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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](#).

I would like to offer a huge thanks to all of our faculty and staff for pivoting so quickly this week in response to another round of hazardous winter weather. We heard a host of constructive ideas from Wednesday's Faculty Senate about how to best approach academic continuity during inclement weather. I hope we can build on this input to develop robust plans together. To that end, I have asked Faculty Senate President Pia Vogel to consider forming a group of faculty representatives who would work with members of the Provost's Office team to bring forward ideas that can help guide us moving forward (e.g., communication plans with faculty and students about instructional continuity, pathways for faculty to raise questions about extenuating circumstances, guidelines and preparations for virtual teaching, and alignment with accreditation parameters). I look forward to learning from other faculty experiences as we plan for future events.

I realize that many of you responded to this week's challenges while also caring for your own children and providing support to others in the

community. As I was at home yesterday morning working remotely with five charming (albeit lively) kids in the house, I thought about how far we have all come in the past two years.

Weather forecasts indicate that icy conditions could persist in some areas until tomorrow. We will update you should the situation change, but we currently anticipate a return to normal operations by Monday. For questions about weekend courses or activities, contact your instructor or event coordinator. In the interim, please consult [this website](#) for the latest campus operations during the winter freeze.

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

Road to R1/Scholarly Creative Excellence:

- **FY 2023 budget meeting recap** – Fiscal year (FY) 2023 budget deliberations continued this week with two key meetings. On Wednesday, the Deans and I met with representatives from the President's and Vice President's offices to review and discuss FY 2023 budget requests for the entire University. For Academic Affairs, we will rely on a mix of resource reallocation, revenue growth (most heavily through online programs) and philanthropy to fund budget increases, while minimizing utilization of net new undergraduate tuition revenue. These decisions reflect hours of valuable time and investment from the Deans and the Associate Provost team; I would like to offer my sincerest gratitude for their collaboration, ideas, and advice in this process. On Thursday, I met with President Turner and Chris Regis to discuss the University's budget requests in greater detail. We will provide additional updates in future newsletters.
- **Performance based funding (PBF) overview for FY 2023** - In consultation with the Deans over the past academic year, my office developed a performance-based funding model to inform and promote the transparent

distribution of discretionary funds annually from the Office of the Provost to SMU's academic units.

To begin FY 2022, my office distributed nearly \$4M in discretionary dollars in June 2021 to the college/schools/libraries according to their performance against PBF's key performance indicators. See [here](#) for additional information about PBF FY 2022.

For FY 2023, and thanks in large part to the college/schools ability to generate additional revenue through programs such as Cox's online MBA, I am pleased to announce that we will be able to distribute up to \$5M in discretionary dollars. Working with the Deans, we are finalizing the key performance indicators for PBF FY 2023 and will share them in a future newsletter.

For PBF FY 2022 calculations and reporting were completed using an Excel spreadsheet. For PBF FY 2023, our plan is to produce a Tableau dashboard that is more user-friendly and can be shared more broadly and transparently. To inform this dashboard's design and beginning today, members of the Office of Institutional Research's data visualization team will be meeting with Deans, Associate Deans, and their school/college financial Business Managers for a better understanding of use cases and requirements. We will provide updates throughout the spring and early summer.

- **Reminder: Clark Hill research townhall and workshops plus link to meeting recording** – SMU has retained the services of Clark Hill, PLC to work closely with the Office of the Provost and faculty to increase federal research funding.

Last week, Clark Hill representatives hosted a series of workshops to strategize with faculty around SMU's areas of strength and opportunity. This [LINK](#) will take you to a box folder where you may view and copy

resources provided by the Clark-Hill Group during their on-campus visit: (1) a recording of the Clark-Hill workshop on federal research funding, (2) PowerPoint and PDF copies of the presentation shown by Clark-Hill during the workshop, and (3) a template to be used to develop and submit your ideas for increasing SMU's research funding through the annual federal appropriations process or by legislative requests.

The template is for faculty use to submit proposals for earmarks or changes in research focus of a federal R&D agency. To be included for consideration in the FY 2023 budget development cycle, your proposals must be submitted to Dean Jim Quick at (jquick@smu.edu) no later than **February 14, 2022**. Please follow the template closely in developing your proposal. We look forward to reviewing your ideas in collaboration with our Clark-Hill representatives.

- **Key leadership searches underway**
 - **Data Science Institute Director:** I have asked Jim Quick, Dean of the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and Associate Provost for Research, to chair our search for the newly-endowed Peter O'Donnell, Jr. Director of SMU's Data Science Institute. We are pleased to announce that a team from WittKieffer will serve as our executive search consultant, and I will invite and charge search committee members later this month.
 - **Dedman Law Dean:** Last month, Dean Myers and I met with and formally charged search committee members. Next week our search consultant, Chuck O'Boyle, will be on campus to engage key Dedman Law stakeholders as we seek to finalize the position request that will define our Dean search.
 - **SMU's Vice Provost for Research and Chief Innovation Officer** - Click [here](#) to review the position profile that is guiding our search for SMU's new Vice Provost for Research and Chief Innovation Officer. The search

committee has reviewed our pool of applicants and has identified a slate of 5 – 8 candidates for airport interviews that will take place later this month.

- **SMU's Dean of the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and Associate Provost for Graduate Education**– Click [here](#) to review the position profile that is guiding our search for SMU's new Dean of the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and Associate Provost for Graduate Education. Next month, the search committee will review our pool of applicants to recommend a slate of 5 – 8 candidates for airport interviews.

Spring 2022

- **COVID-19 health and safety reminders**

- New testing resources: Last month, SMU announced two additional testing resources for employees, their spouses and dependents who are seeking COVID-19 testing:
 - On-campus option: MyLabsDirect is providing on-site PCR testing for COVID-19 at no cost for SMU employees, spouses and their dependents from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Monday through Friday at a drive-up parking site at Expressway Tower, 6116 North Central Expressway.
 - At-home tests – SMU's health benefits Provider Blue Cross Blue Shield is covering the costs of "at-home tests."

These new testing resources are in addition to the Urgent Care for Children and Families services already available to SMU employees and their families. Go to this Mustang Strong website [employee testing page](#) to see a full list of options to receive a COVID-19 test. And remember, if you test positive (including using an at-home kit), please report the results to your supervisor and complete the [SMU Health Reporting Form](#).

- N-95 masks delivered this week – Masks were delivered this week to the college, schools, and Vice President’s offices. Faculty and staff who need masks should [consult their dean’s office point person \(found here\)](#) or Vice President’s office staff for additional instructions.
- Consult Mustang Strong for the most up-to-date guidance – Please continue consulting the [Mustang Strong website](#) regularly for the latest information, as our pandemic response is dynamic. As we have since fall 2020, we will use our COVID-19 operations plan to adjust our response as needed.


News and Noteworthy:

- **Dedman School of Law recognized for its COVID-19 helpline** – In response to the pandemic, the Dedman School of Law established a helpline both to help law school students gain meaningful legal experience at a time when many employers were retracting summer job offers and to provide a desperately needed legal service to the residents of the DFW community. Thanks to the hard work of Mary Spector, Associate Dean for Clinics, Director of the Civil/Consumer Clinic and Professor of Law; Laura Burstein, Director of Public Service and Faculty Supervisor, Government & Public Interest Externship Program; Eliot Shavin, Adjunct Clinical Professor and Assistant Director; Eric Cedillo, Adjunct Clinical Professor of Law; and so many of Dedman School of Law students, faculty and staff, the helpline has assisted hundreds of DFW residents with pandemic-related legal issues, mostly related to evictions.

In a webinar last week, the White House recognized the Dedman School of Law’s efforts, along with those of 98 other law schools, in response to the Attorney General’s Call to Action to the legal profession to address the housing and eviction crisis and to help increase housing stability and access to justice in their communities.

- **OIT releases its quarterly security update** – The winter 2022 edition of the OIT quarterly security update looks at the delicate balance between research and security, raises questions for consideration concerning security for anyone doing research, and provides details about NIST compliance and export controls. It is now available to the SMU community by clicking [here](#) or by going to: <https://smu.box.com/v/OIT-Security-Report-2022-01>.
- **Two SMU faculty named fellows by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)** – Last week, the AAAS announced its newly elected [fellows for 2021](#). It is a special honor for me to be joining this year's class with our colleague, Dr. Zhong Lu, Professor and Shuler-Foscue Chair in Dedman College's Roy M. Huffington Department of Earth Sciences.

Sincerely,



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