

March 19, 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-1 and Research/Creative Excellence, 2) Spring 2021, and 3) News and Noteworthy.

**SMU'S Road to R-**



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Planned reduction in isolation capacity on campus

Change in COVID-related restrictions for some residential housing and student events

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Request to complete mid-semester feedback surveys

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Information about textbook and course resource adoptions

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**Important reminder:** SMU is required to communicate all book and course materials adoptions to our bookstore partner to ensure SMU’s compliance with Senate Bill (SB) 810 – the law relating to how the university provides information on course material (e.g., textbooks, packets, open educational resources) to our students. Many of our students are on financial aid packages that rely on our partnership with the SMU Bookstore, which is committed to supporting our students in obtaining the most affordable options, including many Open Educational Resources and other low-cost solutions.

Reminders from previous Friday updates:

- **Guidance for staff who are able to schedule vaccine/shots during working hours** – SMU encourages you to schedule a time to get your COVID vaccination as soon as you are eligible and can find one. While you are not required to take vacation/sick leave to get your vaccine during



Sincerely,

Elizabeth G. Loba  
Provost and Vice President for  
Academic Affairs  
Southern Methodist University