

October 30, 2020

The metrics behind this new model focus on four main areas, and the \$4 million will be divided across these four areas as indicated below:

- Undergraduate programs (\$1.25 million)
- Master's/professional programs (\$250,000)
- Ph.D. programs (\$250,000)
- Research (\$1.5 million)
- Management (\$750,000)

Use of the funding received from the Provost's discretionary funds will be at the determination of the Dean of the school/college. It is also important to note that, beginning in Fiscal Year 2021-2022, the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies will begin providing additional funding to the academic units for research, Ph.D. student support, and other efforts to support our academic goals as outlined in the Moody gift, and consistent with our strategic plan.

The table below provides a better understanding of the focus of the metrics that will be used to inform our four main areas of focus.

Undergraduate (UG) Programs	Master's, Professional and Ph.D. Programs	Research	
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SMU's [dashboard](#). Our operational level remains in the “moderate” category. Remember that our operational level is reviewed each week and any necessary updates are posted each Monday afternoon on the [Mustang Strong website](#).

On October 21, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced a new, broader definition of “close contact” for purposes of COVID-19

In addition to the analyses referenced above, the Office of the Associate Provost for Faculty Success and the Office of Student Academic Engagement and Success (SAES) are continuing to review the open-ended responses as additional context for interpreting these findings. The many suggestions that faculty and students provided through their open-ended responses provide a similar picture to the findings presented in the reports referenced above by offering additional, more detailed context that allows for outreach to faculty and students where necessary. SAES will also follow up with Athletics, Facilities, Student Affairs, and OIT to provide feedback from the student's qualitative responses to help with spring planning, as many of the comments focused on what students hope will change in the future if the situation with COVID-19 changes.

**Resource for faculty supporting students across time zones** – Over 400 international undergraduate students are engaging in virtual coursework this fall, many of whom are outside the United States. These students are overwhelmingly connecting from China. Dr. Sheri Kunovich, Associate Provost for Student Academic Engagement and Success, and members of her team have developed this [resource](#) which focuses on supporting students across time zones – whether teaching fully remote or through SMUFlex.

without a spring break through the conclusion of exams on May 12. We continue to receive questions and concerns about this decision from some faculty and students, and we recognize the need to develop strategies to reduce the potential stressors brought on by a spring semester without a spring break.

The Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) has already made a call to the academic leadership group to help generate ideas for ways that faculty can ensure that we have many pedagogical options that will support the successful navigation of the spring semester. From ideas shared, CTE has developed a [resource document](#) about reducing possible stress and anxiety that students or colleagues may be facing. You may also submit your ideas to our Mustang Strong website's **spring 2021 suggestion box**, and my office will stay in close contact with faculty through chairs, associate deans and deans.

**Spring schedule** – Associate Provost for Curricular Innovation and Policy Peter Moore and his team released the spring 2021 schedule on October 19, which 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 as fully in person for spring 2021. Some graduate courses can also be accommodated, with priorities to be determined by the individual schools and college. Undergraduate course priorities will be given to courses such as labs and performance-based 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. We will also continue to offer SMUFlex courses and virtual-only classes. Spring enrollment for undergraduates will take place by appointment November 16–20. Open enrollment will continue until the end of the add period.

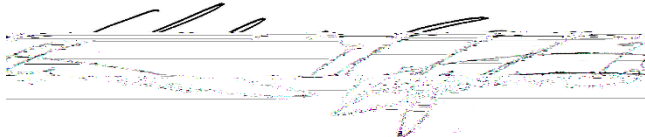
**SMU-in-Taos** – Following renewed travel restrictions by the Governor of New Mexico, and after careful consideration of the time needed to prepare the Taos campus, the President's Executive Council (PEC), at the recommendation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), has decided to suspend Jan Term operations at SMU-in-Taos for the coming 2021 term. The EOC has formed a task force to develop a plan for the campus's reopening, with a goal to renew SMU-in-Taos activities for SMU students by May Term 2021. We know this is a disappointment, but we look forward to welcoming you back to our beautiful SMU-in-Taos campus soon. Please continue to monitor the SMU-in-Taos [website](#) for updates on campus reopening.

### **News and Noteworthy**

Department of Human Resources who, collectively, will participate in CIQ training prior to the spring 2021 semester in support of one of the goals articulated in the Black Unity Forum Action Plan.

**Mental health support in the time of COVID-19** – The challenges and stresses of living and working through the pandemic could be amplified as we have a presidential election and, from there, transition into the holiday season. This is a reminder that SMU has an Employee Assistance Program for all full-time and part-time benefits-eligible faculty/staff and their dependents that offers assistance and resources. Calls to 1-877-704-5696 are answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week. EAP information and services can be accessed online at the [Magellan Health Services Website](#), which includes online counseling. See this [website](#) for additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth G. Loba', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is somewhat stylized and includes a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

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