

# Weekly Update | December 9, 2022

Elizabeth G. Loba, 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/ *US News and World Report* 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) Fall 2022, 2) Road to R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence, and 3) News and Noteworthy.

## Fall 2022

### Farewell Reception for Dean Craig C. Hill

On Thursday, President Turner and I hosted a farewell reception for Perkins School of Theology's Dean Craig C. Hill, Leighton K. Farrell Endowed Dean and Professor of New Testament. As announced earlier this year, he will retire as Dean on December 31, 2022 and will remain a member of the Perkins faculty until December 31, 2023.

Craig became the school's 11<sup>th</sup> Dean in July 2016. During his years at Perkins he led a thorough study and reorganization of the Office of Enrollment Management, doubling new student enrollment from 2016-2017 to 2019-2020. Under his leadership, financial aid to students increased by 50 percent. Hill broadened academic offerings to include the development of the Baptist House of Studies, the Black/Africana Studies and a healthcare chaplaincy program. In addition, a \$7 million renovation of Perkins' renowned Bridwell Library was completed in 2021, enabling significant acquisitions, such as the collection of the World Methodist Museum.

Craig's presence and leadership will be missed, but we are pleased that Bishop Michael McKee has agreed to serve as Dean of the Perkins School ad interim effective January 1, 2023 and until a permanent Dean has been named.

### Final Grades Deadline

On-time grade submission supports our students in a variety of ways, such as ensuring that student have their

## Updated Procedures for Operation of Sub-Compact Utility Vehicles On Campus

SMU has updated its sub-compact utility vehicle operations procedures on campus. A summary of changes can be found in a campus-wide [announcement](#) sent on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Golf carts, low speed vehicles, neighborhood electric vehicles, and utility carts are all included in these [procedures](#), which fall under University Policy 11.6. Please review these procedures carefully and reach out to Brandon Chance ([bchance@smu.edu](mailto:bchance@smu.edu)) in the Office of Risk Management with any questions.

## Reminders from Previous Weeks

### Degree Planner Tool is Live

To aid undergraduate Common Curriculum students in their progress toward degree, the SMU in Four team has introduced [a new tool called Degree Planner within my.SMU](#). Degree Planner will not only benefit students and advisors but will aid academic departments in data-informed course scheduling and seat capacity planning.

This tool will help students and advisors develop and sequence a personalized path to on-time graduation. A [4-minute introductory video](#) for advisors was also published. The new tool was available to students beginning November 29, but formal student communications and an adoption campaign will commence in the spring semester. Faculty advisors and staff advisors are encouraged to sign up for one of six identical workshops to learn more about the tool. A registration link is available in Tuesday's email from [smuinfour@smu.edu](mailto:smuinfour@smu.edu).

### SMU Offers Flu Shots at the Dr. Bob Smith Health Center

Vaccination can help you minimize your chance of getting the flu . We encourage all SMU students, faculty and staff to get their flu shot. Click [here](#) for more information on available options.

### SMU in Four Year-one Progress Report Available

The SMU in Four team has released the year-one progress report on [SMU's Quality Enhancement Plan](#). Updates are provided on early-alert mechanisms, undergraduate academic advising, technology enhancements, and gateway & introductory courses. Plus, student retention and graduation numbers are shared along with goals for year two of the five-year initiative. [View the report.](#)

## Road to R-1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence

### Update on Proposals for FY 2024 Congressional Earmark/Appropriation Process

Thank you to our faculty for a strong response to this fall's call for proposals for consideration as a part of the U.S. Congress' FY 2024 earmark and/or appropriations process.

We received 37 proposals by the first draft November 23, 2022 deadline and want to remind all submitters that the final submission deadline is December 16, 2022, via email to [Suku Nair, Vice Provost for Research and Chief Innovation Officer](#).

### SMU Invited to Submit Phase 2 NSF Engines Proposal

SMU has been invited to submit a Type-2 NSF Engines proposal for \$160M with a focus on Remote Sensing of Geohazards of the Gulf Coast. The overarching objective of our project is to provide timely information on geohazards including land subsidence in the Gulf Coast to the public as well as to decision makers and to protect national assets from the past, ongoing and upcoming hazards through a combination of state-of-art technology and multi-disciplinary investigation with remote sensing, data science (deep/machine learning), hydrology, and geology/geophysics. SMU's established strength in this area, our recent faculty cluster hire in earth hazards and national security and our new NVIDIA DGX SuperPod have us well positioned. In addition, and in

Roy M. Huffington Department of Earth Sciences; and many other SMU faculty across the university for taking the lead in developing this proposal.

### **Call for President's Partners Grants**

The President's Partners Program was inaugurated by SMU's President, R. Gerald Turner to support teaching and research efforts by faculty and staff. All full-time faculty and staff are

## SMU Names New Assistant Dean for Scholars Programs

Dr. Angela Jeon-