

November 6, 2020

Dear Faculty and Staff:

These weekly updates will serve as a tool to keep you informed and engaged with

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suggestions for what we should include in future communications, please send your

ideas to this [email address](#). Previous newsletters are available [here](#) 7 R G D \ ¶ V X S G D W H

falls into four categories: 1) Fall 2020, 2) Spring 2021, and 3) News and Noteworthy.

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- x Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 +2022 Budget Process: The annual budget process, to establish the incremental budget for FY21-2022, began in mid-October with an initial meeting between PEC members and the Council of Deans.

health care artificial intelligence company that is fundamentally changing the diagnosis and treatment of diseases through gaming. Balanced Media was also nominated for, and won, the award for Emerging Innovation Company of the Year. ' U & G Dr. and Dr. of interdisciplinary research, in partnership with the Dallas and North Texas community, provides a dynamic template for SMU as we seek greater research productivity with impact.

- x Faculty Fulbright recipient ±Congratulations to Dr. Maryann Cairns, \$ VVLVWDQW 3URIHVVRU LQ 'HGPDQ & ROOHJH¶V 'H receiving a Fulbright fellowship. The funding from this award will support Dr & DLUQV¶ UHVHDUFK She will work with colleagues RQLD



a grade of W on the official transcript. Any withdrawal from a course or term may affect federal aid, veterans benefits, athletic scholarships, and immigration status, so we encourage all students to visit with their advisors prior to making any decisions about course or term withdrawal in light of the extended time frame. This extension will not result in an adjustment to the University refund schedule.

### Spring 2021

- x Operations plan and assessment tool progress update: The [Fall Operations Plan](#) that has guided our campus response this semester will feed into a carefully reviewed and updated operations plan for the spring 2021 semester. Development on the revised Operations Plan and Operations Assessment Tool is progressing as planned. This week Academic Affairs leadership (Deans and Associate Provosts) provided feedback on current draft, and SMU plans to release the updated plan to the campus community around Thanksgiving.
- x Spring schedule: The spring 2021 schedule was released on October 19, and can now be viewed in my.SMU. As informed by the October survey of faculty and students, we will be able to accommodate a limited number of undergraduate courses fully in person for spring 2021. We will also continue to offer SMUFlex courses and virtual classes. For faculty interested in the possibility of shifting a red/blue rotation SMUFlex class to a fully in person mode, they should work directly with their Department Chairs to determine the feasibility by analyzing variables such as physical space impact on undergraduate course schedules, and other discipline-specific factors that merit contextual consideration. Spring enrollment for undergraduates will take place by appointment November 16. Open enrollment will continue until the end of the add period.
- x Spring 2021 calendar: We continue to receive questions and concerns from V R P H I D F X O W \ D Q G V W X G H Q W V D E R X W W K H G H F L V current spring schedule. We recognize the need to develop strategies to reduce the potential stressors brought on by a spring semester without a spring break and encourage you to continue submitting your ideas to our Mustang Strong Z H E V [Spring 2021 Suggestion Box](#). My office receives regular updates and will stay in close contact with faculty through Department Chairs, Associate Deans, and Deans to identify the right solutions to this stress. CTE has also developed a [resource document](#) about reducing possible stress and anxiety that students or colleagues may be facing, specifically developed as an initial response to providing ideas for the spring semester ahead.
- x Help students prepare for the spring semester: Submit book adoptions by November 25

research books. Submitting your adoptions early ensures that students get the right course materials for their courses at the most affordable price and that our University remains SB10 compliant. We sincerely appreciate your effort in achieving this goal and meeting this deadline. Publishers are working with limited staff because of COVID, and the earlier we can get books ordered the more likely we are to be able to ~~deal~~ with any delays that might come up over the next couple of months. If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Russell at [TM526@bncollege.com](mailto:TM526@bncollege.com) or 214768-2435.

### News and Noteworthy

- x Mental health support in the time of COVID-19 ±The challenges and stresses of living and working through the pandemic could be amplified by the recent elections and, from there, transition into the holiday season. SMU has an Employee Assistance Program ~~for~~ full-time and parttime benefits eligible faculty/staff and their dependents that offers assistance and resources. Calls to 1877