

Department Chairs, Associate Deans, and Deans,

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.

Save the Date: Inaugural Provost Symposium on AI. A team of deans and associate deans are planning a full day of keynote talks and workshops for a symposium on Teaching and Research with AI. Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 7th from 10:00-4:30, to be followed by a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception from 4:30-5:30. Pre-registration for faculty to guarantee a spot will open next week and continue through Friday, April 11th. Beginning on Monday, April 13th, remaining seats will open to doctoral students, post-docs and academic staff. Please encourage faculty to join what promises to be a day packed with outside speakers and SMU colleague panelists. For more information, email facultysuccess@smu.edu.

Listening Session for Pre-Tenure Faculty. The Office of Faculty Success is co-hosting with several associate deans a listening session for junior faculty (pre-tenure) on Tuesday, April 8th from 11:00 to 12:00 in Harold Clark Simmons Hall 318. All junior faculty have received an invitation from the Office of Faculty Success. In addition to listening to their ideas and concerns, we will review policy [2.11 Guidelines for Promotion and Tenure](#). Interested chairs and associate deans are welcome to join; please reach out to Paige Ware at pware@smu.edu by April 2nd if you plan to attend so that we can plan for expanded room capacity if needed.

Faculty Search and Recruitment Revisions. The SMU Model for Faculty Search and Recruitment has been revised (effective March 2025). All 4 related search forms (Recruitment Request, Finalist Interview Request, Permission to Hire, and Variance to the Hiring Process) have been updated to reflect these approved revisions. The DocuSign links for each of these forms have not changed. Search committee chairs and administrative support staff will notice small revisions when using the forms. For questions, please reach out to the Office of Faculty Success at facultysuccess@smu.edu.

Assistant Provost of Faculty Success Named. After serving in the Office of Faculty Success as Director of Strategic Faculty Initiatives, Dr. Molly Ellis has been promoted to Assistant Provost of Faculty Success. Among her contributions to supporting faculty over the last 5 years, key projects have included implementing and managing the course evaluation systems; creating accessible faculty position data (e.g., longitudinal data on SCH, adjuncts, student and faculty counts by department); facilitating the Faculty Salary Study analysis in 2023-24; and serving as Co-Director of SMU-in-Four. In her new role, she will add to her portfolio management of the implementation and support for the transition to Faculty Activity Reporting (Interfolio); streamlining access to key data sets and queries for department chairs and associate deans; and serving as a liaison to the ACC Academic Leadership Network. Please join us in congratulating Molly on this recognition of her past and future support for initiatives that impact faculty and faculty leadership.

SMU Graduation Survey. Each term, the SMU Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness sends a survey to all graduating students (graduate and undergraduate) to gather information about their future plans (employment, graduate school, military service, etc.). This information is vital to SMU, because it is what we use to calculate employment outcomes, graduate school acceptance rates, and average salary information that we report publicly and that we report to various agencies. The quality and accuracy of this information directly impacts SMU's reputation and informs decisions by prospective students about whether or not to attend SMU. It is aggregated and reported on the [SMU Career Outcomes dashboard](#). We will be launching the survey for May graduates on Friday April 25th. Please encourage all graduating students to complete this survey. It takes only about 10 minutes to complete, and it directly impacts the value of each student's SMU degree.

SMU Junior Year Experience Survey. On April 7th, SMU will launch the first annual Junior Year Experience Survey. This survey will be sent by email to all SMU undergraduate students with Junior classification. This brief, 10-minute survey will give students an opportunity to give feedback on their SMU education, and on a range of campus activities and services ranging from career services to SMU Abroad. Student who complete the survey will also be offered the option of asking for direct outreach from services and activities of interest to them. The results of the survey will be used to improve educational offerings, services, and activities. The survey will run through April 14th. Please encourage all SMU Juniors to complete this survey.

Feedback Box to Sunset. Feedback Box will be discontinued in Canvas on April 30th. This plug-in feature has become a familiar tool for many faculty who offer their students opportunities to provide mid-semester (and/or across-the-semester) feedback. Our colleagues in Academic Technology have provided this [very useful guide on other highly workable options for gathering student feedback](#). For questions, please reach out to your Academic Technology Service Director or to CTE.

Looking ahead to Fall 2025. Per SMU's Manual of Governance in Athletics, Athletics has received approval for the men's basketball to play a game vs. LSU on either Saturday, December 13 or Sunday, December 14. If it is scheduled on Saturday, it falls in the finals Final Exam period. Members of the men's basketball team will need accommodations for final exams occurring on Saturday. The greater impact is that campus might experience more activity than usual on a final exam day as fans from both teams arrive for the game. The time of the game has not been set so we do not know what kind of impact it might have on the wider campus community. We will provide more communications as the date nears.

Query Workshop for Department Chairs. Reminder—the Office of Faculty Success will be sending a calendar invitation to all department chairs to invite them to a “pop-up

training” for an Academic Leadership Query Workshop on Zoom next Wednesday, April 2nd, from 12:00-1:00. We hope you can join!

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](#).