

May 6, 2022

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for your interest in, and commitment to, advancing SMU's academic mission.



- Fondren Library open 24/7 through May 11 – Fondren Library will be staying open around the clock through May 11 to provide students support and study opportunities through final exams. Many thanks to the Fondren staff for providing this valuable service to our students.
- May Commencement – SMU's 107<sup>th</sup> annual May Commencement will take place on Saturday, May 14, at 9:00 am in Ford Stadium. Your presence at this significant rite of passage is important both to those whom you have taught and to the entire University community. For those faculty who plan to attend, we welcome you to the Faculty Breakfast to begin at 8:00 am. Please let us know if you will be able to join for breakfast by emailing [facultysuccess@smu.edu](mailto:facultysuccess@smu.edu).

We are pleased to welcome Grant Moise, President and Publisher of the \_\_\_\_\_, as this year's commencement speaker. We are also pleased to announce that Anita Martinez, the first Mexican American member of the Dallas City Council and founder of Ballet Folklórico, will receive an honorary degree.

Click [here](#) for additional information on May commencement festivities.

#### Road to R1/Scholarly Creative Excellence:

- Webinar for the NEH Summer Stipends Program. The National Endowment for the Humanities will be offering a webinar on the NEH Summer Stipends program for administrators and prospective applicants, introducing the program, describing the application and nomination process, and offering application-writing suggestions. There will be a chance to ask questions, captions will be available, and the webinar will be recorded so others can watch it later.

Date: Wednesday, May 18

Time: 1:00 - 2:00 pm (Central time). To join the webinar, click on [this link](#).

Several of our administrators and faculty will be attending. If you have questions, please reach out to [facultysuccess@smu.edu](mailto:facultysuccess@smu.edu)

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constituents, I will begin negotiations with the hope of announcing our new Dean of the Moody School later this month.

- o Lyle School of Engineering Dean –The search committee for the permanent dean will be appointed and charged at the start of the fall 2022 semester and Sam Holland, Dean of the Meadows School, will chair the committee.

### News and Noteworthy:

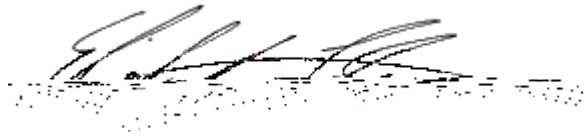
- SMU's proposed Center for Commercial and Corporate Diplomacy seeks to help U.S. Foreign Service succeed abroad – This week's [article](#) featured a new initiative coming out of the Cox School of Business. In response to the gap in U.S. leaders' ability to promote global free market capitalism abroad, Cox has proposed the Center for Commercial and Corporate Diplomacy as a way to develop overseas business opportunities that can make the United States economically stronger and geopolitically more influential. This initiative has already received bipartisan support amongst local members of congress, including representatives Mike McCaul, Colin Allred, Joaquin Castro and Ronny Jackson who all co-signed a letter encouraging State Department leadership to engage SMU in pursuit of the Commercial and Corporate Diplomacy initiative. With SMU's unique position at the nexus of business, government, and research, we are well-positioned to provide an offering that would have substantial societal impact and address important challenges.
- Simple Syllabus live – We are excited to call your attention to a new, live link that appears in all Canvas courses: [Simple Syllabus](#). Last week, SMU activated this new syllabus creation platform intended to streamline the many syllabus-related tasks faculty face each term.

While we are gearing up to provide a full campus launch of the system for fall 2022, [Simple Syllabus](#) is available now for use with May term and summer sessions. Faculty experiences and feedback from early users will be reviewed to ensure a pleasant full rollout to campus in the fall. So far, we have observed that [Simple Syllabus](#) makes it easy to manage syllabus tasks because it uploads automatically to the SMU Syllabus Library, formats according to accessibility standards, pre-populates required SMU syllabus statements, and automatically

publishes a \_\_\_\_\_ page in Canvas. Instructors are able to use rich content editing to add their course-specific content including assignments and their due dates, course policies, etc. The tool seamlessly exports/prints into a PDF and generates unique URLs and embed codes.

- o For instructions, visit the [new Simple Syllabus service page](#).
- o Questions about getting started? [Reach out to your School/College's Academic Technology Service Director \(ATSD\)](#)
- o Questions about syllabus policies? Email [facultyysuccess@smu.edu](mailto:facultyysuccess@smu.edu) directly.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth G. Loba, PhD  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Southern Methodist University  
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**World Changers Shaped Here**