

December 10, 2021

Dear Colleagues:

mission. These weekly updates will serve as a tool to keep you informed and engaged and continue with a safe, healthy and productive fall 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](#).

Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence, and 3) News and Noteworthy.

Fall 2021:

As President

Turner [announced this week](#), SMU is pausing the requirement that all employees be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by January 18, 2022, unless and until the courts instruct otherwise.

We continue to encourage everyone to get the COVID-19 vaccine and booster shots and to confirm their vaccination status with the University. Over 92% of full-time faculty and 89% of staff have already provided confirmation that they have received the vaccine. [upload your vaccination information](#)

Moody Hall will serve as an intellectual hub for research and graduate education at SMU. It will also provide a home for two of our new strategic academic leadership positions – the Dean of the Moody School for Graduate and Advanced Studies and the Vice Provost for Research and Chief Innovation Officer.

By design, Moody Hall will be a portal through which our students, faculty, their academic collaborators and corporate partners can connect to our research and innovation resources. Thank you to the Moody Foundation for this landmark

In preparation for the fiscal year 2021, the [Office of Research](#) and the [Office of Grant and Contract Accounting](#) have established the following end-of-year deadlines:

- to request a new proposal for 2021 submission
- to submit a progress report

Visit our [Contact Information](#) site with questions or concerns.

- to submit AAFs for entry into PeopleSoft
- to submit vendor and subaward invoices for processing

Please contact [Office of Grant and Contract Accounting](#) with questions or concerns

News and Noteworthy:

- As [announced earlier this week](#), Jennifer Collins, Judge James Noel Dean and Professor in the Dedman School of Law, has accepted an offer to become the next President of Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee on July 1, 2022. Please join me in congratulating President-Elect Collins on her new appointment. You can read more [here](#). In light of her departure from SMU, we will launch a national search for her replacement. I will appoint a Dean to chair the search. And together, we will charge a search committee in early spring 2022 to identify candidates for the permanent Dean of the School of Law.

Her presence and contributions to our campus will be sorely missed, and I want to commend Jennifer for outstanding leadership over the Dedman School of Law. We are fortunate to retain Jennifer for the spring semester and will find ways to celebrate both her accomplishments as our Dean and her future trajectory.

- Also [announced this week](#), Dr. Craig Hill, Dean of the Perkins School of Theology, has received a five-year extension of his decanal contract. To inform the reappointment decision, letters requesting feedback were sent to the faculty and administrative staff of Perkins; to SMU's senior administrators (e.g., President's Executive Council, Deans); to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees' Committee on Academic Affairs; and to the Chair, and Past Chair, of the Perkins Executive Board. Those solicitations did not preclude others from providing feedback. Please join me in congratulating Dean Hill on his reappointment.

