

Weekly Update | November 4, 2022

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

Dear Faculty and Staff,

These weekly updates will serve as a tool to keep you informed and engaged with SMU's Academic Affairs division as, together, we work toward achieving the goals that fall within our four priority areas through 2025: 1) Academic Excellence/ *US News and World Report* top 50, 2) Road to R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence, 3) 2016 – 2025 Strategic Plan and 4) Inclusive Excellence.

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](#).

Today's update falls into three categories: 1) Fall 2022, 2) Road to R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence, and 3) News and Noteworthy.

Fall 2022

Executive Board Meetings this Week

This week, President Turner, Vice President for Development and External Affairs Brad Cheves and I joined Dean Jason Nance in a meeting with the Dedman School of Law's executive board.

Dedman School of Law

I updated board members on SMU's – and Dedman Law's – recent accomplishments toward greater academic excellence and provided introductions of our newest deans – Jason Nance, Judge James Noel Dean of the Dedman School of Law, and Robin Poston, Dean of the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and Associate Provost for Graduate Education. I concluded with an update on our search for a new dean of the Lyle School of Engineering.

Responding to the Power Outage this Week

During the late evening of November 1, issues with an off-campus power transformer caused a widespread power outage that impacted most campus buildings. ONCOR reported the transformer's issues to SMU. SMU canceled morning classes and briefly delayed the start of the workday as crews worked to restore power to campus facilities. Power was restored at approximately 8:30 a.m., employees began reporting for work shortly thereafter and all classes resumed at 12:30 p.m. SMU is still working through after-event issues with ONCOR to determine causes and review actions.

This week's power outage gave us an opportunity to test SMU's updated decision-making and communication protocols in response to adverse events and inclement weather. As a reminder during these types of situations, you will receive email and text updates via SMU Aware and are also encouraged to consult the [SMU Aware](#) website for the most current information. Thanks again for your flexibility and understanding in response to these adverse events.

Deadline Extension: Last Day to Drop a Course (Grade of W)

In light of Tuesday's disruption to classes, the Registrar's office notified students that November 11, 2022 will now be the last day to drop a course with a grade of "W." We appreciate this flexibility and quick response from the Registrar's Office in service to our faculty and students.

Reminders from Last Week

Invitation to Participate in December Commencement

Please access the [December Commencement RSVP](#) webpage to let us know if you will attend the December ceremony and participate in the academic procession. The deadline to RSVP for attending the ceremony is **Friday, December 2nd**, by 4:00 p.m. Clark Hunt '87, chairman and CEO of the Kansas City Chiefs and FC Dallas and member of SMU's Board of Trustees, will be the commencement speaker.

Prior to the ceremony, there will be a faculty breakfast beginning at 7:45 a.m. in the Miller Champions Club in the Miller Event Center, directly inside the entrance to the Coliseum on Binkley Avenue. [If you want to attend the breakfast, please RSVP by clicking here](#). The deadline to RSVP for the breakfast is **Friday, December 9th**, by 4:00 p.m.

Road to R-1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence

Follow-ups from Last Week's Federal Research Workshop and Call for Proposals

As mentioned in [this email](#), we invite faculty to develop proposals for consideration as a part of the U.S. Congress' FY 2024 earmark and/or appropriate process.

This [LINK](#) will take you to a box folder where you may view and copy resources provided by during last week's federal research workshop: (1) A copy of the presentation shown by Clark-Hill, our consultants and (2) a template to be used to develop and submit your proposals.

To be included for consideration in the FY 2024 budget development cycle, first drafts of your proposals must be submitted to [Suku Nair](#) by **November 23, 2022**, with final submission to Suku no later than **December 16, 2022**.

New Resource: Follow @smuresearch for updates on SMU's Research

SMU's [news page](#) recently updated its content to include an "SMU Community" channel that displays tweets from the new @smuresearch twitter feed. I encourage you to follow and re-tweet @smuresearch posts to remain up to date and share SMU's most recent research news.

Moody School Three-Minute Thesis Competition November 14

SMU graduate students will present their research and compete for prizes at this year's [Three Minute Thesis \(3MT\) competition](#), which will take place on Monday, November 14, from 12:00 - 1:30 pm, in the Chamber in the Hughes-Trigg Student Center (lower level). 3MT celebrates the exciting research being conducted by SMU graduate students and allows them to hone their communication and presentation skills.

The rules of the competition are simple: participants present their dissertation or thesis research in non-specialist language in less than three minutes with the assistance of one static PowerPoint slide. They are judged on the effectiveness of their presentation and their ability to convince the judges of the impact of their research. All members of the SMU community are invited to attend. Lunch will be served starting at 11:45 am. Attendees are invited to pick up lunch and take a seat before the competition gets started at 12 pm.

Key Leadership Searches Underway

Dean, Lyle School of Engineering

Click [here](#) to review the position description that is now being broadly advertised and please share it with colleagues within your network. I will continue to provide regular updates in subsequent newsletters.

News and Noteworthy

SMU Faculty Member joins NPR to Discuss the Effectiveness of Affirmative Action on Achieving Higher Diversity on College Campuses

Dominique Baker, Associate Professor in the Simmons School of Education's Department of Education Policy and Leadership, was interviewed by [National Public Radio](#) (NPR) this week on what race-based admission trends can show us as the U.S. Supreme Court hears arguments that could affect affirmative action policies in higher education.

New SMU Faculty Member and Department Chair's Research Reveals Role of Soil Moisture in Underground Spread of Natural Gas

Kathleen M. Smits, department chair in the Lyle School of Engineering's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Solomon Professor of Global Development, published an [article in *Elementa*](#) exploring the role of soil moisture in the underground spread of natural gas leaks from pipelines.

SMU Faculty Member Chaired this year's Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) International Sensors Conference in Dallas

Congratulations to J.C. Chiao, Mary and Richard Templeton Centennial Chair Professor in the Lyle School of Engineering's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, for [serving as co-chair](#) of this year's IEEE Sensors international conference, which was hosted in Dallas. I was honored to provide a keynote address during the conference entitled "Sensing the Environment for Women in STEM" and pleased to highlight SMU's – and Lyle's – efforts toward inclusive excellence, particularly with regards to STEM fields.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth G. Loba, PhD

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Southern Methodist University

<https://www.smu.edu/provost>

World Changers Shaped Here