



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

November 17, 2022

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Suku Nair, Associate Provost for Research *ad interim* as Vice Provost for Research and Chief Innovation Officer effective December 1, 2022. With a career spanning more than thirty years of contributions to SMU's teaching and research mission, and a national reputation in the fields of computer science and engineering, Suku is well-positioned to elevate SMU research, innovation and entrepreneurship in line with our aspirations and trajectory. Click [here](#) for more information.

During the 2021 – 2022 academic year, SMU conducted a national search for an inaugural Vice Provost for Research and Chief Innovation Officer. Despite the great efforts of our search committee, that process did not yield a match. In consultation with the committee last May, we made the decision to extend the search into summer/fall 2022.

As announced in May, Dr. Nair, University Distinguished Professor in Lyle's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Director of the AT&T Center for Virtualization, was appointed to serve as Associate Provost for Research, *ad interim* until a Vice Provost for Research and Chief Innovation Officer was named. Serving in this interim capacity, Suku and his team have been hard at work this fall to transform the Office of Research in line with SMU's aspirations for research and innovation and has made great progress expanding our federal research pipeline and establishing interdisciplinary research synergies through our partnership with Pegasus Park.

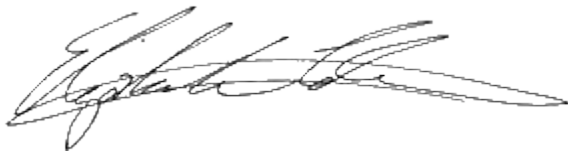
After several meetings with the VPR/CIO search committee this fall to discuss next steps, we discussed Suku's candidacy for the permanent VPR/CIO position. Based on individual and group interviews with Suku, and an examination of his

accomplishments over the past six months as Associate Provost for Research *ad interim*, committee members brought forward the recommendation this week to offer Suku the VPR/CIO position full-time moving forward.

Acting on their recommendation, I am pleased to announce that Suku has accepted our offer to become SMU's inaugural Vice Provost for Research and Chief Innovation Officer.

My thanks to Dean Stephanie Knight and the search committee for their outstanding service and congratulations to Suku on earning this strategic leadership appointment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth G. Lobo", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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