

December 4, 2020

Dear Faculty and Staff:

These weekly updates will serve as a tool to keep you informed and engaged with SMU's Academic Affairs division as, together, we work to advance the goals of SMU's strategic plan and continue to move SMU forward and upward. If you have suggestions for what we should include in future communications, please send your ideas to this [email address](#). Previous newsletters are available [here](#). Today's update falls into four categories: 1) SMU's Road to R-1, 2) Fall 2020, 3) Spring 2021, and 4) News and Noteworthy.

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**Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 2022 Budget Process** – Meetings with Deans and Associate Provosts to review and finalize their proposed budgets for next year conclude later this month. One of my goals for this year's budget has been greater transparency and collaboration across all of the schools/college. The focus throughout our deliberations, including faculty/staff hiring requests, has been on how budget requests will help us attain SMU's goals within the 2016–2025 Strategic Plan, Black Unity Forum (BUF) Action Plan responses, *U.S. News & World Report* rankings, and Road to R1. Final budget proposals will be reviewed by members of SMU's senior leadership team in January and February with final budget decisions announced in March 2021.

**Academic Analytics implementation reminder** – [Academic Analytics](#) is a tool used by many R

awards and collaborations and to ensure that their scholarly record in the Academic Analytics database reflects their portfolio of impact.

Starting early in the spring 2021 semester, we will begin hosting faculty webinars to promote awareness and to generate ideas about using the tool to support faculty in their pursuit of funding, collaborations, and honorific awards. In the meantime, if you are interested in learning more about Academic Analytics, please reach out to Associate Provost for Faculty Success Paige Ware at [pware@smu.edu](mailto:pware@smu.edu).

**Career development resources for graduate students** – The Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies is ramping up career development resources for graduate students. Dr. Ruth Schemmer, a career-development specialist with extensive graduate career advising experience, is now available for one-on-one appointments with Ph.D. students. The Aurora career development platform by Beyond the Professoriate is also now available for all graduate students. Information about these and other career development resources can be found on [the Moody School career-development website](#). And, as always, the [Hegi Family Career Development Center](#)

**COVID-19 prevalence study** – Last week, SMU [announced](#) its partnership with UT Southwestern and Texas Health Resources on a COVID-19 prevalence study in an effort to develop ways to reduce COVID-19 infections in DFW. There is no cost to you or to SMU for this study, and participation is voluntary. As a first step for those interested in joining the study, complete a brief [survey](#) by the end of day December 7. After finishing the survey, you will receive an email or text message shortly after the survey closes on December 7, with instructions for making your testing appointment. Use the unique link provided in the message to make your appointment. Testing will be available on campus December 16, 17, and 18, 2020, at Prothro Hall, Room 104, at 5901 Bishop Blvd, Dallas, TX 75205.

**Campus access to students for the remainder of fall semester** – Students remaining in Dallas this month can find library hours, between now and December 18, posted [here](#). [Zoom spaces](#) will also continue to be available through December 18, for students needing a quiet space on campus to participate in online classes. Offices will also continue to provide in-person services during normal business hours (M-F; 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) through final exams.

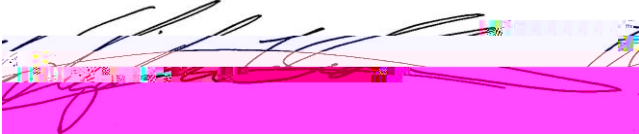
**Flu shot reminder** – SMU employees may get a flu shot, which now includes the 65+ version of the vaccine for seniors, from the same drive-thru urgent care tent where COVID-

one for graduate students at 2:00 p.m. Should commencement occur in Moody, graduates would be limited to two guests. Regardless of location, face coverings are required and social distancing guidelines must be followed.

Submitting your adoptions

I concluded my remarks by focusing on two budget-related initiatives we are either implementing or modifying for FY 2022 to incentivize academic units to achieve the University's academic goals: 1) performance-based funding for Provost's discretionary dollars and 2) the annual, incremental budget process. My thanks to the Deans and Associate Provosts for their continued support, who are working in a spirit of transparency and collaboration to make informed, data-driven decisions on behalf of the University's goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth G. Loba', is written over a pink rectangular background.

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