

November 19, 2021

Dear Colleagues:

These weekly updates will serve as a tool to keep you informed as, together, we continue with a safe, healthy and productive 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](#).

We are hopeful that you will return renewed and restored for the final weeks of the fall semester. In honor of the holiday, we do not plan to send an update next week.

Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence, and 3) News and Noteworthy.

Fall 2021:

- As President Turner [announced earlier today](#), SMU must comply with the state's mandate and their employees to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by January



For questions on how this mandate impacts you, we have updated the [FAQ section](#) of the Mustang Strong site, and more information and updates will be provided in the near future. Thank you for your support complying with this federal mandate and for your ongoing commitment to

- FY 2023 budget process underway – Last month, the Office of Business

As a reminder, and to provide academic units additional time to conduct searches for faculty who will join SMU in fiscal year 2023 (fall 2022), the deans and I met this summer to review and authorize searches for nearly 70 faculty position searches currently underway. Added to the previous approvals made via mission critical requests during the hiring freeze last year, 82 faculty positions have been approved for searches.

Over the past two weeks, I, along with representatives from Business and Finance, have met with deans individually to review and prioritize their remaining (non-faculty) college/school FY 2023 budget requests. This

which budget requests to put forward for final consideration during the final budget review and approval meetings that occur in January and February. We will continue to provide updates

- Quarterly BUF meeting update – Today, President Turner and I joined with Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Maria Dixon Hall and Vice President for

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Action Plan, such as posting all approved department-level [workload documents](#), I reviewed data on the approved faculty searches by college/school, discussed the representation of underrepresented faculty on academic search committees, and committed to sharing a demographic breakdown of the racial diversity of finalists for each faculty position.</sup>

### Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence

- SMU launches new supercomputing research system with NVIDIA  
Last week, SMU [announced](#)

- o Timeline overview for Dean of the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and Associate Provost for Graduate Education  
The search committee, working in consultation with Isaacson, Miller Executive Search, is currently finalizing a position profile. We anticipate completion within the next 2-3 weeks and will share once available.

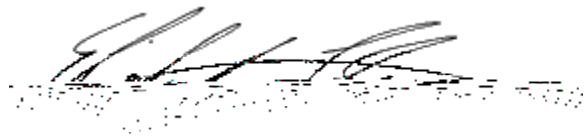
News and Noteworthy:

- SMU professor appointed Chair of TexNet Technical Advisory Committee  
Governor Greg Abbott has named prominent SMU seismologist Brian Stump, Albritton Professor of Earth Sciences in Dedman School of Earth Sciences, to chair the [TexNet Technical Advisory Committee](#), which is charged with providing oversight and advice on the operation of the Texas wide seismic network, TexNet.
- SMU paleontologists analyze giant bottom-dwelling fish fossils in Northeast Texas  
SMU paleontologists, Michael Polcyn, Research Associate and Director of the Digital Earth Sciences Laboratory, and Dale Winkler, Research Director and Director of the Shuler Museum of Paleontology, have helped in the analysis of fossils from an ancient fish, called a mawsoniid coelacanth, found in Texas. Isolated bones from this fish were found in the Cenomanian Woodbine Formation in northeast Texas. Collector and Texan Bradley Carter, who made the discovery, donated the bones to SMU's Shuler Museum of Paleontology for examination.
- Former library intern named a Class of 2022 American Library Association (ALA) Emerging Leader  
Congratulations to Ramón Garcia, a SMU Libraries intern from 2019-2021, on his selection as a Class of 2022 ALA Emerging Leader. This is a part of the ALA's development initiative that enables newer library workers from across the country to participate in problem-solving work groups, network with

serve the profession in a leadership capacity. ALA EL puts participants on the fast track to ALA committee volunteerism as well as other professional library-related organizations. The program is limited to no more than 50 participants each year.

In closing, I wish you and your family and friends a rejuvenating Thanksgiving holiday.

Sincerely,



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

World Changers Shaped Here