Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting Wednesday, ! ovember 6, 2024

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Absent:

Visitors: Wes Waggoner, Sheri Kunovich, Chandra McQueen, Carone Carson

- 1. The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m.
- 2. The agenda and the October minutes were reviewed.
- Updates on Enrollment: Wes Waggoner, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management and Chief Enrollment Officer, and Sheri Kunovich, Associate Provost for Student Academic Engagement and Success Management
 - a. In this condensed version of the presentation shared with the Board of Trustees earlier this year, Vice Provost Waggoner and Associate Provost Kunovich highlighted current enrollment trends and projections. Some demographic changes include an increase in non-white and first-generation students. SMU has experienced steady growth since the mid-1990s, including a robust and consistent increase in transfer students; the student population has risen by 25-30 first-year students each year for the last 30 years, totaling about a 600 increase in first-year students since 1994. It is projected that the first-year class of 2034 will grow to about 1,900 students, which is 200 more than the first-year class of 2024. The anticipated decline in enrollment due to birth rate decreases in the next few years does not appear as drastic as once expected. SMU will address this gradual decline by focusing on diversity and inclusion. These strategies align with national trends and those seen in Texas, including cohort and ACC peers, and growth is expected to continue. The strategic focus includes moderating class size (managing intentional growth and improving retention), continuing academic growth, and ensuring SMU has adequate resources. They also discussed possible measures to increase net tuition revenue, such as raising tuition, headcount, and unrestricted discounts (reducing financial aid/scholarships and the percentage of financial assistance from unrestricted tuition dollars). The Provost's office will collaborate with Deans on resource allocation and growth management to ensure departments understand their roles and expectations, such as absorbing growth, improving career and placement outcomes, and aligning academic programs with student interests. There are five foundational solutions to manage enrollment and

retention: strengthening the value proposition, enhancing the academic experience, differentiating the campus life experience, increasing applications and selectivity, and optimizing campus infrastructure, which falls into three main categories of strategic investing, culture change, and policy and practice.

- 4. Roadmap to SMU Projects, Michael Molina, Associate Vice President of Facilities Planning and Management and University Architect
 - a. Land Use Impact: This overview covers new developments, acquisitions, renovations, and improvements across the campus. The discussion included infrastructure such as tunnels and hydronic systems. Campus Infrastructure Impact: Notable projects include Patterson Hall and Central Plant upgrades. There Is an emphasis on

resources, and ensures independence and objectivity. Benefits of Internal Audit include strengthening internal controls, providing objective assurance, identifying critical risks, enhancing efficiency, supporting compliance, and improving governance. Types of Audit Engagements include financial, operational, compliance, IT, investigations, advisory, and integrated audits. Recent and upcoming projects include enterprise fraud risk assessment and ransomware preparedness. Upcoming