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Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Office of the Provost

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Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for your interest in, and commitment to, advancing SMU’s academic
mission. These weekly updates will serve as a tool to keep you informed and engaged with
SMU’s Academic Affairs division as, together, we manage a safe, healthy and productive
spring semester. 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) Spring 2022, 2) Research and Scholarly/Creative
Excellence, and 3) News and Noteworthy.

Spring 2022

x COVID-19 health and safety reminders

o N-95 masks delivery begins today – Masks are being delivered today and early next
week to the college, schools and Vice President’s offices. Faculty and staff who need
masks should consult their Dean’s Office point person (found here) or VP’s office staff
for additional instructions.

o Reminders: Last week, SMU announced two additional testing resources for
employees, their spouses, and dependents who are seeking COVID-19 testing:
▪ New on-campus option: MyLabsDirect is providing on-site PCR testing for COVID-19 at no cost for SMU employees, spouses, and their dependents from 9:00 a.m. to
11:00 a.m. Monday through Friday at a drive-up parking site at Expressway Tower,
6116 North Central Expressway. They also offer drive-up testing at several sites in

the DFW area with no appointment required. More details are available by

visiting smu.edu/employeecovidtest under the “ MyLab sDirect” tab . ▪ At-home tests – SMU’s health benefits provider, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas
(BCBSTX), is providing covera ge for at -home COV ID-1 9 tests. V isit smu.edu/employeecovidtest

an increase in talent and diversity as well. For fall 2021, 33% of our first -year students and

44% of our tra nsfers com e from tra ditionally underrepresented populations. 11% of our

first-

your ideas for increasing SMU’s research funding through the annual federal

appropr iation process or by legislative requests.

The templa te is for fa culty use to submit proposals for earmarks or changes in research

focus of a federal R&D agency. To be included for consideration in the FY 2023 budget

development cycle, your proposals must be submitted to Jim Quick at (jquick@smu.edu)

no later than February 14, 2022. Please follow the template closely in developing your

proposal. We look forward to reviewing your ideas in collaboration with our Clark -Hill

representa tives. x Key leadership searches underway

x Starship Food Delivery – SMU Hospitality Group has partnered with Starship

Technologies robots to deliver mea ls, drinks, and sna cks from a range of locations