

February 18, 2022

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for your interest in, and commitment to, advancing SMU's academic mission. These weekly updates will serve as a tool to keep you informed and engaged with SMU's Academic Affairs division as, together, we manage a safe, healthy and productive spring semester. 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](#).

recognize faculty excellence. The HOPE Award is quite distinctive from SMU's other teaching awards because nominations come exclusively from students.

Since its creation in 1998, more than 650 SMU professors have been selected as HOPE professors. And, 31 of those professors are considered Distinguished HOPE professors, having received student nominations for five years or more. Congratulations to the 92 HOPE-nominated professors and 6 Distinguished HOPE professors recognized during this year's banquet.

Update from faculty and academic staff group to inform future responses to inclement weather – Working with Faculty Senate President Pia Vogel and the Deans, we have established a group of faculty and academic staff to bring forward ideas that can inform our future responses to inclement weather events. The group had its first meeting last Friday, spending the majority of their time discussing academic continuity issues. The meeting concluded with a shorter discussion of staff issues as well. We will share additional information in subsequent new h 0 612 92 reW\*nBT/ESDTQacEn09(ne Tmpd)

External Affairs, has invited me to present our campaign priorities for Academic Affairs with the members of his committee.

- Committee on Academic Affairs – During this month's meeting, our focus will be on faculty success. It has been a historic year for faculty accomplishments, most notably in terms of research productivity, and I am looking forward to the opportunity to share your accomplishments with Board members.
- Full Board of Trustees – During Friday's meeting of the full Board, I will share a consolidated version of my presentation to the Committee on Academic Affairs.

COVID-19 health and safety reminders – Please continue consulting the [Mustang Strong website](#) regularly for the latest information, as our pandemic response is dynamic. This week, we are encouraged by the continued decline in [COVID cases](#) on campus. As of today, we ha

- Peter O'Donnell, Jr. Data Science Institute Director: Jim Quick, Dean of the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and Associate

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place in the Hughes-Trigg Student Center Ballroom. This is a great opportunity for students to share their research with the SMU community and to compete for cash prizes. Students can find more information, as