

both of these ways that graduates and families can participate and be a part of the celebration.

The day's activities include two components, a morning ceremony ([live streamed](#)) and an afternoon Dallas Hall Rotunda recessional. For those attending the morning outdoor ceremony in Ford Stadium, we will require social distancing and mask wearing by graduates and guests. Graduates in attendance will be invited to cross the stage, in addition to other normal program elements. The University is also offering a campus indoor viewing option in McFarlin Auditorium, incorporating health and safety requirements, for guests wishing to escape the heat. For students and families choosing to participate from remote locations, the morning ceremony can be viewed via [live stream](#). All graduates, both those participating on campus and those participating remotely, will receive the same celebratory items, such as diploma covers and printed programs. Programs will also be available for viewing onring a campus indoor

On July 22 the SMU Police Department held its annual Cultural Diversity training. The afternoon session of that training involved a panel discussion with black students, alumni and staff designed to facilitate candid discussion between the SMU Police Department and the campus community. The panel resulted in a healthy discussion that allowed all to hear and understand the perspectives and perceptions of both groups. Consistent interactions such as this will continue as the SMU Police Department advances implementation of their Community Engagement Action Plan.

Update on student outreach – Many faculty and staff have asked to be kept informed on the COVID-19 information SMU is providing to students. Moving forward (initiated on July 17), all faculty and staff will receive communications sent to undergraduate students from the Office of Academic Engagement and Success.

Yesterday, Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. K.C. Mmeje sent the following [message](#) to all reW*nBT/F4 12 Tf1 0 0 1 177.stcz792 re/mdi3ni*nBT/F4 12 Tf1

Key rationale for this recommendation:

- Keeps students more engaged with the campus with fewer opportunities for long breaks where they could leave campus.
- Makes the schedule predictable for students and faculty.
- Provides students access to other campus resources on a more regular basis.
- Allows students to be more fully engaged with other campus activities and events.

The EOC has reviewed and approved this approach so we will present this recommendation to the PEC next week for final approval.

Additional time between classes – In response to a recommendation by the Academic Continuity subcommittee and based on faculty requests and feedback from the Faculty Senate town hall, a five-minute increase to the time between classes (from 10 minutes to 15 minutes) has been approved.

Update on new air filter system SMU Facilities Planning and Management is upgrading all air filters in air handler units across campus, as a strategy to improve air quality in all University buildings. All air filters will be updated from the current MERV 10 level to the highest rated filtration level effective for SMU's air handler system – MERV 13. The diagram on this [website](#) details the filtration ratings, and the types and amounts of particles captured.

The first round of installations will focus on residential buildings, transitioning next to the University's academic buildings, and concluding with all remaining indoor facilities on campus. All installations are scheduled for completion by late-August.

Qualtrics and Pathcheck – OIT is partnering with consultants from Ernst and Young with a goal to implement a technological solution to manage COVID-19 symptom tracking, case management (for employees), and digital tracing before August 14. Project activities begin this week, and I will provide additional information as the team's work progresses.



Non-tenure track faculty, adjunct faculty, and/or graduate-facing faculty who will be teaching remotely must take these courses as well. We recognize that some faculty who fall into these categories might only learn of the need to teach remotely very near to the start of classes. In cases such as these, while we are requiring training, we will allow you to complete the training over the course of the semester. Look for more information in future updates.

Standard Syllabus language – Members of my office, working in partnership with SMU Community Action Network (SMU CAN), are currently developing draft language, to address policies such as classroom participation, attendance, face covering and safety, for faculty to include in their fall 2020 course syllabi. Once drafting has been completed, we will work with deans, department chairs and the faculty senate to finalize and distribute to faculty.

Changes to building access – To welcome our students for fall and avoid congestion at building entrances, exterior doors will no longer require ID card swipes during normal operating hours beginning August 10. Over the summer, card swipe access to buildings assisted in contact tracing efforts. With the addition of the new digital tracing mentioned above, card swipe access will no longer be required.

SMU CAN and community pledge to protect – As an important step to promote a safe return, the SMU CAN has developed a community “pledge to protect.” Prior to the start of the fall semester, all faculty, staff and students will review and sign the pledge to confirm our understanding and commitment to our personal responsibilities during these challenging times. Click [here](#) to review and sign. Please note that to submit, we request that community members provide their name and SMU ID. This is not an effort to identify individuals who have not signed, but rather to understand the level of commitment in the different segments of our campus community. This pledge is also included in the student return-to-campus training. I signed the pledge yesterday. Thank you all in advance for signing and joining me as we work to ensure the health and safety of our entire SMU community.

Sincerely,

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