



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

February 18, 2022

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for your interest in, and commitment to, advancing SMU's academic mission. These weekly updates will serve as a tool to keep you informed and engaged with SMU's Academic Affairs division as, together, we manage a safe, healthy and productive spring semester. 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](#).

Spring 2021

- **SMU's final Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) decennial accreditation paperwork submitted** – In his exit conference meeting last week with members of the SACSCOC's senior leadership team, President Turner received confirmation that final documentation would be submitted to extend SMU's accreditation for another ten years. Kudos and thanks to Dr. Patty Alvey for her leadership throughout the SACSCOC affirmation process and to the team of nearly 100 faculty and staff for their contributions.
- **Annual HOPE Banquet and awards** – On Tuesday night, I had the honor of participating in this year's Honoring our Professors' Excellence (HOPE) Award Banquet. For 25 years, Residence Life and Student Housing (RLSH) has hosted the HOPE Award Banquet as a special way for students to

recognize faculty excellence. The HOPE Award is quite distinctive from SMU's other teaching awards because nominations come exclusively from students.

Since its creation in 1998, more than 650 SMU professors have been selected as HOPE professors. And, 31 of those professors are considered Distinguished HOPE professors, having received student nominations for five years or more. Congratulations to the 92 HOPE-nominated professors and 6 Distinguished HOPE professors recognized during this year's banquet.

- **Update from faculty and academic staff group to inform future responses to inclement weather** – Working with Faculty Senate President Pia Vogel and the Deans, we have established a group of faculty and academic staff to bring forward ideas that can inform our future responses to inclement weather events. The group had its first meeting last Friday, spending the majority of their time discussing academic continuity issues. The meeting concluded with a shorter discussion of staff issues as well. We will share additional information in subsequent newsletters.
- **Library Executive Board meeting debrief** – On Thursday, I joined Dean Holly Jeffcoat to provide our spring 2022 update to the SMU Libraries Executive Board. I provided a University update, focusing most heavily on this year's academic and athletic accomplishments as well as on recent developments from the *SMU Ignited* campaign. My report concluded by reviewing our four academic priority areas through 2025 and the role SMU's libraries will play in achieving these goals.
- **Board of Trustees meetings next week** – SMU's Board of Trustees meetings are scheduled next week, and I will have three opportunities to engage Board members.
 - **Joint meeting with the Committee on Development and External Affairs (DEA)** – Brad Cheves, Vice President for Development and

External Affairs, has invited me to present our campaign priorities for Academic Affairs with the members of his committee.

- **Committee on Academic Affairs** – During this month’s meeting, our focus will be on faculty success. It has been a historic year for faculty accomplishments, most notably in terms of research productivity, and I am looking forward to the opportunity to share your accomplishments with Board members.
- **Full Board of Trustees** – During Friday’s meeting of the full Board, I will share a consolidated version of my presentation to the Committee on Academic Affairs.
- **COVID-19 health and safety reminders** – Please continue consulting the [Mustang Strong website](#) regularly for the latest information, as our pandemic response is dynamic. This week, we are encouraged by the continued decline in [COVID cases](#) on campus. As of today, we had zero faculty and staff cases and 10 student cases. SMU continues to provide [testing options](#) for faculty, staff and their eligible dependents as well as [vaccinations and boosters](#). If you test positive (including using an at-home kit), please report the results to your supervisor and complete the [SMU Health Reporting Form](#). SMU also continues to provide [N-95 masks](#) for faculty and staff who wish to use them in their workspace.

Road to R1/Scholarly Creative Excellence:

- **Provost’s Promotion and Tenure Advisory deliberations underway** – Last week, the [Provost’s Advisory Committee on Promotion and Tenure](#) began its deliberations on 21 faculty members whose dossiers are under consideration for promotion, tenure and/or promotion and tenure this year. My thanks to advisory committee members for performing this very important advisory role.
- **Key leadership searches underway**

- **Peter O'Donnell, Jr. Data Science Institute Director:** Jim Quick, Dean of the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and Associate Provost for Research, and Peter Moore, Associate Provost for Curricular Innovation and Policy, will co-chair our search for the newly-endowed Peter O'Donnell, Jr., Director of SMU's Data Science Institute. WittKieffer will serve as our executive search firm. My office plans to invite and charge search committee members later this month.
- **Dedman Law Dean:** Last week, our search consultant Chuck O'Boyle was on campus to engage key campus stakeholders as we seek to finalize the position description that will define our search within the next two weeks.
- **Vice Provost for Research and Chief Innovation Officer** - Click [here](#) to review the position profile that is guiding our search for SMU's new Vice Provost for Research and Chief Innovation Officer. The search committee has reviewed our pool of applicants and has identified a slate of 5 – 8 candidates for airport interviews that will take place later this month. Finalist interviews are currently slated for late March/early April.
- **Dean of the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and Associate Provost for Graduate Education**– Click [here](#) to review the position profile that is guiding our search for SMU's new Dean of the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and Associate Provost for Graduate Education. Next month, the search committee will review our pool of applicants to recommend a slate of 5 – 8 candidates for airport interviews.

News and Noteworthy:

- **SMU Meadows School of the Arts wins national award for pedagogical innovation** – The United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (USASBE) announced the recipients of the Excellence in Entrepreneurship Education Awards on January 8, as part of the USASBE

2022: Pioneer & Persevere annual conference. Meadows' Arts Entrepreneurship program received the Excellence in Pedagogical Innovation Award.

"SMU has been a distinct leader in arts entrepreneurship for years, and their efforts have garnered interest from institutions and educators around the world who are passionate about arts entrepreneurship. Their thought-leadership and pedagogical acumen empower creatives of all types to be entrepreneurial in their work," says Julienne Shields, CEO of USASBE.

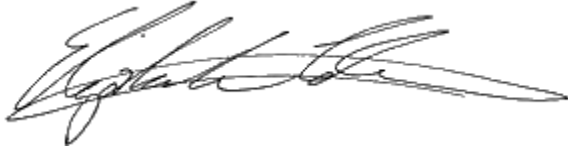
Congratulations to Dean Holland and to Jim Hart, Director of the Arts Entrepreneurship Program, for receiving this national recognition.

- **Lyle's J.C. Chiao elected to the 2022 class of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) College of Fellows** – AIMBE has announced the election of Dr. Jung-Chih Chiao, Mary and Richard Templeton Centennial Chair Professor of the Lyle School of Engineering's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering to its College of Fellows. I nominated Dr. Chiao and he was then reviewed and elected by peers and members of the AIMBE College of Fellows for outstanding contributions to the development of novel wireless and batteryless implantable devices for chronic disease management. Congratulations to Dr. Chiao and the Lyle school for this accomplishment.
- **Research and Innovation week March 28 – April 1** – This year, Research Days will become [SMU Research and Innovation Week](#), with events organized by the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies, the Office of Engaged Learning, and the Office of National Student Fellowships taking place March 28 – April 1, 2022.

Please encourage students who are conducting research under your supervision to be a part of this exciting event by participating in the poster sessions: the [undergraduate poster session](#) will be held on Tuesday, March 29, from 3:00 - 6:00 pm, and the [graduate student poster session](#) will be held on Wednesday, March 30, from 2:00 - 5:00 pm. Both events will take

place in the Hughes-Trigg Student Center Ballroom. This is a great opportunity for students to share their research with the SMU community and to compete for cash prizes. Students can find more information, as well as the link to register for the poster sessions on the [Research and Innovation Week website](#).

Sincerely,

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

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

World Changers Shaped Here