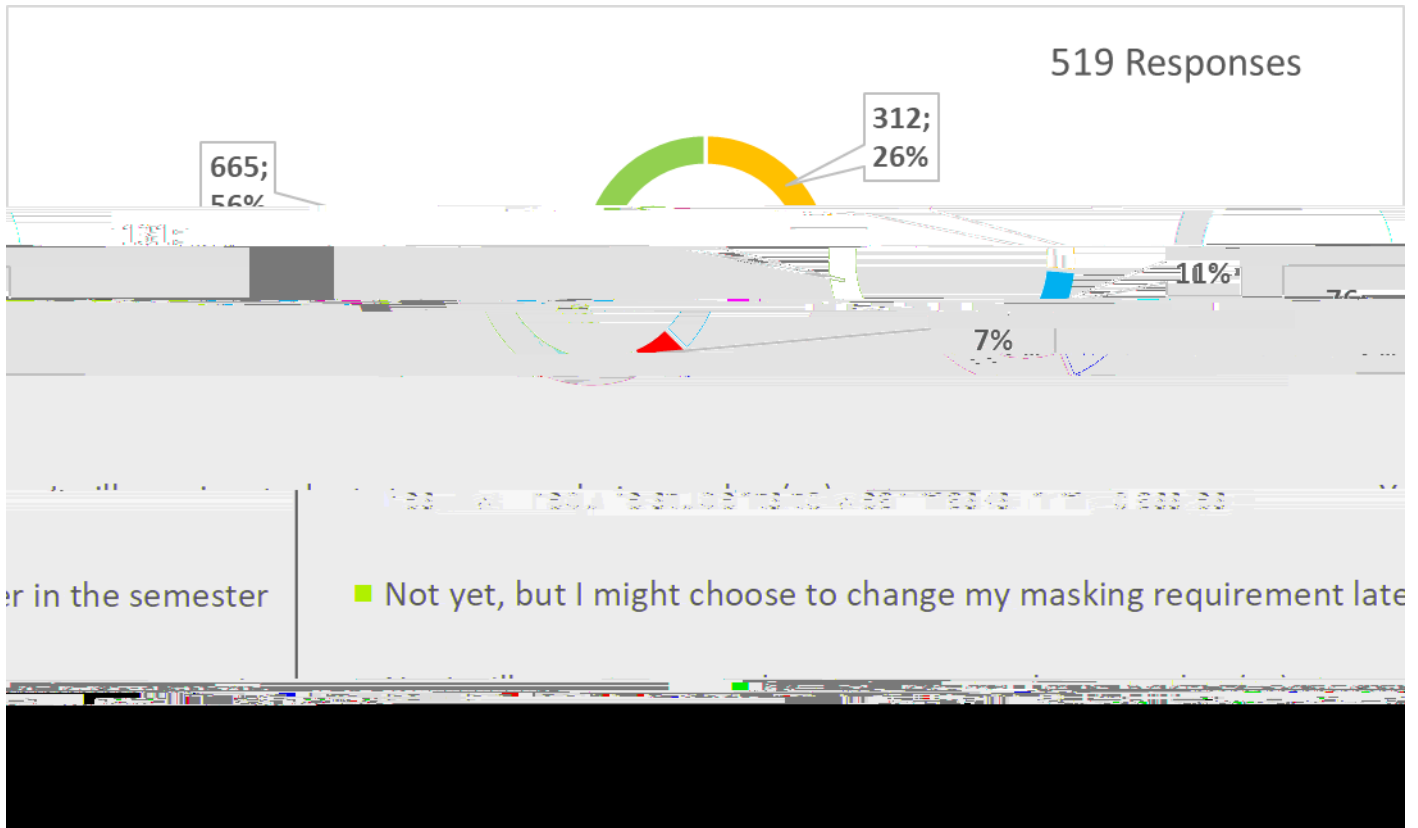


August 6, 2021

Dear Faculty and Staff:

In these challenging times, let me begin by recognizing your service, perseverance and

and providing the standardized language to add both to their syllabus that is uploaded each semester to the syllabus repository as well as to their Canvas syllabus.



- Enrollment update for fall 2021** Our enrollment for fall is strong. The incoming undergraduate class is on target to be the largest, most talented, and most diverse in traditionally underrepresented backgrounds. We are expecting record number of returning students as well. On-campus housing is at full capacity. Graduate student enrollment, particularly in our professional schools, looks to be very strong as well. Cox projects another year of expansion, and Dedman Law will welcome its most academically qualified J.D. class in history with a median LSAT score of 163.

preparation required to serve our students, and special thanks to Wes Waggoner, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, Elena Hicks, Dean of Admission and Executive Director of Enrollment Services, and the Division of Enrollment Services for their outstanding recruiting efforts this year.

- The Mustang Strong website is the most up-to-date source of information**
 -19 response Please continue reviewing the [Mustang Strong website](#)
 -19 response. Much of what we

discussed in the town hall is echoed here along with answers to frequently asked questions, access the latest [campus announcements](#), information on receiving and reporting the [vaccine](#), and the latest data on [confirmed COVID-19 cases on campus](#). Faculty, please note that we updated our [faculty FAQs](#) this week based on your questions and recommendations, and we encourage you to continue reviewing this page for the latest answers to our most common and pressing questions.

- **Remobilizing SMU CAN** SMU CAN has been and will remain an important group to support community awareness and adoption. Last summer, the SMU Community Action Network (SMU CAN) was established to support a greater understanding and adoption of the personal responsibilities needed to keep our campus safe and healthy.

Wednesday, Dr. K.C. Mmeje, Vice President for Student Affairs, and I reconvened SMU CAN and [charged them](#) with the goal of supporting and enhancing our efforts to encourage our community to adopt and adhere to campus safety protocol

n with current realities and bring forward proposals to increase vaccinations, vaccine reporting, and compliance with classroom masking requirements.

Road to R-1/Scholarly and Creative Excellence

- **Update on faculty hiring deliberations** Last week, member Office team and I met in a half-day retreat with the Deans. We reviewed recommendations of the Deans concerning which tenure-track and non-tenure-track faculty lines outside of strategic cluster hires to open for searches this fall with the goal of bringing new members to campus in the fall of 2022.

Additional items discussed:

- Reports from faculty working groups on strategic cluster hires
- Recommendations from Deans on faculty lines to support cluster hires
- Faculty needs to support the Common Curriculum
- College/school requests for faculty searches outside of strategic cluster hires
- Overview of changes to the faculty search and recruitment process

My thanks to the Deans for the time and effort spent preparing for this meeting and for their willingness to collaborate around proposals for tenure-track and non-tenure-track lines that will support our academic goals.

In terms of next steps, Deans are submitting final requests this week, and members of my team and I will be meeting with Business and Finance to review these requests from a budget and strategic perspective. We will provide more detailed information in the near future, and once decisions are finalized, will announce

which strategic cluster hires and additional faculty lines will be opened for searches starting this fall.

- **Three strategic external searches to begin in early fall 2021** As mentioned last month, Jim Quick, Dean of the Moody School and Associate Provost for Graduate Studies has announced his plans to take a sabbatical at the end of the 2021-2022 academic year. Under his outstanding leadership, SMU has progressed from R3 to R2 in the Carnegie Classification of Research Universities and launched the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies.

In recognition of his tremendous workload and the importance of leadership in the areas of research and graduate studies, SMU will launch two national, external searches this fall for his replacements in these positions: 1) Vice Provost for Research and Chief Innovation Officer and 2) Dean of the Moody School and Associate Provost for Graduate Studies. We are pleased to announce that we will be partnering with Isaacson Miller, Executive Search, to conduct these searches. Early in the fall 2021 semester, we will launch two search committees, one for each position. Be on the lookout for additional information in future newsletters.

facilitate interdisciplinary research teams and programs in Data Science across the

support needed to continue this exciting and transformative work for our community.

News and Noteworthy

- **SMU researcher featured in *Washington Post*** Dr. Anthony Fiorillo, Research Institute for the Study of