

October 1, 2021

Dear Colleagues:

Thanks to each of you for the ways you advance our educational mission in support of our students. These weekly updates will serve

- o The most recent posting of the [Mustang Strong dashboard](#) shows that we have a total of 26 active cases on campus (19 students, 7 employees) with two people in quarantine and zero students in on-campus isolation. For reference, we had 67 active cases last week. The dashboard also shows that 1/4 of the community has received the vaccine.
- o The Dr. Bob Smith Health Center is actively consolidating and verifying vaccine records for our community. While actual numbers are likely higher, we can confidently report that 70% of faculty, 62% of staff and over 65% of on-campus residents have reported receiving the vaccine.
- o The Health Center continues to provide Covid-19 testing for students. As of yesterday, there was only one positive test out of 50 tests administered this week.

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faculty also maintains the most recent information concerning academic and classroom issues.

Faculty workshops for student support and emergency preparedness Our faculty are positioned as supports for students and colleagues in the case of issues that can arise, from stress to medical emergencies in their classroom. The Associate Provost for Faculty Success, CTE and the Office of Dean of Students are planning workshops this fall to assist faculty in navigating this array of issues. More information will be forthcoming from the CTE in the coming weeks.

### Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence

Search Committees activated for two key academic leadership searches Last Friday, Stephanie Knight, Dean of the Simmons School of Education and Human Development and I hosted a kickoff meeting with members of the Vice Provost for Research and Creative Excellence. We are pleased to be joining us for this process. We have hired an Executive Search firm, our partner throughout the process. Tom DiPiero, Dean of the Dedman College of Arts and Sciences



faculty members to apply for the Associate Provost for Institutional Planning and Effectiveness position. Questions and applications (due October 15) can be sent to the [Office of the Provost](#).

Dr. Patty Alvey, Associate Provost for Institutional Planning and Effectiveness, has expressed her intention to retire from this position effective December 31, 2021. Dr Alvey has been an outstanding member of the university community on a full-time, tenured basis. She has done an outstanding service to the university both as accreditation liaison and in establishing and leading robust initiatives through the Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness.



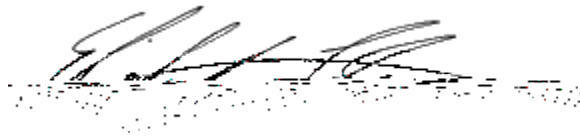
Provost Faculty Fellows – The application window for two additional Provost Faculty Fellows positions during the 2021-2022 academic year has now closed. Thanks to those who applied. My team is currently reviewing applications, and we will announce selections in the coming weeks.

Search process for Director for Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) – This is a reminder that we currently have an [open call](#) for faculty to apply for a three-year (renewable) appointment for the Director of the CTE position effective January 10, 2022. The search process is currently in progress. We are seeking a candidate with a minimum of six years of outstanding service, to transition into a new role as Department Chair for Education Policy and Leadership.

awarded nearly \$1 million over the past 4 years from the [NASA](#) Interdisciplinary Research in Earth Science Program and the NASA [Earth Surface and Interior Focus Area](#) to study landslides on the West Coast. In this research, they have used satellite imagery to identify more than 600 slow-moving landslides occurring near the U.S. West Coast. Fewer than 5% of these landslides in California, Oregon and Washington state had previously been identified.

SMU Dedman Law Professor receives prestigious appointment - Carla Reyes, Assistant Professor of Law in the Dedman School of Law, was [appointed](#) as one of two academic members on the Texas Work Group on Blockchain Matters, and will serve as the Work Group's [Creating Cryptolaw for the Uniform Commercial Code](#) *Editor*. *Washington & Lee Law Review* was featured by [The ALI Advisor](#).

Sincerely,



Elizabeth G. Loba, PhD  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Southern Methodist University  
<https://www.smu.edu/provost>

