

# Weekly Update | September 15, 2023

**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 in the loop on the latest news from the 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](#).

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

## Fall 2023

### Board of Trustee Meeting Recap

of Trustees.

#### Committee on Academic Affairs

plans to establish a University-wide Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) model at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Wes Waggoner, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management and Chief Enrollment Officer, and his team in the Division of Enrollment Services have established a

with Robin Poston, Dean of the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and Associate Provost for Graduate Education, to develop a multi-

into the realm of graduate education. For our second topic, I reviewed the impact of the recent [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#) to endow the Data Science and Research Computing Institute and introduced [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#).

Third, I reviewed some follow-up data requests from last year, including the timeline and milestones for the comprehensive tenure/tenure-track and teaching/professional faculty salary study underway during this 2023–2024 academic year. I concluded my remarks on the study with a focus on academic excellence. One of our main goals for academic excellence has been to achieve and sustain top-50 status in [US News & World Report](#) (USNWR). USNWR is set to release its annual

rankings early next week, and I will send a campus-wide memo at that time with initial analysis and observations, followed by more detailed updates in newsletters this fall as we dive more deeply into the data.

### **Full Board of Trustees**

confidential, and aggregated results will be shared through the internationalization self-study and the faculty internationalization town hall, which will be held in the spring of 2024.

### **New EPC Forms and Expedited Board of Trustees Approval**

After careful review and based on feedback from faculty and several university offices, the Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness (IPE) will replace the existing Educational Programs Committee (EPC) proposal forms. Faculty have reported that t

leads to confusion about what should be approved by EPC. IPE is replacing these forms with newly designated forms, each for a specific action or type of change (i.e., New Program Proposal, New Office Campus Instructional Site Proposal, Add Online Modality to a Program Proposal). These forms will be rolling out progressively during the fall term and will be available on the [EPC website](#).

Currently, forms are available in Word or PDF, but we hope to offer electronic versions of the forms by fall 2024. For academic year 2023-2024, EPC will accept both new forms and existing forms. However, starting in fall 2024, only the new forms will be accepted. As an additional process enhancement, the SMU Board of Trustees is now reviewing academic proposals four times per year, instead of two times per year as was done previously. These related changes (new forms and increased options for Board approval) should make academic approvals more streamlined. For information about what types of academic changes need approval and dates of scheduled EPC meetings, [please click here](#).

### **Council on General Education approved updates to the Common Curriculum Critical Reasoning rubric**

On Friday, September 1, operating within its [scope of authority](#) [Council on General Education Critical Reasoning](#) rubric.

Critical Reasoning was assessed for the first time in Summer 2021 by [the Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness](#). Following that initial assessment, raters recommended reviewing and revising the rubric, which they found difficult to apply in many cases. In response, a faculty-led

conducted by our doctoral students and allow them to complete their degrees in a timely fashion and transition to careers as leaders in their chosen fields. At the reception, we recognized the accomplishments of our continuing fellows and welcomed new fellows to SMU, where I am sure they research mission.

## Reminders

### Request for participation in survey regarding the findings published by SMU's Task Force on Social Justice Equity and Urban Research Faculty Cluster Task Force

The \_\_\_\_\_ is currently open to all SMU faculty and will close on September 29, at 5 p.m.

This survey is an important tool to collect feedback from faculty regarding the recommendations from the [Task Force on Social Justice and Equity](#) and the [Urban Research Faculty Cluster Task Forces](#)

toward our inclusive excellence goals and support the Urban Research Faculty Cluster.

### Due today: nominations for Faculty Teaching Awards & Academy of Distinguished Teachers

Nominations for [Faculty Teaching Awards & Academy of Distinguished Teachers](#) are due today by 5 p.m. Nominee names can be sent to the Center for Teaching Excellence at [cte@smu.edu](mailto:cte@smu.edu). Award winners will be recognized during the spring 2024 General Faculty Meeting.

### Due today: Applications for Provost Faculty Fellow position

today by 5 p.m. to [facultysuccess@smu.edu](mailto:facultysuccess@smu.edu). Applications include a two-page statement of interest and a current CV. Recipients will be notified in the next few weeks and will choose either a \$10,000 stipend annually or a course release and a \$3,000 stipend.

## Road to R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence

### Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences professor wins \$1.8 million 5-year Maximizing Investigators' Research Award (MIRA) from the National Institutes of Health (NIH)

received a \$1.8 million, [5-year Maximizing Investigators' Research Award \(MIRA\)](#) from the National

control pathways in our bodies might be working together to repair damaged components in cells.

Answering that question could help researchers figure out why breakdowns in seemingly unrelated quality control pathways lead to some of the same abnormal changes that have been identified with type II diabetes and cancer.

Understanding how this happens could lead to new therapeutic targets for the pathological hallmarks that are known to cause or worsen these diseases.

Read more about \_\_\_\_\_.

### Cox School of Business faculty member elected as a 2024 fellow by the American Psychological Association (APA)

Organizational Behavior and Administration Zhen Zhang was elected as a Fellow by the [American](#)

