

# Weekly Update | , 2024

## Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dear Faculty and Staff,

These weekly updates will serve as a tool to keep you informed and engaged Affairs division as, together, we work toward achieving the goals that fall within our four priority areas through 2025: 1) Academic Excellence, 2) Road to R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence, 3) 2016 – 2025 Strategic Plan, and 4) Inclusive Excellence.

If you have suggestions for what we should include in future communications, please [submit your ideas through this form](#). Suggestions received before noon on Tuesday will be reviewed and

week. Previous newsletters are available [here](#).

Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence, and 4) News and Noteworthy.

## Spring 2024

### Recap: Executive Board Meetings

This week, I had three opportunities to provide Academic Affairs updates to school executive boards – one to members of the Simmons School of Education and Human Development Executive Board, one to members of the Dedman School of Law Executive Board, and one to the Lyle School of Engineering Executive Board.

#### *Simmons School of Education and Human Development Executive Board*

On Tuesday, April 23, I met with the Simmons School of Education and Human Development Executive Board enrollment projections, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, with a particular focus on strategic growth in graduate enrollments and the contributions of the Simmons School of the Sibut3 reW

### ***Lyle School of Engineering Executive Board***

This morning, I met with the Lyle School of Engineering Executive Board and presented similar items tailored to the engineering school.

### **Farewell reception for Tom DiPiero, inaugural Elisabeth Martin Armstrong of Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences**

On Tuesday, April 23, President Turner and I joined with community members to honor the career and legacy of Tom DiPiero, the inaugural Elisabeth Martin Armstrong Dean of Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences.

As of May 31, after 10 years of service, Dean DiPiero will conclude his deanship. SMU and Dedman College have benefited greatly from his leadership, and his contributions will be remembered, and missed, for years to come. Please join me in thanking Dean DiPiero for his commitment to the University and congratulating him on a job well done.

### **Preparing for spring semester's end and close of academic year**

As the spring semester and academic year approach their close, I would like to bring several important dates to your attention.

- Tuesday, April 30, will be the last day of classes. Please note that classes on this day will follow a Friday class schedule.
- Wednesday, May 1, will be a reading day with no classes or exams scheduled.
- Thursday Wednesday, May 2 8 will be examination days, although no examinations will be scheduled on Sunday, May 5.

Please note that grades are due 72 hours after the final exam for each course section and should be posted to [my.smu.edu](http://my.smu.edu). For example, if you teach three different sections, you will have three different due dates. Each section has its own 72-hour deadline.

Even when using end-of-term assessments other than exams, final grades are due 72 hours after the time the final exam would have been administered. [Check the final exam schedule here.](#)

### **Passover holiday**

The Passover holiday, celebrated by the Jewish community, takes place this year on April 22 30. April 23 24 and April 29 30 are observed as holy days, during which observants typically are unable to attend class or go to work. Faculty may receive requests for excused absences on April 23, 24, 29, and 30, and we ask for your consideration for our Jewish students.

### **Hilltop Excellence Awards**

Last Friday, April 19, the annual [Hilltop Excellence Awards](#) recognized outstanding members of the SMU community. Each spring, the Division of Student Affairs hosts the awards ceremony and distributes awards to students, faculty, staff, trustees, and volunteers, who have been nominated by their peers, colleagues, professors, and mentors.

your contributions make our campus a vibrant center of discovery, learning, and service. Thank you to Student Affairs for hosting these awards and ensuring we take time to recognize some of our most exemplary and inspiring people. [View a recording of the event here.](#)

## **Academic Development of Student-Athletes (ADSA) send second academic feedback request**

The Academic Development of Student-Athletes (ADSA) program at SMU is committed to collaborating with faculty to ensure student-athlete success. To achieve this goal, ADSA solicits feedback twice per semester by directly emailing faculty who have student-athletes currently enrolled in their courses. Feedback requests are emailed from [ADSA@smu.edu](mailto:ADSA@smu.edu). Through this collaborative process, ADSA aims to provide early intervention and support for student-athletes facing academic challenges.

Thank you to our faculty for your continued partnership with SMU, through ADSA, in supporting student-athlete success.

## **Student Academic Engagement and Success to host feedback and listening sessions regarding Honors Convocation and other Celebration of Excellence week activities**

Student Academic Engagement and Success (SAES) has scheduled three feedback and listening sessions throughout the summer to hear from faculty and campus partners about Honors Convocation and other Celebration of Excellence week activities. SAES invites SMU faculty and staff who are involved in year-end academic activities to attend and provide feedback on the successes and challenges of different aspects of these events. Many of these academic events provide celebration and tradition for our participating students and SAES values your perspective on ensuring these events are enjoyable for all. SAES wishes to thank all those who are involved in making these significant events happen and all those who are able to make time to attend one of the sessions.

### **Session One: In-person**

Date: May 21

Time: 4 5 p.m.

[Registration link for session one](#)

### **Session Two: Zoom**

Date: June 13

Time: 3:30 4:30 p.m.

[Registration link for session two](#)

### **Session Three: Zoom**

Date: July 25

Time: 11 a.m. 12 p.m.

[Registration link for session three](#)

## Academic Excellence

### Two undergraduate students receive the Department of Defense's Boren Scholarship

Funded by the U.S.

[Boren](#)

[Scholarship](#) cultivates the next generation of national security leaders by providing scholarships of up to \$25,000 for 12-52 weeks of [critical language study](#) in an immersive environment abroad.

Recipients agree to work for the federal government for at least one year in return for their scholarship.

Erik Jahveed (EJ) Rorem will travel to Dushanbe, Tajikistan for the 2024-2025 academic year to continue his study of Persian. He is majoring in political science and statistics and is a member of the Dedman Scholars Program, Tower Scholars Program, and University Honors Program. He also holds the SMU record for the number of U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship awards at three.

Simon Saberon, a second-year business analytics and supply chain major and U.S. Army ROTC cadet, will spend the fall 2024 semester in Taiwan furthering his knowledge of Chinese. As a testament to his dedication, Simon has already completed the requirements for his Chinese minor.

[Critical](#)

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[Language Scholarship.](#)

Undergraduate students seeking to learn more about Boren and other awards for international study, research, and travel should contact Dr. Brandon Gray Miller ([bgmiller@smu.edu](mailto:bgmiller@smu.edu)), assistant dean for University Honors Program and Fellowships.

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

### Maguire Chair Symposium to be held on May 2

Professor Steve Long, Cary M. Maguire University Professor of Ethics, invites the SMU community to attend the upcoming [Maguire Chair Symposium](#) on Thursday, May 2, from 5-7 p.m. in The Great Hall of the Elizabeth Perkins Prothro Hall building.



honored with the Excellence in Mentoring award for their unwavering commitment to the educational and professional growth of their undergraduate students.