

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. You will find the information across these two categories: 1) Internal Governance Highlights; and 2) Upcoming Opportunities.

Important Upcoming Dates in October:

- October 1: Spring course schedule opens
- October 6: Final EPC proposal deadline for the December BoT Approval
- October 15: Research leave requests due to the Provost Office

Internal Governance Highlights

AI Rollout Plans. In light of President Hartzell's exciting announcement about SMU as an Anthropic campus during the State of the University Address, SMU is launching a phased rollout to prepare campus for full implementation in the spring. To that end, as briefly discussed at the Department Chair meeting on Friday, September 25th, we will begin providing licenses to select user groups: faculty who have actively participated in the Coalition of the Willing (e.g., individuals who logged in within the last 6 months), department chairs, associate deans, and deans. Specific guidance to these groups will be sent via email *the week of October 5th*—please be on the lookout for this communication. For more information, please attend a Zoom call, co-hosted by the Office of Faculty Success and OIT, about the *Technology Discernment* Institutional Learning Objective on Friday, October 2nd, from 12:00-1:00. We will provide examples of how different programs can map student learning outcomes in their major. We will also explain the steps for how faculty can gain licenses to Claude. Join at this link: <https://smu.zoom.us/j/4476337190>. A calendar invitation will be forthcoming to all department chairs, and a recording will be available for individuals who are not able to attend.

Spread the Word: Promotion and Tenure Conversations with the President and Provost. We sent an email invitation to all tenure-track and tenured faculty with an invitation to join one of two conversations with the president and provost about promotion and tenure. Please encourage faculty to attend a session – no rsvp is required, as we will be in the Hughes Trigg Auditorium, with ample space for all who wish to attend! Wednesday, October 14th, 1:00-2:00 pm & Tuesday, October 20th, 4:00-5:00 pm.

International Office Updates. The current status is that implementation has been paused by the federal court, effective September 14th. The existing Duration of Status framework remains in effect (maximum of four years for a degree, after which an application for additional time beyond four years will be required). The Final Rule has not been vacated or permanently eliminated. SMU is still working as if the rule will be implemented to ensure smooth communication and collaboration. For more information and for supporting

international students on a case-by-case basis, reach out to the International Office at intloffice@smu.edu.

Visiting Scholar Processes. In response to a recommendation from the ACE Internationalization Lab, the Global Strategy Committee has developed materials and resources for hosting Visiting Scholars at SMU. These A new [website has been launched to help communicate the processes for hosting visiting scholars](#). For more information, reach out to facultysuccess@smu.edu.

Process Improvements for Faculty Promotions. In spring 2026, a working group of associate deans forwarded recommendations for process improvements in assembling materials for faculty promotions across all ranks, including tenure-line and professional track roles. This summer, Mandy Graham, Executive Administrative Professional to the Office of Faculty Success, developed a series of public-facing supports for faculty and administrative professionals involved in the promotion process. Please visit this new website where resource materials, FAQs, templates, and links to the digital dossiers are curated for easy access: [Interfolio for Faculty Promotion and Tenure](#). For more information, reach out to facultysuccess@smu.edu.

University Testing Center Reminder. Midterms are coming! Testing volume is up at the University Testing Center (UTC) and will be picking up even more as we head into midterms. If you plan to use the UTC for midterm exams, please submit your test requests early and take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the [UTC Portal and testing process](#). Please email universitytestingcenter@smu.edu.

Upcoming Opportunities

Faculty Workshop: Public Scholarship and Media Engagement. Please encourage faculty to attend the workshop, “Building and Managing you Engagement with Public Scholarship,” co-hosted by Megan Jacob, Director of Media Relations, and the Office of Faculty Success: Friday, October 9th, 9:00-10:30. Caruth Hall 406.

Student Voices on Accessibility and Universal Design: On October 22nd at 3:30 p.m., join Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS), Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE), and OIT Academic Technology Services for a virtual student panel focused on accessibility, course design, and the learning experience. Student panelists will reflect on what helps them engage with course materials, navigate Canvas, communicate with faculty, and participate fully in their classes. This discussion is designed for faculty who want to better understand how everyday teaching and course design choices can reduce barriers for students. Register here: [Student Voices](#)

Cybersecurity Awareness Fair. SMU OIT Security is inviting the campus community to Win Big with Cybersecurity. Each week features a new game-show-inspired challenge focused on spotting threats, protecting accounts and University information, and building

practical cybersecurity skills—all leading up to our in-person Cybersecurity Awareness Fair on October 22 from 1:30–3:30 p.m. at Hughes-Trigg Student Center. Faculty, staff, and students can explore interactive booths from teams across SMU, enjoy food, games, and giveaways, and test their skills in a live cybersecurity game show presented by the National Cybersecurity Alliance. Plus, participants can earn points toward prizes throughout the month—the more you play, the more chances you have to win! To learn more visit the [Cybersecurity Awareness Fair](#).

Join the Fall Research Symposium. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, November 3, 4-7 p.m. in the Hughes-Trigg Student Center. Students in SMU's leading research and service programs will deliver 10-minute presentations, offering the campus community an opportunity to learn about their original research, public service initiatives, and creative projects. Faculty are warmly encouraged to attend and to consider the symposium as a valuable extra-credit opportunity that exposes students to scholarship beyond the classroom. [Smu.edu/fallsymposium](https://smu.edu/fallsymposium).

Nominations Now Open for Moody Outstanding Mentor Awards. The Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and the Center for Teaching Excellence are now accepting nominations for Moody Outstanding Mentor Awards. These awards recognize exceptional mentoring of graduate students and postdoctoral scholars by SMU faculty. Four awards are given each year. Each department may nominate one faculty member for this award each year. All full-time SMU faculty who work closely with graduate students and/or postdoctoral scholars are eligible for nomination. Moody Outstanding Mentor Awards provide a fund of \$10,000, to be used by the end of the following academic year, to support research and professional development expenses for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars under the awardee's mentorship. In addition, awardees will each receive \$1,000 for their personal use. Nominations should be submitted via the online form [here](#) no later than Wednesday, Oct. 14. Further nomination instructions and selection criteria can be found in the [call for nominations](#) and the [evaluation rubric](#). Faculty are encouraged to work with department colleagues to nominate an exemplary mentor for these awards.

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](#).

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