

March 12, 2021

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 to advance the goals of SMU's strategic plan and continue to move SMU forward and upward. 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) Road to R and Research/Creative Excellence, 2) Spring 2021, and 3) News and Noteworthy.

[SMU'S Road to R-1 and Research/Creative Excellence](#)

x Fiscal

x Reminders from previous Friday updates:

- o Research Days 2021 Research Days events will be virtual and will run March 15–19. In addition to a student research video competition, there will be live talks and panel discussions available online. Events will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 15 with a keynote talk by Dr. Ian Bogost, an author, award winning game designer, and Ivan Allen College Distinguished Chair in Media Studies and Professor of Interactive Computing at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Dr. Bogost's talk will be titled "The Enduring Victory of FLO Technology." You can register for Dr. Bogost's talk [here](#). Student video presentations and a schedule of live events are available on the [Research Days website](#).
- o Department level workload policies revised and approved by May 2021. This is a reminder that SMU is committed to developing and approving department level workload policies by May 2021. To meet the ~~late~~ timeline, drafts should be submitted by Wednesday, March 31 so that feedback can be provided. Chairs and faculty will have an opportunity to make revisions through May, and we will continue to iterate across the academic year ahead.

Having departments clarify and operationalize transparent workload policies will be a critical step in helping us reach our research goals. Additionally, establishing these workload policies by the end of spring 2021 is a commitment SMU made in response to the Black Unity Forum action plan as we seek greater transparency and equity. Anyone who would like access to resources gathered from webinars and research focused on best practices on developing equitable workload policies can reach out to Associate Provost for Faculty Success Paige Ware at pware@smu.edu

Spring 2021

- x Guidance for staff who are able to schedule vaccine shots during working hours

- o Dedman Life Science
- o Fondren/Heroy
- o 3064 SMU Blvd
- o Service House
- o 3005 Dyer
- o Blanton
- o Collins Exec. Center
- o Dallas Hall
- o Dedman Sports
- o Embrey
- o Junkins
- o Hillcrest Parking Garage
- o Daniel (Law) Garage
- o Indoor Practice Center (IPC)
- o Aquatic Center
- o Child Care Center
- o Bridwell Library
- o Ford Research Center
- o Daniel House
- o Hughes Trigg

x Reminders from previous Friday updates:

- o SMU to continue current campus safety protocols for COVID-19 – SMU will [continue to follow](#) our current guidelines requiring masks and social distancing on campus through the remainder of the spring semester. In light of the [Governor's executive order](#) to lift the state mandate on masks as well as other restrictions, we will continue to monitor and review industry specific guidance and recommendations from the federal Centers for Disease Control and state public health authorities before implementing any changes to our safety guidelines.
- o Scheduling missed classes for spring 2021 – Please see [my message](#) from March 2, to faculty, staff and students for information on SMU's approach to recovering the almost five days of instruction lost due to last ~~home~~ extreme winter weather.
- o SMU's new COVID-19 vaccine self-reporting survey – Each week, SMU requests to receive an allotment of vaccines for COVID-19 from the State of Texas. To tailor that request and assess the quantity of doses that best meet the needs of

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- A new my.SMU experience for students. Last week, SMU launched a new dashboard within my.SMU focused on improving the student experience. Now, students can access their suite of tools from my.SMU in one centralized location.
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