

April 29, 2022

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for your interest in, and commitment to, advancing SMU's

participates. We also welcome you to the Faculty Breakfast to begin at 8:00 am. Please let us know if you will be able to join by emailing [facultysuccess@smu.edu](mailto:facultysuccess@smu.edu). The deadline to RSVP for attending the ceremony is .

Click [here](#) for additional information on May commencement festivities.

– We are excited to call your attention to a new, live link that appears in all Canvas courses: *Simple Syllabus*. SMU has just activated this new syllabus creation platform intended to streamline the many syllabus-related tasks faculty face each term. Feedback from faculty and academic governance groups throughout the last year has been overwhelmingly optimistic and favorable. While we are gearing up to provide a full campus launch of the system for fall 2022, *Simple Syllabus* is available now for use with May term and summer sessions. Faculty experiences and feedback from early users will be reviewed to ensure a pleasant full rollout to campus in the fall. So far, we have observed that *Simple Syllabus* makes it easy to manage syllabus tasks because it uploads automatically to the SMU Syllabus Library, formats according to accessibility standards, pre-populates required SMU syllabus statements, and automatically publishes a *Simple Syllabus* page in Canvas. Instructors are able to use rich content editing to add their course-specific content including assignments and their due dates, course policies, etc. The tool seamlessly exports/prints into a PDF and generates unique URLs and embed codes.

- For instructions, visit the [new Simple Syllabus service page](#).
- Questions about getting started? [Reach out to your School/College's Academic Technology Service Director \(ATSD\)](#).
- Questions about syllabus policies? Email [facultysuccess@smu.edu](mailto:facultysuccess@smu.edu) directly.

– My thanks to Chief Diversity Officer, Maria Dixon Hall, for organizing, and to all the faculty members who participated in yesterday's Town Hall with Black faculty. With more than

65 faculty searches this year and new processes put in place to increase transparency and equity within the search process, we now have more robust data from which we can review outcomes. At the end of this search season, we will share this data in greater detail. A preliminary review shows that overall diversity this year has been 20% - 25% but our composition of African American candidates is not as high (4% - 12%). Working with Dr. Dixon Hall, we will seek to identify variables impacting our ability to attract talented African American scholars and practitioners. I look forward to developing strategies for improvement next year and moving forward.

– Informed by meetings this spring with the Lyle's Executive Board, faculty, staff and students, I was [pleased this week to announce](#) that Paul Krueger, Department Chair and Professor of Mechanical Engineering has agreed to serve as Dean *ad interim* of the Lyle School of Engineering. Please join me in welcoming and congratulating him on his selection for this important role.

– This is a reminder to treat next Tuesday, May 3rd like a Friday when it comes to your class schedule. As per the [academic calendar](#), SMU's last class day follows a Friday schedule. Students have also received reminders this week about the change from the Office of Student Academic Engagement and Success.

- – As [announced last week](#), Thomas Wm. Mayo, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor and Professor of Law has agreed to serve as Dean *ad interim* of the Dedman School of Law. He will become Interim Dean on May 16th and will serve in this capacity until we have appointed a new permanent Dean for the school.



finalists. We expect to complete campus interviews with these finalists in May prior to Commencement.

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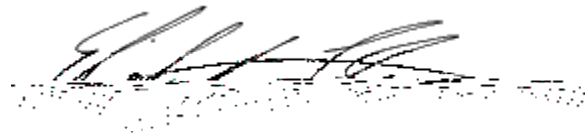
impact on freedom of expression scholarship." Judges cited the "strong theoretical component in Schroeder's research as he re-examined the search for truth rationale in the marketplace of ideas theory of free expression, given artificial intelligence and other contemporary technologies and developments."

- Meadows'

Claudia Zapata, Ph.D. student in Art History, was one of the principal organizers of the ¡Printing the Revolution! Exhibition debuted at the Smithsonian, and we4-2(ch )11(f)-2(o)6(r)-2( t)10(r)-2(ut)9(h r)6(a)-3(ti)6(on)4(a)-3(le)]T(

- - This spring, we have the bittersweet opportunity to bid farewell – and congratulations – to two of our Deans who will soon become university presidents. On Tuesday, May 10th from 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm in the Hughes-Trigg Student Center Ballroom, President Turner and I will host a [farewell reception](#) for Jennifer M. Collins, Judge James Noel Dean and Professor of Law in the Dedman School of Law. And, on Wednesday, May 11th from 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm in the Mack Grand Ballroom, President Turner and I will host a [farewell reception](#) for Marc P. Christensen, Dean and Lyle Professor of Innovation in the Lyle School of Engineering.

Sincerely,



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

**World Changers Shaped Here**