

Weekly Update | January 20, 2023

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) Spring 2023, 2) Road to R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence, and 3) News and Noteworthy.

Spring 2023

SMU begins the spring 2023 semester with Dream Week activities to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

By tradition, SMU honors Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with [Dream Week](#) to coincide with the return of students to campus for the spring semester. On Wednesday, campus and students participated in a Unity Circle to reflect on how Dr King's legacy continues to make an impact on them at SMU. SMU's Office of Social Change and Intercultural Engagement hosts Dream Week, which concludes tomorrow with a day of volunteer service for students, faculty and staff from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 22, starting at the Hughes-Trigg Student Center Ballroom A/B. This year's community service opportunity occurs in partnership with Feed Our Starving Children to pack meals for those battling hunger and food insecurity.

SMU GOCE joining the Moody School

As [announced yesterday](#), SMU's Office of Global, Online and Continuing Education (GOCE) has now moved under the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies. Under this new structure GOCE will hire professionals with terminal degrees to lead online graduate programs, stackable certificates, and noncredit pathways in high-demand areas for adult learners in the DFW area and beyond, all under the umbrella of the Moody School.

SMU GO will still partner with academic units across campus to support the development and delivery of their online graduate programs, and SMU Continuing and Professional Education (CAPE) will continue to offer a wide range of on campus and online noncredit programs and courses to help students advance in their careers or transition successfully to new ones.

Invitation for faculty to meet with Cheryl Matherly, Vice President and Vice Provost of International Affairs at Lehigh and SMU Internationalization Advisor

The Office of the Provost and the SMU Faculty Senate leadership invite all faculty senators and members of the faculty to a meeting on **January 26th at 4:15 - 5:00 pm in the Hughes-Trigg Varsity (Lower Level)** with Dr. Cheryl Matherly, Vice President and Vice Provost for International Affairs at Lehigh University. All interested faculty and faculty senators are encouraged to attend.

SMU has joined the 20th cohort of the American Council on Education (ACE) Internationalization Lab, a two-year self-study and strategic planning process designed to produce a comprehensive internationalization plan for the university, and Dr. Matherly has been designated as SMU's ACE Peer Advisor.

Comprehensive Internationalization is defined by ACE as "a strategic, coordinated framework that integrates policies, programs, initiatives, and individuals to make colleges and universities more globally oriented and internationally connected." SMU's internationalization efforts will focus on improving infrastructure and support for internationalization, recruiting and supporting international students, promoting and supporting international research collaborations, and internationalizing the SMU student experience.

During the meeting on January 26 with Faculty Senators and the SMU faculty, Dr. Matherly will provide a brief overview of the ACE Internationalization Lab process, and she will gather input and take questions from the SMU faculty.

We do hope you can join us for this important event. Please contact [Dayna Oscherwitz](#), Associate Provost for Institutional Planning and Effectiveness, for additional information.

Recap: Spring general faculty meeting on Wednesday, January 18

Thank you to all the faculty who were able to attend this week's spring General Faculty Meeting on Wednesday for an update on SMU's trajectory and recent progress, most notably through the three-year budget process, toward achieving our academic goals. [Click here](#) to review a copy of my presentational materials for the spring 2023 faculty address. And finally, congratulations once again to the faculty receiving this year's teaching awards.

Road to R-1/Scholarly and Creative Excellence

2022 research coverage recap

SMU faculty and students conducted research, published findings and garnered publicity that circled the globe in 2022. This [article](#) provides a wide-ranging recap of some of last year's highlights.

SMU's Office of Research and Innovation submits NSF Regional Innovation Engines Proposal

As mentioned in Wednesday's General Faculty meeting, SMU submitted a \$160M NSF engines proposal this week that, if successful, will lead to safer living environments and enhanced workforce development in the underserved Southern/Gulf Coast region. This submission, led by SMU, required collaboration across nine universities and 60 faculty contributors, including 19 SMU faculty members. Thank you to all the SMU faculty involved in the development and submission process. Suku Nair, Vice Provost for Research and Chief Innovation Officer, noted that SMU could not have done this without a herculean effort from the proposal's leadership team: Zhong Lu, Shuler Foscue Chair in Dedman College's Roy M. Huffington Department of Earth Sciences; Corey Clark, Deputy Director of SMU's Guildhall and Assistant Professor in the Lyle School of Engineering's Department of Computer Science and Engineering; Sandra Duhé, Associate Professor and Chair in the Meadows School of Arts' Division of Corporate Communication and Public Affairs; Jennifer Dworak, Professor in the Lyle School of Engineering's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering; Joe Camp, Professor and Department Chair *ad interim* in the Lyle School of Engineering's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering; Inki Kim, Assistant Director of Research in Medical Simulation (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign); Angelita Trevino, Director of Sponsored

Projects and Contracts in the Office of Research and Innovation; and Teri Trevino, Office of Research and Innovation.

Key leadership searches underway

Data Science Institute Director

Later this month, I will appoint and charge a search committee for SMU's inaugural Peter O'Donnell Jr. Director of the Data Science Institute with plans to fill the position by the end of the spring 2023 semester. Suku Nair, Vice Provost for Research and Chief Innovation Officer, has agreed to chair the search. Be on the lookout for additional information in subsequent newsletters. Continued thanks to Peter Moore for serving as Data Science Institute Director *ad interim* until our new director arrives.

Lyle School of Engineering Dean

Last Wednesday, SMU [announced](#) Nader Jalili as the next Dean of the Lyle School of Engineering effective March 1, 2023. Dr. Jalili joins SMU from the University of Alabama, where he has been Professor and Department Head in Mechanical Engineering since 2018.

News and Noteworthy

Announcement of New Associate Director of Assessment in the Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness

The Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness is pleased to announce that Brooke Guelker, Ed.D. joined the team as Associate Director of Assessment on January 9, 2023. Dr. Guelker brings over 18 years of institutional knowledge at SMU through prior roles in Dedman College and the Provost's Office. Dr. Guelker joins Dr. Yan Cooksey, Director of Assessment, Laurie Barnett, Senior Program Specialist, and Dr. Dayna Oscherwitz, Associate Provost for Institutional Planning and Effectiveness in the office. We hope you will welcome Brooke to the office, and she looks forward to working with faculty to foster continuous improvement across SMU.

Degree planner student adoption campaign

As mentioned in newsletters last fall and in announcements from SMU in Four, Degree Planner is a new tool that allows [Common Curriculum \(CC\) undergraduate students](#) to plan progress toward their degree and aid SMU in course scheduling and seat planning to promote timely graduation. All CC undergraduate students (except those graduating in May 2023) are asked to complete Degree Planner before fall enrollment begins this spring. While we want all students to establish a degree plan, [SMU in Four](#) is targeting a completion rate of 75% by March 20th. To support student adoption by the March 20 target date, CC students will begin receiving regular communications from SMU in Four requesting degree completion. For more information on how to assist students with Degree Planner, please visit the [Degree Planner Navigation for Advisors Wiki page](#). For questions, comments, or concerns, please contact SMUinFour@smu.edu.

Graduate student success day scheduled for Monday, February 6

The Moody School for Graduate and Advanced Studies will host its first Graduate Student Success day on Monday, February 6. Faculty are invited to attend this daylong event to participate in conversations around recruiting outstanding graduate students from diverse backgrounds and to learn more about the Moody School's resources to support graduate education. Along with members of the Moody staff, SMU's own Maria Dixon Hall, Chief Diversity Officer, and Paige Ware, Associate Provost for Faculty Success, will provide their insights. Kurt Kraiger, Professor and Chair in the University of Memphis' Department of Management, will also lead a facilitated discussion with SMU faculty around best practices for graduate student success. Faculty interested in participating should contact [Alan Itkin](#) for additional information.

Provost annual report now available online for viewing

The 2022 Provost's Annual Report is now available [online for viewing or printing](#). It represents just a fraction of the many accomplishments that, working together, we have been able to achieve in the past year in our quest for greater academic excellence. Special thanks to Travis Nolan, a junior SMU student from Dallas who is studying biology and geology with a goal to work in paleontology after graduation. Travis folded all origami featured in the report, including the Peruna on the front cover.

Sincerely,

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

Elizabeth G. Lobo, PhD

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Southern Methodist University

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

World Changers Shaped Here