

Department Chairs, Associate Deans, Deans, and Academic Affairs Staff,

With a goal of staying connected on internal governance issues, the Provost Office sends a monthly Roundup on the final Friday of each month to the internal university leadership.

Important Upcoming Dates in August:

- August 24: Syllabi due in Simple Syllabus, including new Course Credit Hour Calculations

Department Chair “Save the Dates.” In early August, department chairs will receive calendar invitations to the following events. Please mark your calendars and look for invites soon!

- New Department Chair Orientation: Wednesday, August 12: 12:00-2:30
- Department Chair Retreat: Friday, September 25th: 8:30-12:00
- Lunch-and-Learn #1: Wednesday, October 21: 12:00-1:00
- Lunch-and-Learn #2: Wednesday, November 4: 12:00-1:00

Join the AI Learning Lab! This will take place in person on Tuesday, August 18th 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. in Annette Simmons Hall 218. There are 70 spots available. Register here: <https://booking.smu.edu/event/17134175>

- Learning Lab 1: 24/7 AI Study Companion & Case Simulation
- Learning Lab 2: SMU GitHub Repository of AI Agents
- Learning Lab 3: Create Immersive Scenarios with A

Changes to the Format of Associate Dean/Provost Office Meetings. This year we will host breakfasts once each semester for our all-call Associate Dean/Provost Office Team meetings. Formal calendar invitations will follow in early August, but in the meantime, mark your calendars for the mornings of October 1st and February 18th!

Date for the Fall General Faculty Meeting & Faculty Promotion Celebration. We look forward to celebrating all faculty who have received promotions immediately after the General Faculty Meeting. The SMU Libraries co-hosts this event, and we hope you can join. Please note the date change this year for the General Faculty Meeting as Wednesday, September 23rd. Formal invitations to this meeting and subsequent celebration will go out to all faculty in early August.

CTE Teaching Effectiveness Symposium. The Fall 2026 Teaching Effectiveness Symposium is scheduled for Friday, August 21st, 2026 at the Mack Ballroom. This year's keynote is Dr. Tricia Bertram Gallant, co-author of *The Opposite of Cheating: Teaching for Integrity in the Age of AI* (2025). She serves as the Director of the Academic Integrity Office

& Triton Testing Center at the University of California, San Diego. Learn more and register here! <https://www.smu.edu/provost/cte/programs/tes>

Quick Start Workshops in August for Faculty Preparing for the Fall Term. OIT Academic Technology Services will offer workshops this August to help faculty prepare for the fall. Designed specifically for online faculty and in-person adjunct faculty, these sessions provide practical guidance on course readiness, Canvas essentials, instructional technologies, and available support resources. Please share these opportunities with faculty in your school or department! This five day back-to-school bootcamp starts August 12, 2026, and runs through August 18, and is open to all SMU instructors. All workshop sessions are available for attending remotely. Labs will be in-person. A full schedule and registration links can be found here: <https://www.smu.edu/oit/events/ftw/ftw-2026>

SMU Career Closet Donations. The Hegi Family Career Development Center, the Cox Career Management Center, and the Office of Social Change and Intercultural Engagement host the SMU Career Closet each fall to help students access free professional clothing as they prepare for interviews, networking events, internships, career fairs and other important opportunities. The event was created to reduce barriers that can sometimes prevent students from feeling confident and prepared in professional settings. The Career Closet plays an important role in preparing them for success beyond SMU and would not be a success without donations from our SMU community and support from our campus partners. Donations will be accepted through August 14 and can be made Monday through Friday (Monday through Thursday in July) from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. at the Hegi Family Career Development Center in the Hughes-Trigg Student Center, 3140 Dyer Street, Dallas, Texas 75205. The planning committee would like to make the donation process as easy as possible by offering to pick up any donations from on-campus locations. Anyone interested in coordinating a building drop-off location and pick-up date can connect with Jon Jessen at jessenj@smu.edu. Additional information on the event, along with items requested for donation and other ways to contribute, can be found on the [event's website](#).

Transfer Credit Re-evaluation Project. We will offer hybrid training sessions for all department heads and faculty who approve transfer re-evaluation credits starting the week of August 3, 2026. These sessions will provide an overview of the new process and ensure all approvers are prepared ahead of launch. We appreciate your partnership as we move toward implementation of this improved, streamlined process. Please look for more information from John Easton (easton@smu.edu).

Campus Accommodations on Friday, November 6th. SMU will be hosting Virginia Tech for a football game on Friday, November 6th. To accommodate, we will invite faculty to shift their courses to remote teaching for all classes beginning at noon or later. We also request that faculty, staff, and students move their vehicles at noon, when possible, to accommodate out-of-town guests. Boulevard will formally begin at 1:00 p.m. For more information, reach out to facultysuccess@smu.edu.

International Office Updates. Dr. Claudia Sotomayor-Hart and her team in the International Office have been monitoring the situation for international students, faculty, and staff. Please review the information below and share events and resources with relevant individuals in your area. Read full details here: <https://www.smu.edu/enrollment-services/international/news-and-alerts>

- **Campus Partner Town Hall:** Session with UAC advisors, ADSA advisors, degree counselors, internship coordinators, and other campus partners who advise students. This is tentatively scheduled for August 4. They will develop a working group with UG and GR academic advising staff members to address the implementation of the Final rule and ongoing academic support for international students.
- **Graduate Recruitment Meeting:** Upcoming meeting will be held separately with graduate recruiting teams to discuss recruitment, admissions messaging, and transition planning.
- **Global Strategy Committee:** The Office will present an overview of the Final Rule, institutional impacts, and our implementation plan at the next meeting.
- **Faculty Outreach:** The International Office will coordinate with the Office of Faculty Success and Faculty Senate to provide clear updates to the faculty.
- **Foreign Nationals Working Group:** There is a working group that keeps colleagues in HR, Payroll, Risk Management, Research, and Export Controls updated on the new rule and any potential impact on hiring and employment-based processes.
- **Student Outreach:** The Wednesday Wisdom Webinar is scheduled for August 5 and already has more than 100 students registered.
- **Spring Admits:** A communication campaign is being developed for incoming spring students to understand how the new regulations may affect them before arrival.
- **Fall Orientation:** This will include a dedicated session explaining the Final Rule, transition provisions, and what new students need to know.

Keep the community informed about faculty awards: Please let us know if you have received or have been nominated for an award – or if you have nominated an SMU colleague [at this link.](#)

We welcome your suggestions for future areas to feature in the monthly roundup; email facultysuccess@smu.edu. You can [find past issues at this link.](#)