in macroeconomics and applied time series analysis, and he teaches courses in macroeconomics at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Nathan brings a wealth of experience to this position, and I look forward to partnering with him in the days ahead.

To provide an update on the search for our next permanent dean, the Search Committee held its kickoff meeting on March 7, and began marketing the position externally on March 20. In coordination with executive search consultant C.V. O'Boyle, Jr., direct outreach efforts are underway to develop an applicant pool in line with SMU's aspirations. The committee meets again on April 15 to review applications received to date and to discuss strategies for next steps. Until the successful fruition of the permanent Elisabeth Martin Armstrong Dean search, please join me in welcoming Nathan on his assumption of the interim role beginning June 1.

Sincerely,



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