



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

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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 2022

- **Groundbreaking for Cox School of Business renovation and expansion project** –Thanks to the generosity and commitment of our incredible donors, SMU broke ground today on the renovation and expansion project for the Edwin L. Cox School of Business. I hope you were able to attend this historic event. After years of analysis and careful planning, we are thrilled to begin this major capital project that, once completed, will ignite the future of business education on the Hilltop. Fundraising for the Cox project is part of the overall *SMU Ignited* campaign, which announced this week a grand total of \$880 million in commitments toward the goal of \$1.5 billion.
- **May Board of Trustees Meeting recap:**
 - **Committee on Academic Affairs** – On Thursday, the Committee on Academic Affairs met to discuss informational and action items such as:

granting promotion and/or tenure, *emeritus* status, new/modified programs, degree conferrals, and our academic priorities for the next three to five years.

As was the case last year, my reports this year to the Committee on Academic Affairs have focused on our four academic priority areas through 2025. These include:

- Academic excellence/US News & World Report Top 50
- Research and creative excellence/SMU's Road to R1
- SMU's 2016 – 2025 Strategic Plan; and
- Inclusive Excellence Initiatives

This meeting's topic was SMU's *2016 – 2025 Strategic Plan*, with a specific focus on two topics: 1) progress toward creating new interdisciplinary research initiatives and 2) how SMU Global, Online and Continuing Education (GOCE) is working with corporate and community partners to expand degree- and non-degree offerings to students.

I also gave the committee status updates on key leadership searches underway (see below for specific details) and a preview of the FY 2023 performance-based funding model, which will be released publicly (after the FY 2022 financial close) this summer.

- **Full Board** – This morning, I presented a condensed version of Thursday's presentation to the full Board of Trustees, focusing on our most recent interdisciplinary cluster hires and on GOCE's latest corporate/community partnerships. I also previewed the FY 2023 performance-based funding model. My presentation concluded with a brief fall 2023 enrollment update. As of May 2, 2022, net deposits for the fall 2023 incoming class total 1,718 – a 4% increase over fall 2022. We are projecting a class size of 1,550, a 32 average ACT score, 32% underrepresented students and 11% Pell-eligible. Thanks to Dr. Wes Waggoner, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management; Elena Hicks, Dean of Admissions and Executive Director of Enrollment Services; their teams throughout the Division of Enrollment Services; and the college/school recruiters for their outstanding work.

- **Fondren Library open 24/7 through May 11** – Fondren Library will be staying open around the clock through May 11 to provide students support and study opportunities through final exams. Many thanks to the Fondren staff for providing this valuable service to our students.
- **May Commencement** – SMU's 107th annual May Commencement will take place on Saturday, May 14, at 9:00 am in Ford Stadium. Your presence at this significant rite of passage is important both to those whom you have taught and to the entire University community. For those faculty who plan to attend, we welcome you to the Faculty Breakfast to begin at 8:00 am. Please let us know if you will be able to join for breakfast by emailing facultysuccess@smu.edu.

We are pleased to welcome Grant Moise, President and Publisher of the *Dallas Morning News*, as this year's commencement speaker. We are also pleased to announce that Anita Martinez, the first Mexican American member of the Dallas City Council and founder of Ballet Folklórico, will receive an honorary degree.

Click [here](#) for additional information on May commencement festivities.

Road to R1/Scholarly Creative Excellence:

- **Webinar for the NEH Summer Stipends Program.** The National Endowment for the Humanities will be offering a webinar on the NEH Summer Stipends program for administrators and prospective applicants, introducing the program, describing the application and nomination process, and offering application-writing suggestions. There will be a chance to ask questions, captions will be available, and the webinar will be recorded so others can watch it later.

Date: Wednesday, May 18

Time: 1:00 - 2:00 pm (Central time). To join the webinar, click on [this link](#).

Several of our administrators and faculty will be attending. If you have questions, please reach out to facultysuccess@smu.edu

- **SMU libraries offers \$1,000 research assignment stipends** – SMU Libraries' Research Assignment Stipend awards \$1,000 to faculty for winning proposals to integrate new information literacy components into undergraduate and graduate coursework in collaboration with librarians. Information literacy gained from well-designed research assignments allows students to think more critically, to translate information into knowledge, and to use what they've learned outside of the classroom to support their own understanding. [Submit your proposals](#) for summer/fall 2022 by May 28, 2022.
- **Next steps: SMU/Bush Institute post-doctoral program request for proposal (RFP)** – Thanks to the 12 faculty teams who submitted RFPs for our new post-doctoral program with the Bush Institute. In terms of next steps, representatives from my office and the Bush Institute will review proposals with hopes to announce next year's three selections prior to May graduation.
- **Key leadership searches underway** –
 - **Dedman Law Dean** – The search committee conducted confidential semifinalist interviews last week and put forward four exceptional finalists. We are finalizing logistics for in person visits and expect to complete campus interviews with these four finalists in May prior to Commencement. As a reminder, all candidates arriving to Campus should remain confidential. Please do not share candidates' names or visits with anyone outside of SMU.
 - **Vice Provost for Research (VPR) and Chief Innovation Officer (CIO)** – We were able to complete campus interviews with three of our four finalists last month. Today, I met with search committee members to provide a status update and to discuss next steps. Based on their recommendation, we will proceed with a campus visit and interviews with our fourth candidate. Be on the lookout for information on how to participate in the Vision Talk of our last finalist before the end of the month.
 - **Dean of the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and Associate Provost for Graduate Education** – A campus visit and interviews for the remaining finalist took place this week. After conferring with the search committee and gathering additional feedback from campus

constituents, I will begin negotiations with the hope of announcing our new Dean of the Moody School later this month.

- **Lyle School of Engineering Dean** –The search committee for the permanent dean will be appointed and charged at the start of the fall 2022 semester and Sam Holland, Dean of the Meadows School, will chair the committee.

News and Noteworthy:

- **SMU's proposed Center for Commercial and Corporate Diplomacy seeks to help U.S. Foreign Service succeed abroad** – This week's *Dallas Morning News* [article](#) featured a new initiative coming out of the Cox School of Business. In response to the gap in U.S. leaders' ability to promote global free market capitalism abroad, Cox has proposed the Center for Commercial and Corporate Diplomacy as a way to develop overseas business opportunities that can make the United States economically stronger and geopolitically more influential. This initiative has already received bipartisan support amongst local members of congress, including representatives Mike McCaul, Colin Allred, Joaquin Castro and Ronny Jackson who all co-signed a letter encouraging State Department leadership to engage SMU in pursuit of the Commercial and Corporate Diplomacy initiative. With SMU's unique position at the nexus of business, government, and research, we are well-positioned to provide an offering that would have substantial societal impact and address important challenges.
- **Simple Syllabus live** – We are excited to call your attention to a new, live link that appears in all Canvas courses: *Simple Syllabus*. Last week, SMU activated this new syllabus creation platform intended to streamline the many syllabus-related tasks faculty face each term.

While we are gearing up to provide a full campus launch of the system for fall 2022, *Simple Syllabus* is available now for use with May term and summer sessions. Faculty experiences and feedback from early users will be reviewed to ensure a pleasant full rollout to campus in the fall. So far, we have observed that *Simple Syllabus* makes it easy to manage syllabus tasks because it uploads automatically to the SMU Syllabus Library, formats according to accessibility standards, pre-populates required SMU syllabus statements, and automatically

publishes a *Simple Syllabus* page in Canvas. Instructors are able to use rich content editing to add their course-specific content including assignments and their due dates, course policies, etc. The tool seamlessly exports/prints into a PDF and generates unique URLs and embed codes.

- For instructions, visit the [new Simple Syllabus service page](#).
- Questions about getting started? [Reach out to your School/College's Academic Technology Service Director \(ATSD\)](#)
- Questions about syllabus policies? Email facultysuccess@smu.edu directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth G. Loba', written in a cursive style.

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

World Changers Shaped Here