



February 4, 2022

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for your interest in, and commitment to, advancing SMU's academic mission. These weekly updates will serve as a tool to keep you informed and engaged with SMU's Academic Affairs division as, together, we manage a safe, healthy, and productive spring 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](#).

I would like to offer a huge thanks to all of our faculty and staff for pivoting so quickly this week in response to another round of hazardous winter weather. We heard a host of constructive ideas from Wednesday's Faculty Senate about how to best approach academic continuity during inclement weather. I hope we can build on this input to develop robust plans together. To that end, I have asked Faculty Senate President Pia Vogel to consider forming a group of faculty representatives who would work with members of the Provost's Office team to bring forward ideas that can help guide us moving forward (e.g., communication plans with faculty and students about instructional continuity, pathways for faculty to raise questions about extenuating circumstances, guidelines and preparations for virtual teaching, and alignment with accreditation parameters). I look forward to learning from other faculty experiences as we plan for future events.

I realize that many of you responded to this week's challenges while also caring for your own children and providing support to others in the

community. As I was at home yesterday morning working remotely with five charming (albeit lively) kids in the house, I thought about how far we have all come in the past two years.

Weather forecasts indicate that icy conditions could persist in some areas until tomorrow. We will update you should the situation change, but we currently anticipate a return to normal operations by Monday. For questions about weekend courses or activities, contact your instructor or event coordinator. In the interim, please consult [this website](#) for the latest campus operations during the winter freeze.

Today's update falls into three categories: 1) Research and Scholarly/Creative

distribution of discretionary funds annually from the Office of the Provost to SMU's academic units.

To begin FY 2022, my office distributed nearly \$4M in discretionary dollars in June 2021 to the college/schools/libraries according to their performance against PBF's key performance indicators. See [here](#) for additional information about PBF FY 2022.

For FY 2023, and thanks in large part to the college/schools ability to generate additional revenue through programs such as Cox's online MBA, I am pleased to announce that we will be able to distribute up to \$5M in discretionary dollars. Working with the Deans, we are finalizing the key performance indicators for PBF FY 2023 and will share them in a future newsletter.

For PBF FY 2022 calculations and reporting were completed using an Excel spreadsheet. For PBF FY 2023, our plan is to produce a Tableau dashboard that is more user-friendly and can be shared more broadly and transparently. To inform this dashboard's design and beginning today, members of the Office of Institutional Research's data visualization team will be meeting with Deans, Associate Deans, and their school/college financial Business Managers for a better understanding of use cases and requirements. We will provide updates throughout the spring and early summer.

- Reminder: Clark Hill research townhall and workshops plus link to meeting recording – SMU has retained the services of Clark Hill, PLC to work closely with the Office of the Provost and faculty to increase federal research funding.

Last week, Clark Hill representatives hosted a series of workshops to strategize with faculty around SMU's areas of strength and opportunity. This [LINK](#) will take you to a box folder where you may view and copy

resources provided by the Clark-Hill Group during their on-campus visit: (1) a recording of the Clark-Hill workshop on federal research funding, (2) PowerPoint and PDF copies of the presentation shown by Clark-Hill during the workshop, and (3) a template to be used to develop and submit your ideas for increasing SMU 's research funding through the annual federal appropriations process or by legislative requests.

The template is for faculty use to submit proposals for earmarks or changes in research focus of a federal R&D agency. To be included for consideration in the FY 2023 budget development cycle, your proposals

committee has reviewed our pool of applicants and has identified a slate of 5 – 8 candidates for airport

- N-95 masks delivered this week – Masks were delivered this week to the college, schools, and Vice President's offices. Faculty and staff who need masks should [consult their dean's office point person \(found here\)](#) or Vice President's office staff for additional instructions.
- Consult Mustang Strong for the most up-to-date guidance – Please continue consulting the [Mustang Strong website](#) regularly for the latest information, as our pandemic response is dynamic. As we have since fall 2020, we will use our COVID-19 operations plan to adjust our response as needed.

News and Noteworthy:

- Dedman School of Law recognized for its COVID-19 helpline – In response to the pandemic, the Dedman School of Law established a helpline both to help law school students gain meaningful legal experience at a time when many employers were retracting summer job offers and to provide a desperately needed leo

- OIT releases its quarterly security update – The winter 2022 edition of the