

Weekly Update | February 17, 2023

Elizabeth G. Lobo, Ph.D. Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

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 toward achieving the goals that fall within our four priority areas through 2025: 1) Academic Excellence/ top 50, 2) Road to R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence, 3) 2016 – 2025 Strategic Plan and 4) Inclusive Excellence.

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) Spring 2023, 2) Road to R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence, and 3) News and Noteworthy.

Spring 2023

Fiscal Year (FY) 24 Budget Conversations resume this week

FY 24 budget deliberations continued this week with another key meeting. O6(e)aD6iFh-4(n)-(h)-4(is)-5(we(n)

Next week, I will have two opportunities to provide Academic Affairs updates to members of SMU's Board of Trustees.

Committee on Academic Affairs

During Thursday's committee meeting, I will review our three-year strategy for undergraduate academic excellence – including how this strategy aligns with our inclusive excellence and strategic plan goals – in greater detail. We have invited several SMU undergraduates to share via video their perspectives about how scholarships and programming, made possible through the Opportunity SMU fund, make a SMU degree attainable.

I will also review our three-year strategy for research excellence and have invited Stephen Arrowsmith, Hamilton Chair in Earth Sciences and Associate Professor in Dedman College's Roy M. Huffington Department of Earth Sciences, and one of his doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers, to provide a real-life example of how research teams are better able to pursue research with impact.

Dr. Arrowsmith is one of SMU's 133 endowed chairs, and we have established a target of 160 for substantially funded endowed chairs and academic positions within our 2016 – 2025 Strategic Plan. I will reiterate the power of funding endowed chair positions to recruit and retain faculty.

I will conclude the meeting by introducing SMU's newest deans – Mike McKee, Dean of the Perkins School of Theology and Nader Jalili, Dean of the Bobby B. Lyle School of Engineering.

Full Board

In Friday morning's meeting, I will share a consolidated version of my presentation to the Committee on Academic Affairs.

Quarterly Black Unity Forum meeting today

Today, President Turner and I joined with Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Maria Dixon Hall and Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. K.C. Mmeje to provide our quarterly update to SMU's Black Unity Forum (BUF). In addition to submitting a report on this quarter's progress toward fulfilling SMU's commitments in response to the BUF Action Plan, I shared responses to questions received in advance from forum members concerning: 1) improving support for Black students in enrollment services and admissions, 2) increasing recruitment efforts for Black faculty (tenure/tenure track, teaching and professional faculty, and deans), and 3) affirming SMU's stance on academic freedom in light of upcoming Supreme Court and legislative decisions concerning affirmative action.

Provost to participate in informal conversations with college/school faculty this spring

Over the course of the spring semester, I will be visiting the college/schools for informal conversations open to all their faculty. The purpose of these meetings is to listen and to engage in conversation with no set agenda. My first visit is planned in the Lyle School of Engineering on Friday, March 3. Be on the lookout for information on subsequent visits, and I hope you will be able to attend.

Please encourage students to apply for the Hegi Internship program

The Hegi Family Career Development Center is calling for applications for three internship programs and asks that you encourage undergraduate students from all majors, class years and levels of experience to apply for one of these exciting programs (application links provided below):

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Internship program

The program that was created in 2020 in partnership with SMU's Black Unity Forum is designed for students with diverse backgrounds and matches students to one of Hegi's partner organizations. The pay is \$15/hour, and the typical internship runs ten weeks from June 5 – August 11.

[The Engage Dallas Internship program](#)

This Program offers students career readiness experience through community partners associated with Engage Dallas, a place-based community engagement initiative within SMU's Residential Commons. The pay is \$15/hour, and the typical internship runs ten weeks from June 5 – August 11.

[The Cooper McElvaney Internship program](#)

This Internship Program is facilitated by the Office of the Chaplain to bring together people of diverse beliefs and perspectives to build community. The pay is a \$2,000 stipend, and the typical internship runs ten weeks from June 5 – August 11.

Students apply into one of these three internship programs, rather than for a specific internship, and the application consists of a resume, cover letter and a brief questionnaire that helps facilitate placement.

This [Box folder](#) contains marketing materials, including print fliers, Instagram posts, and newsletter materials that can be shared with students to promote these internship programs. For questions, please contact Matt Nadler, Assistant Director for Employer Relations, at

entrepreneurship at SMU during their time overseeing the Incubator@SMU. Following the transition of the Incubator to the Office of Research and Innovation, Jennifer and Camille will continue to promote best practices that facilitate Undergraduate Research and Capstone Projects such as the Engaged Learning Fellowship and Engaged Learning Starter Award. They will also continue to provide infrastructure and support for Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) and maintain operations for Undergraduate Research Assistantships, the Summer Research Intensive, and the Journal of Undergraduate Research. Finally, they will continue to support the Mustang Mentors program and Clinton Global Initiative University (CGIU).

Key leadership searches underway or completed

Data Science Institute Director

Last week, I [appointed a search committee](#)

SMU's Meadows Museum names a new director

This week, [SMU announced](#) that it has named Amanda W. Dotseth as the next Linda P. and William A.