July 23, 2021

Dear Faculty and Staff:

With just about a month before the start of the fall 2021 semester, I hope your summer remains restful, healthy and productive. Whether you are teaching, conducting research, or preparing exhibits or performances, your contributions are vital and valued in our quest for even greater academic quality. Thank you for your ongoing commitment and support of this lofty but achievable goal.

As mentioned in the final weekly of the spring 2021 semester, my plan is to send only one update in the month of July. 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) Summer/Fall 2021, 2) Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence, and 3) News and Noteworthy.

Summer 2021/Fall 2021

- **SMU announces Fall 2021 safety protocols** – Offering in-person instruction and full campus activities, as planned and previously announced, will require that our

Survey responses will be due two weeks prior to the first day of class (August 2 for Dedman Law and the Cox School of Business; and August 9 for the remainder of

edits that we will share in future communications, next week to a reconstituted SMU CAN in preparation for Fall 2021.

- **The Mustang Strong website is the most up-to-date source of information regarding SMU's COVID-19 response** – Please continue reviewing the [Mustang Strong website](#) for information on SMU's COVID-19 response. Here, you can find answers to frequently asked questions, access the latest [campus announcements](#), review information on receiving and reporting the [vaccine](#), and monitor the latest data on [confirmed COVID-19 cases on campus](#).

- **SMU in Four and Canvas use for Fall 2021** – A team of faculty and administrators from all five undergraduate schools has built out a strategy to support our students in on-time, four-year graduation plans. One aspect of that approach is to utilize Canvas to support students' access to course syllabi, assignment due dates, and grade standing in class. Starting this fall, all 3-credit courses offered as part of the undergraduate curriculum (with the exception of independent studies) are required to include three technical tools in Canvas: syllabus, assignment/gradebook, and calendar:

Our Instructional Technology colleagues have developed a number of supports over the summer and into the early fall to help faculty with this initiative:

1. Self-help, all-in-one website – This [online resource](#) went live in June to inform specific support resources available to help faculty more easily and quickly find pathways for self-service, how-to videos, downloadable guides, and how to directly connect to the appropriate academic technology service director (ATSD) for personalized support.
2. Campus-

- **Three strategic external searches to begin in early Fall 2021** – Jim Quick, Dean of the Moody School and Associate Provost for Graduate Studies has announced his plans to retire at the end of the 2021-2022 academic year. Under his

Inclusion, will partner with Chief Diversity Officer Maria Dixon Hall for a fellowship with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion; and Gordon Law, Visiting Professor of Practice in Advertising and Provost's Faculty Fellow for Strategic Communications, will serve as chair *ad interim* of Meadows' Temerlin Advertising Institute. Paige Ware, Associate Provost for Faculty Success, will open a call for new faculty fellow applications early in the fall 2021 semester.

- **Reminder: Performance-based funding (PBF) fiscal year 2022 final results** –

- **SMU DataArts receives significant funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies** – Last week, Bloomberg Philanthropies announced a $2.5 million commitment, over the coming three years (2022-2024), to support SMU DataArts. This commitment represents a 25% increase over their previous level of 3-year support from Bloomberg. New for 2022-2024, funding will support SMU DataArts' participation in Bloomberg's Philanthropies' Digital Accelerator Program, which you can read more about here. This program will "…help cultural non-profit organizations stabilize and thrive in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic through strategic improvements to their technology infrastructure." Congratulations to Dr. Zannie Voss, Chair and Professor in Meadows' Arts Management and Arts Entrepreneurship and Director of SMU DataArts, and the rest of the team for this recognition.

- **SMU schools ranked in Diverse Issues in Higher Education** – Four programs, Mathematics and Statistics in Dedman College and Computer and Information Sciences and Engineering in Lyle, are represented in the July 8, 2021 edition of Diverse Issues in Higher Education's prestigious Top Producers of STEM Minority Graduate rankings:

    o #14 in Mathematics and Statistics (Harvard #17, Carnegie Mellon #19)
    o #42 (tied with Harvard) in Computer and Information Sciences – Masters (UT #49, University of Dallas #58, UNT #98)
    o #45 in Engineering – Masters (UTA #24)

- **SMU's Chemistry program featured in Diversity magazine** – Kudos to Dedman College's dean, Tom DiPiero, Department of Chemistry Professor and Chair, Elfi Kraka, faculty, staff and students for this month's recognition in Diversity magazine. To increase diversity, in 2017 Dr. Kraka and the late Dr. Dieter Cremer created an entirely new chemistry Ph.D. program in theoretical and computational chemistry. The program is now in its fourth year, with all of the first cohort close to graduation. Some have already accepted a postdoctoral position or a position in a research and development (R&D) department. Between 65% - 70% of the students are female, and the program recruits diverse students from all over the world.

- **Dedman College's team wins first place in competition sponsored by the International Statistical Institute** – From May 2020 through July 2021, the International Statistical Institute (ISI) launched the International Year of Women in Statistics and Data Science to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth. As part of this year's celebration, the ISI created its Florence Nightingale Prize for Data Visualization to honor Florence Nightingale's exemplary use of data visualization to convey statistical information. A team of SMU undergraduates took first prize in the competition for their work: Modeling

opioid us