



Steven C. Currall
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Office of the Provost

20 June 2018

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to announce that Sheri Kunovich, Chair of the Department of Sociology, will join the Provost Office's team on 9 July 2018 in the newly-titled role of Associate Provost for Student Academic Engagement and Success. Sheri will succeed Julie Forrester, who will be returning to the Dedman School of Law faculty this fall, after serving a three-year term as Associate Provost for Student Academic Services.

Having completed a campus-wide dialogue during 2017-2018 regarding how to advance SMU's overall academic quality to the level of a premier research and teaching university with global impact, we released *Continuing the Ascent: Recommendations for Enhancing the Academic Quality and Stature of Southern Methodist University* to the campus community on 27 April 2018. That document presented a series of broad-ranging recommendations to propel the University forward.

During our search for a new Associate Provost, and with *Continuing the Ascent* as a guide, I have asked current members of my team to consider ways we might reorient services offered through the Provost Office to promote even greater coherence and support to the campus community in our pursuit of enhanced academic quality and stature. Our colleagues from Student Affairs also participated in those deliberations.

In her role of Associate Provost for Student Academic Engagement and Success, as was the case with her predecessor, Sheri will continue to provide leadership for the following offerings: (1) Student academic support, (2) SMU's student scholars (e.g., President's Scholars, Hunt Scholars, and Hyer Society), (3) national student awards programs, (4) the Altshuler Learning Enhancement Center (ALEC), (5)

Disability Accommodation and Success Strategies (DASS), and (6) Academic Development of Student Athletes (ADSA).

In addition, I have asked Sheri to assume leadership responsibility for the following: (1) University-wide co-curricular programs such as Engaged Learning, undergraduate research, Big Ideas, and SMU's incubator, and (2) to lead SMU's efforts to develop a comprehensive and coherent strategy for undergraduate student success and retention.

Aligning all of these offerings under one Associate Provost will position Sheri and those in her office to provide the leadership necessary to address several of the 14 recommendations in *Continuing the Ascent*, including Recommendation #3 – “Develop a unified support system for retention and graduation.”

In anticipation of her new role as Associate Provost, Sheri said, “I’m looking forward to working with faculty, staff, and students to support our existing programs and to build new programs that will ensure that even more students thrive academically at SMU and that foster the increasing diversity of our student body.”

Please congratulate Sheri on this new role and join me in welcoming her to the Provost Office team.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'SC Currall', with a stylized, cursive script.

Steven C. Currall, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
David B. Miller Endowed Professor
Professor of Management and Organization
Professor of Psychology
Professor of Engineering Management, Information, and Systems