



Office of the Provost

September 4, 2020

Dear Faculty and Staff:

These weekly updates will serve as a tool to keep you informed and engaged with 608 ¶ V \$FDGHPLF \$IIDLUV GLYLVLQR DV WRJHWKHU KHDOWK\ IDOO DQG DGYDQFH WKH JRDOV RI 608 suggestions for what we should include in future communications, please send your ideas to this [email address](#). Previous newsletters are available [here](#) 7RGD\ ¶ V update falls into two categories: 1) Fall 2020 and 2) News and Noteworthy.

290). Returning students totaled 4,908 bringing us to a

total of 6,470 undergraduates (48 above target). Numbers are likely to change daily until the September 8 census capture date, but we remain well SRVLWLRQH G 7KDQNV WR DQG for the support 608 ¶ V IDP and preparation required to serve our students, and special thanks to the Division of Enrollment Services for their outstanding recruiting efforts this year!

- x Faculty Town Hall follow-ups ±Thank you to all who joined me during this w HHN ¶ V)DFXOW\ 6HQDWH PHHWLQJ IRU D YLU September 2. Among the questions submitted in advance, below are two that I would like to highlight.
 - o Road to R1 ±In response to a question concerning what steps I will take to build the necessary infrastructure and support for SMU to grow to be a tier-one research institution, I first acknowledged some of the recent steps SMU has already taken to support research, such as: ManeFrame II, establishing a research seed fund, and launch of the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies. In terms of LPPHGLDWH SULRULWLHV , ¶ P ZRUNLQJ ZLWK provosts to develop plans for improvements in data acquisition and utilization to create clear and transparent policies/processes that

Engagement and Success or from Mindy Sutton in the Office of the Dean of Students, please fill out a [CCC form](#). Students are required to alert SMU through this form if they test positive through a test not administered at SMU. If they do not take this step, our support teams in the Office of Student Affairs do not know to reach out to them. You can help expedite support for our students by filling out a CCC form. Please know that SMU works directly with the Dallas County Health Services, so we will learn about every case within the county that is tied to SMU, but that information might not be as immediately available as our own numbers. See this [FAQ](#)

departments. Recommendations for testing are continually evolving and the Health Center is adapting to those changes.

shields more comfortable during your classes. If you have other suggestions or ideas for ways we can assist, please do not hesitate to reach out to your chair or dean. Thank you so much for all you are doing for our students in this unique semester.

- x Accommodations for international students living in different time zones ±In the unique context of the fall 2020 semester, some international students might need additional accommodations, particularly if they live in time zones that would otherwise mean participation in the middle of the night. We encourage you to consider the following options if and when students request them:

- o Continue to run your class as you have planned it ±S O H D V H G R Q ¶ V think you need to create a separate experience for international students; however, below are a few accommodations that you can make for international students who live in time zones that are prohibitive for attending the class in real time:

Ask your international students to watch the synchronous recordings. There are several pedagogical options to ensure students are engaged and are accessing the information: a) create embedded Panopto Q&A within the recording for them to respond to; or b) create a parallel assignment for them to answer a series of questions about the synchronous recordings.

Make yourself available to international students by encouraging office hours in ways that accommodate their time zones. A little outreach can go a long way in helping them feel supported.

Encourage your international students to visit [A-LEC](#) for support, as they offer virtual tutoring until 10:00 p.m. CDT (Sunday - Thursday).

- o The Childcare Working Group invites faculty and staff to join a [Facebook group](#) they created, [3608 & KLOGFDUH](#) that was formed to help connect SMU community members with one another and to expand the network of options available for interested parents.
 - o For staff with children attending K-12 schools that have extended their timeline for remote-only instruction, SMU will continue to offer flexibility and [options with some slight adjustments](#). Please continue to work with your supervisor to find the best solution that complies with the options currently offered to staff.
- x **CTE videos now available from this year's virtual teaching symposium**
 ±CTE's annual Teaching Effectiveness Symposium on August 21, was presented virtually this year and focused both on humanizing teaching in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and promoting inclusive teaching practices to ensure all SMU students are successful. [Videos](#) from this [\HDU\YLUWXDOilable.HQW DUH QRZ DYD](#)
 - x **Spring schedule** ±Associate deans, department chairs, departmental schedulers, and building schedulers will spend most of the month of September developing and submitting the spring 2021 schedule to the office of Peter Moore, Associate Provost for Curricular Innovation and Policy. Taking lessons learned from fall 2020 scheduling and with greater time for feedback from the college/schools, Peter and his team will run an updated version of the algorithm used in fall 2020 to build the spring 2021 schedule, which should be published mid-October. Enrollment for spring 2021 is currently scheduled to open on November 16.
 - x **Faculty/student survey on fall 2020 next week for early impressions on fall 2020** ±Associate Provosts Sheri Kunovich and Paige Ware are developing a survey for a better understanding of early faculty and student impressions on the fall 2020 semester. The survey will be available next week as an optional way to provide feedback to identify early successes and to make improvements as we move forward.

News and Noteworthy

- x **Faculty Fellows application process (reminder)** ±The application [SURFHVV LV XQGHUZD\ IRU WKH LQDXJXUDO FRK](#)
 All full-time faculty members can [apply](#), with a preference for tenured faculty or non-tenure track faculty. The application deadline is **September 18**, and questions should be addressed to Associate Provost for Faculty Success Paige Ware at pware@smu.edu.
- x **Faculty-in-Residence application process (reminder)** ±The Office of the Provost and the Vice President for Student Affairs are now [seeking faculty](#)

[candidates](#) for two Faculty-in-Residence (FiR) positions. The successful candidates will begin a three-year appointment in the fall 2021 semester.

- x Black Unity Forum Action Plan ±Following the schedule previously announced, the Black Unity Forum submitted its consolidated action plan on August 31. President Turner has assured the Forum of a response by September 30, and work is currently underway to meet this deadline. We look forward to sharing more information in the coming days and weeks.
- x SACSCOC 10year reaffirmation report submission today, September 4 ±After nearly two years of collaborative work by a broadly

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