



Office of the President

February 7, 2025

Dear SMU Community,

Moments ago, SMU Director of Athletics Rick Hart announced that this will be his last academic year at SMU. Rick will continue to serve as SMU's director of athletics until a new leader is identified and on campus.

During his thirteen years at SMU, Rick has led our Department of Athletics with character, class, and integrity, and he has made this decision the same way. With my upcoming transition to President Emeritus and the arrival of President-elect Jay Hartzell, Rick believes that now is a good time for both him and SMU to move forward. His decision allows President-elect Hartzell to select his own Director of Athletics at this critical time of change in the world of intercollegiate athletics.

SMU Athletics has tremendous momentum, with our positioning on the national stage and within the Atlantic Coast Conference secured for years to come. During Rick's tenure, the Mustangs won championships, enhanced the student-athlete experience, graduated impressive student-athletes, invested in facility projects, and raised the bar in almost all other aspects of our athletics program. On behalf of SMU, I want to thank Rick and Allison, and their family, Trevor ('22), and Carly ('25) for

their service to our University, and we wish them all the very best.

In the days ahead, the University will share information regarding the search for the future leadership of our Department of Athletics.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "R. Gerald Turner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" at the beginning and a long, sweeping underline.

R. Gerald Turner
President