

programming and to cheer Division I athletic teams, investing in facilities, programs, student-athlete success and community outreach programs. *\$450M+ goal*

If you missed the announcement on the Main Quad earlier today, you can find out more about the goals of the campaign [here](#).

Fall 2021:

- **Board of Trustees meeting recap** – This week’s Board of Trustees meeting featured a Committee of the Whole presentation on Thursday afternoon. This presentation, following from a request last spring from the Board’s Strategic Task Force, articulated Academic Affairs’ initiatives, and the costs/funding plans associated with them, that will help us meet our goals for greater academic quality over the next three to five years.

Chris Regis, Vice President for Business and Finance, and I discussed the following agenda items during the meeting:

- SMU’s four academic priority areas for the next 3-5 years:
 - Academic Excellence/USNWR Top 50
 - Road to R1 and Scholarly and Creative Excellence
 - SMU’s 2016 – 2025 Strategic Plan
 - Inclusive Excellence Initiatives
- The process followed to identify and rank the initiatives that will help us reach our goals in these four areas
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- **Thank you for your patience with parking challenges** – With a return to pre-pandemic parking levels, expanded on-campus visits and offline parking spaces due to construction, we recognize the difficulties many of you face finding a place to park. Please see this [email](#) from Parking Services with recommendations, and thank you for your patience during this challenging time.

Road to R1/Scholarly and Creative Excellence:

- **Search committees for Vice Provost for Research and Chief Innovation Officer and Dean of the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and Associate Provost for Graduate Education** – Last week, I invited committee members to serve on two strategic searches beginning this fall: 1) [Vice Provost for Research and Chief Innovation Officer](#) and 2) [Dean of the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and Associate Provost for Graduate Education](#). My thanks to Stephanie Knight, Dean of the Simmons School of Education and Human Development, for chairing the Vice Provost for Research and Chief Innovation Officer search and to Tom DiPiero, Dean of Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, for chairing the Dean of the Moody School and Associate Provost for Graduate Education search.
- **Reminder and update on cluster hire search committees** – We are pleased to soon begin advertising cluster hires this fall across two areas of strategic research excellence: 1) 21st Century Technology and Education and 2) Earth Hazards and Nationa

- **Search process for Associate Provost for Institutional Planning and Effectiveness** – Dr. Patty Alvey, Associate Provost for Institutional Planning and Effectiveness, has expressed her intention to retire from her position effective December 31, 2021. Dr Alvey has been an integral member of the Provost’s leadership team, and during her tenure, has done an outstanding service to the University both as accreditation liaison and in establishing and leading a robust Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness offering.

This week, I announced an [open call](#) to senior faculty members to apply for this position. Questions and applications (due October 15) can be sent to the [Office of the Provost](#).

- **Provost faculty fellows: call for applications** – All full-time faculty members can [apply](#) for two additional Provost Faculty Fellows positions during the 2021 – 2022 academic year: 1) Equity and Inclusion and 2) Faculty Awards and Fellowships. Our primary focus will be faculty who have demonstrated interest and experience in either of these areas (with priority for instructional/non-tenure track, or tenured faculty). Questions and applications (due September 24) can be sent to Dr. [Paige Ware](#), Associate Provost for Faculty Success. Past applicants are encouraged to apply.
- **Search process for Director for Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE)** – This is a reminder that we currently have an [open call](#) for faculty to apply for a three-year (renewable) appointment for the Director of CTE position effective January 10, 2022. The position will be vacant due to Dr. Michael Harris’s decision, after six years of outstanding service, to transition into a new role as Department Chair for Education Policy and Leadership. Applications are due on October 1.
- **SMU undergraduate co-authors paper for publication in *Japanese Journal of Political Science*** – Congratulations to SMU undergraduate Saavni Desai – President’s Scholar, Tower Scholar, and Hamilton Scholar – for co-authoring a paper with Dr. Hiroki Takeuchi, Associate Professor in Dedman College’s Department of Political Science, that has been accepted for publication in the *Japanese Journal of Political Science*.

I appreciate everyone’s commitment to our student experience, substantive scholarly and creative contributions, and dedication to the SMU community. This is a very exciting time for our university.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth G. Lobo, PhD
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Southern Methodist University
<https://www.smu.edu/provost>