

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 July:**

- July 15: Confirm Chair/Associate Dean Changes to the Office of Faculty Success
- July 31: Annual Program Assessment Reports (SACSCOC)

**Confirming Chair/Associate Dean Academic Leadership Changes.** Please be sure that all internal leadership changes have been communicated to the Office of Faculty Success (e.g., chairs, directors, associate deans) no later than July 15th. Effective August 1, we will update all listservs, accounts, and access permissions. Email [facultysuccess@smu.edu](mailto:facultysuccess@smu.edu).

**Global Engagement Efforts.** The International Office is launching several initiatives to strengthen SMU's global engagement efforts and to support international student recruitment and success. Opportunities to participate include International Coffee Virtual Hours with admitted students and their families, as well as a new Stampede program that will highlight SMU's global programs and curriculum-based experiences. Faculty interested in serving as ambassadors, participating in these programs, or learning more about ways to support international student enrollment are encouraged to contact Claudia Sotomayor Hart at [claudiahart@smu.edu](mailto:claudiahart@smu.edu).

**New Template for Adjunct Contracts.** Effective this fall term, all adjunct contracts will be created using a standard template found in this folder: [Template for Adjunct Faculty Contracts](#). The template was created through a collaborative effort of the Faculty Data Management Council, which has representation from Human Resources, Payroll, the Provost Office, Faculty/Academic Staff Leadership and OIT. The recommendations were reviewed and endorsed by the deans and Provost. Benefits of the new contract language include standardized windows for adjunct employment, which will enable a) longer on-ramps for adjuncts to access SMU email, Box folders, Canvas interface, and employee trainings; and b) longer off-ramps for adjuncts to address grade disputes or incomplete grades. Additionally, this approach will help safeguard access to the SMU systems in light of our goals to strengthen protection of student privacy and SMU data. For more information, reach out to [facultysuccess@smu.edu](mailto:facultysuccess@smu.edu).

**Credit Hour Policy Workshops.** Beginning with Fall 2026, all SMU courses must align with the new federally required [Credit Hour Policy](#) and include estimated instructional and student work hours in the syllabus. We have prepared a workshop that will provide an overview of the policy, introduce available tools and resources, and help faculty prepare their courses and syllabi for implementation. Faculty will learn to interpret the expectations outlined, calculate and document instructional and student work hours for a course, and evaluate course activities and assignments for alignment with the assigned

credit hours. Two options for this workshop are available in July (with more to follow in August). Use the links below to sign up:

- [Credit Hour Policy Workshop: Tuesday, July 21 at 11:15 a.m.](#)
- [Credit Hour Policy Workshop: Thursday, July 23 at 11:15 a.m.](#)

**Quick Start Workshops in July for Faculty Preparing for the Fall Term.** OIT Academic Technology Services will offer new Quick Start workshops this summer 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 as appropriate.

- [Online Faculty Quick Start — Tuesday, July 7 at 10:00 a.m.](#)
- [Adjunct Faculty Quick Start — Thursday, July 16 at 3:00 p.m.](#)
- [Adjunct Faculty Quick Start — Tuesday, July 28 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- [Online Faculty Quick Start — Thursday, August 6 at 1:00 p.m.](#)

**Transfer Credit Re-evaluation Project.** We continue to make strong progress as we near completion of Phase II of development. As part of our final testing approach, we will be engaging a small group of selected faculty to participate in approval workflow testing. These faculty testers will work closely with the project team over the next few weeks and will 1) participate in a training session on July 23, 2026 and 2) complete system testing activities from July 23 through July 28, 2026. Following this targeted testing effort, we will begin 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. A sign-up sheet with available training session dates and times will be distributed as soon as room locations are finalized.

We appreciate your partnership as we move toward implementation of this improved, streamlined process. Please reach out to John Easton ([easton@smu.edu](mailto:easton@smu.edu)) with any questions.

**Policy Revisions.** We have been working toward policy clarifications in two areas. The first (Policy 2.3 Faculty Ranks, Academic Titles, and Voting Rights) is in response to the Faculty Senate resolution to change the titles of Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, and Senior Lecturer II to Assistant Teaching Professor, Associate Teaching Professor, and Teaching Professor. Faculty can still use the “lecturer” title as a functional title, if they prefer. The second (Policy 2.11 Guidelines for the Award and Rank of Tenure) focus on clarifications of the policy based on suggestions from academic leadership. Both policies are in the review stage with an anticipated adoption date of August. For questions or input, reach out to [facultysuccess@smu.edu](mailto:facultysuccess@smu.edu).

### **Student Academic Engagement and Success (SAES) Operational Changes**

- **Academic Development of Student Athletes (ADSA) Operational Change:** Moving forward, Department Chairs and Directors of Undergraduate

Studies who have questions or concerns about student athletes in their majors, courses, or just general questions about the student athlete experience should reach out directly to John Easton ([easton@smu.edu](mailto:easton@smu.edu)). Teiana Jones is no longer at SMU.

- **Honors and Scholars Operational Change:** Moving forward, Department Chairs and Directors of Undergraduate Studies who have questions about University Honors Program (UHP), President Scholars, Turner Scholars, Hilltop Scholars, or the Undergraduate Office of National Fellowships and Awards should reach out directly to Melissa Chessher ([mchessher@smu.edu](mailto:mchessher@smu.edu)) the next Dean of Honors and Scholars. David Doyle is returning to a full-time faculty role in the University Honors Program.
- **ALEC, DASS, Academic Skill Development:** These student-facing services will now be housed in the Blanton Student Services building on the 3rd and 4th floors.
- **DASS** reports to Whitney Jones and the **University Testing Center** reports to Jennifer Ebinger.

We know there are a lot of changes, and we will provide a new organization chart and overview of services before the start of the fall semester. You are always welcome to email Sheri Kunovich ([kunovich@smu.edu](mailto:kunovich@smu.edu)) or the general email [academicsuccess@smu.edu](mailto:academicsuccess@smu.edu).

**Update from the International Office.** As of June 18, the proposed federal rule to replace Duration of Status (D/S) for F-1 and J-1 students has advanced to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review. If implemented, the rule would 1) replace the current D/S framework with a fixed period of admission tied to program length; 2) require some students in longer academic programs, including many doctoral students, to apply for extensions to maintain status; 3) increase administrative requirements and processing timelines for certain international students and scholars; and 4) create additional compliance obligations for institutions and students. We will continue to monitor developments and provide updates as more information becomes available. The International Office continues to review all international hiring requests and assess the most appropriate visa category for each new hire based on the position, qualifications, and long-term institutional needs.

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](mailto:facultysuccess@smu.edu). You can [find past issues at this link](#).