



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

March 17, 2022

Dear Faculty and Academic Staff:

We appreciate the ideas that faculty and staff have brought forward about SMU's approach to adverse events and inclement weather. In particular, I appreciate the series of conversations that took place with a working group formed by faculty and academic staff from each of the Schools, as well as the President of the Faculty Senate, Pia Vogel. Their feedback on behalf of the academic community was reviewed by the President's Executive Council last week, and the decision was made that for future inclement weather events, SMU should cancel in-person classes.

I would like to acknowledge my gratitude, and, on behalf of the academic leadership team, for your willingness to work toward academic continuity during each of the two separate inclement weather events in February. What we learned from those events is that our faculty, students, and staff are resilient and resourceful in rising to the challenges of inclement weather by leveraging technology that was used during the pandemic. However, in reviewing our collective feedback on that approach, we have determined that our past approach of cancelling class during inclement weather is the best path moving forward. SMU remains firmly committed to an on-campus, in-person learning community for the majority of our programs. In the event that we have more than three days of courses cancelled in a semester, then we will follow our accreditation protocols and schedule make-up classes.

In coordination with Human Resources, we are reviewing staff classifications for individuals who are currently classified as “Essential Workers”; further communications related to these discussions will be coming soon so that we can plan ahead for clear and helpful communications during adverse events.

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