

October 22, 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 as a tool to keep you informed and engaged with SMU's Academic Affairs division as, together, we work toward a safe and healthy fall semester. 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 three categories: 1) Fall 2021, 2) Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence, and 3) News and Noteworthy.

Fall 2021:

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AAPJ Action Plan within 30 days of receipt and will provide additional information in future newsletters.

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- For disciplines that do not align directly with our research/R1 aspirations, it is important to remember that the road to R1 is only one of our four academic priority areas. While we have focused heavily on research this initial year, as it is our area of greatest immediate need and potential impact, we will continue to invest strategically (through resource allocation and reallocation) in our other priority areas of academic excellence where our goal remains to achieve and sustain top 50 status in USN&WR, achieve the remaining goals of our 2016-2025 Strategic Plan and inclusive excellence initiatives most immediately in terms of meeting all commitments to BUF.
- Faculty conducting research, particularly in non-STEM areas, who are unsure of whether the research is being captured should contact the Office of Grant and Contract Accounting for additional guidance.
- To help us meet our research goals, cluster hires will ideally improve our ability to

