

overview of the Carnegie Classification system for research universities – the most important standard for determining our progress toward R-1 status. Measures within the Carnegie Classification system focus most heavily on an institution's

As a part of the 10-year SACSCOC reaffirmation process, SMU was required to submit a [quality enhancement plan](#) (QEP) to identify areas for the improvement of either student learning outcomes and/or the environment supporting student learning. SMU has submitted the “SMU in Four” program to SACSCOC as the University’s QEP, and Sheri has established a broadly representational group of University constituents to implement this important program successfully.

- Common Curriculum – SMU’s new [Common Curriculum](#) (approved in 2019) is for undergraduate students entering in fall 2020 or later. The Common Curriculum is the twenty-first century reboot of the classical university education, challenging students to know the past, understand the present, and build the future. My thanks to Peter Moore, Associate Provost for Curricular Innovation and Policy, and Dayna Oscherwitz, Assistant Provost for General Education, for their outstanding leadership and incredibly hard work launching the new curriculum for undergraduates this fall.

Fall 2020

Spring schedule and calendar – For spring 2021, our goal is to create a schedule that supports the best learning opportunities for students and which is informed by our experiences this fall. Key data points will include: faculty/student surveys, attendance data, student inquiries, and monitoring student choice/waitlists as they sign up for spring classes.

Deans, associate deans, department chairs, and departmental/building schedulers have submitted a base schedule this week that is curriculum-focused and includes both SMUFlex and Virtual options for all required courses and for classes with multiple sections. They will consult with and engage faculty to assign instructors to the base schedule by September 25. Adherence to the standard M-W

course of the fall and spring semester. Those interested, particularly faculty who themselves competed in NCAA athletics as undergraduates, should email [Dr. Kunovich](#).

sponse to Black Unity Forum action plan – The Black Unity Forum submitted its consolidated action plan on August 31. President R. Gerald Turner has assured the Forum of a response by September 30. Working in collaboration with my leadership team (deans and