

## Welcome

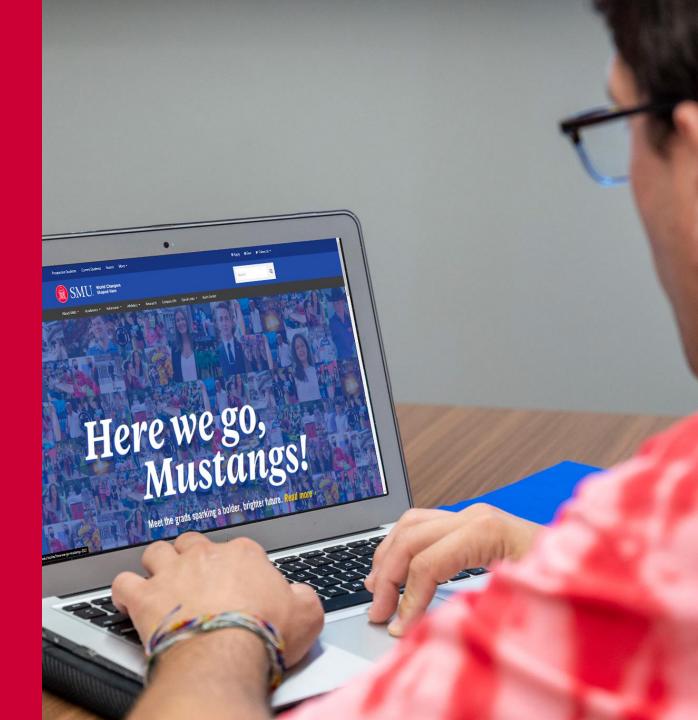


## Overview & Background

Dr. Molly Ellis

Director of Strategic Initiatives, Office of Faculty Success





## Agenda

- Welcome
- Overview & Background
  - » Quality Enhancement Plan
  - » SMU in Four Overview
- Progress Towards SMU in Four Outcomes
- Pillar Updates & Goals
  - » Early Alert Pillar
  - » Advising Pillar
  - » First Year & Gateway Courses Pillar
- Technology Projects
- Student Steering Committee
- Questions & Answer
- Call to Action



## What is a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)?



## Accreditation



- » SACS COC Third party accrediting body
- » Signals that the quality and integrity of SMU meets an acceptable, peer-reviewed standard.
- » Re-affirmation every 10 years



## **Quality Enhancement Plan**

- » A QEP is a component of the reaffirmation process
- » Carefully designed 5-year course of action that addresses a goal/or issue related to enhancing student learning or student student success
- » SMU's QEP is branded as SMU in Four
- » Main focus is to improve student success at SMU by increasing the four-year graduation rate for incoming freshman.



# FOUR

#### **Start Smart. Finish Strong.**

SMU in Four is a comprehensive plan to improve our efforts to successfully help students move through their academic journeys at SMU.

Thus, discrete parts of the University will need to engage and collaborate with one another as we seek to increase our understanding of and eliminate obstacles to student success while enhancing communication across offices that offer support.



## **SMU** in Four Organization

#### **Strategy Team**

Determine overall direction, scope, assignment of responsibilities, and ensure successful completion of the SMU in Four

#### **Faculty Steering Committee**

Offer faculty perspective, guidance, and recommendations to ensure the academic scope and focus is appropriate

#### Early Alert Pillar

Design and implementation of the enhanced practices of the Early Alert Pillar

#### **Advising Pillar**

Design and implementation of the enhanced practices of the Advising Pillar

#### First Year & Gateway Pillar

Design and implementation of the enhanced practices of the First Year Pillar

#### **Student Steering Committee**

Offer student perspectives, guidance, and recommendations to ensure the academic scope and focus is appropriate

#### **School Implementation Team**

Tasked with identifying the school specific needs and requirements to ensure successful implementation of enhanced practices for each pillar and completion of SMU in Four

#### **Technology Team**

Support the technological needs of pillar enhanced practices necessary for the successful implementation and completion of SM U in Four

#### **Assessment Team**

Develop, execute and manage the assessment efforts of pillar enhanced practices and overall goals of SMU in Four



### **SMU in Four Pillars**

#### **Early Alert Pillar**

- » Some students leave SMU after their first year looking for a more challenging and engaging academic experience, while other students struggle to do well in their firstyear courses. Through this pillar we will focus on identifying, intervening, and supporting students individually who fall into either category.
- » Improve the collection and use of early and midterm progress reports to identify students who need additional support during the semester.
- » Support faculty through the implementation of technological solutions such as Drop-Out Detective to quickly evaluate student engagement.
- » Support advising and academic support staff in knowing which students need academic support or additional opportunities for engagement.

#### **Advising Pillar**

- » Students and Student Senate have indicated that SMU does not provide sufficient and equitable advising support across campus. Differences in the advising experience across majors often makes it more challenging for students to meet all of their academic goals in four years. Through this pillar we will improve the student experience with academic advising and developing four-year academic plans.
- » Implement improvements to academic advising through the integration of technology solutions and changes to academic policies.
- » Empowering advisors to require at-risk students to meet with advising staff.
- » Make sure that students have a more consistent advising experience as they move from a premajor to a major.

## First Year & Gateway Courses Pillar

- Improve the design and instruction in first-year and gateway courses to promote student engagement and success and reduce any unintended equity gaps that might exist
- Expand faculty information on the best practice research on strategies to engage students in class
- » Encourage department chairs to support and strategically assign faculty to first-year and gateway courses to ensure a strong academic foundation for undergraduate students.



### **SMU** in Four Goals



#### **First Year Retention**

- » We want to increase from 91% to 94%.
- » We need to reduce gaps by race/ethnicity, Pell eligible in first semester, and first-generation status.



#### **Four Year Graduation**

- » We met the 2025 strategic goal of 74% graduating in four years so now we must sustain that achievement.
- » We need to achieve this rate for all race/ethnicity, Pell eligible in first semester, and first-generation students.
- » We want to close the graduation gap with our aspirational peers which is closer to 80%.



# Progress Towards SMU in Four Outcomes

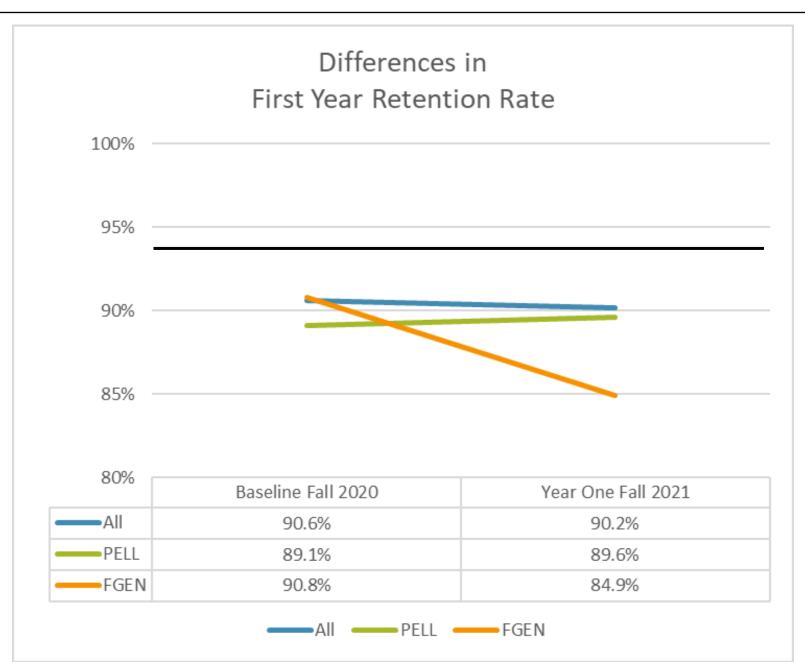
Dr. Sheri Kunovich

Associate Provost for Student Academic Engagement and Success





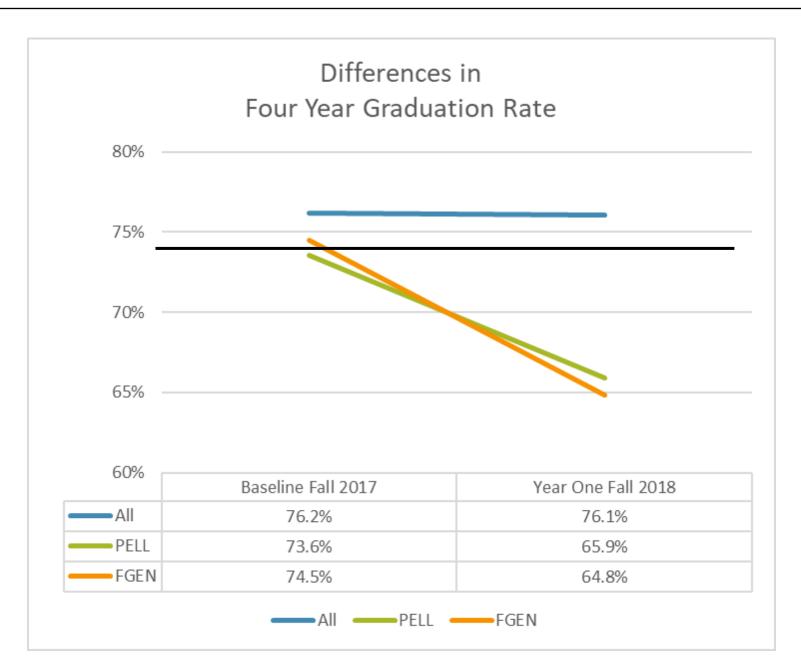
## **SMU** in Four: First Year Retention



94% First Year Retention Goal



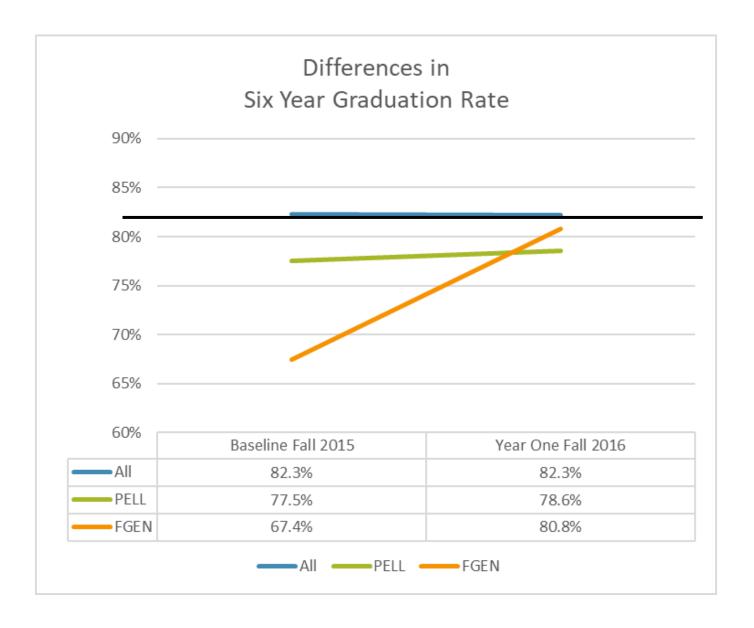
## **SMU** in Four: Four Year Graduation Rates



74% Four Year Graduation Goal



## **SMU** in Four: Six Year Graduation Rates

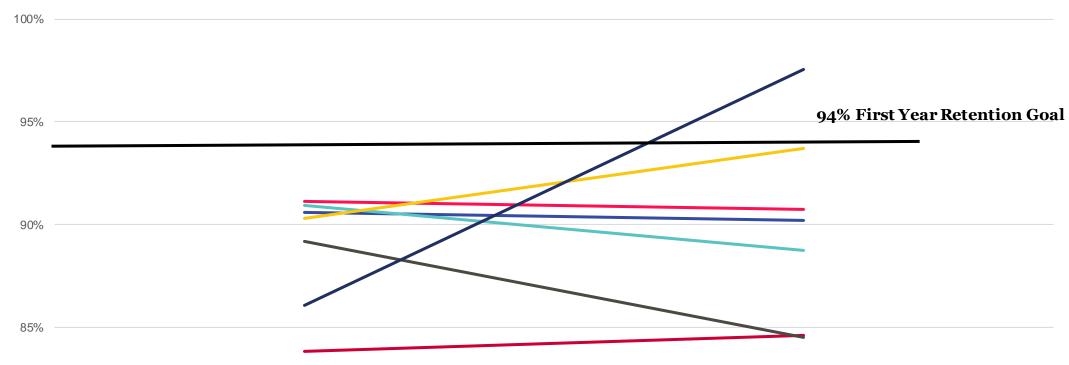


82% Six Year Graduation Goal



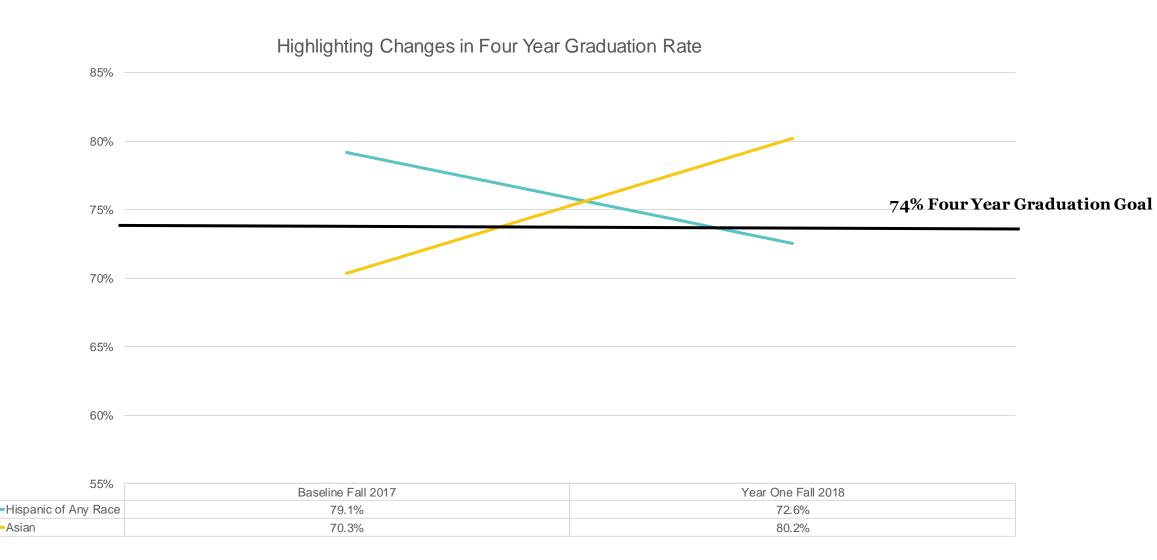
## **SMU** in Four: First Year Retention

#### Racial and Ethnic Differences in First Year Retention Rate



80%		
80%	Baseline Fall 2020	Year One Fall 2021
Overall	90.6%	90.2%
White	91.1%	90.7%
Black or African American	83.8%	84.6%
Hispanic of Any Race	90.9%	88.7%
Asian	90.3%	93.7%
—Two or More	89.2%	84.5%
Non-Resident Alien (Any Race)	86.0%	97.6% <b>SIYIU</b> .

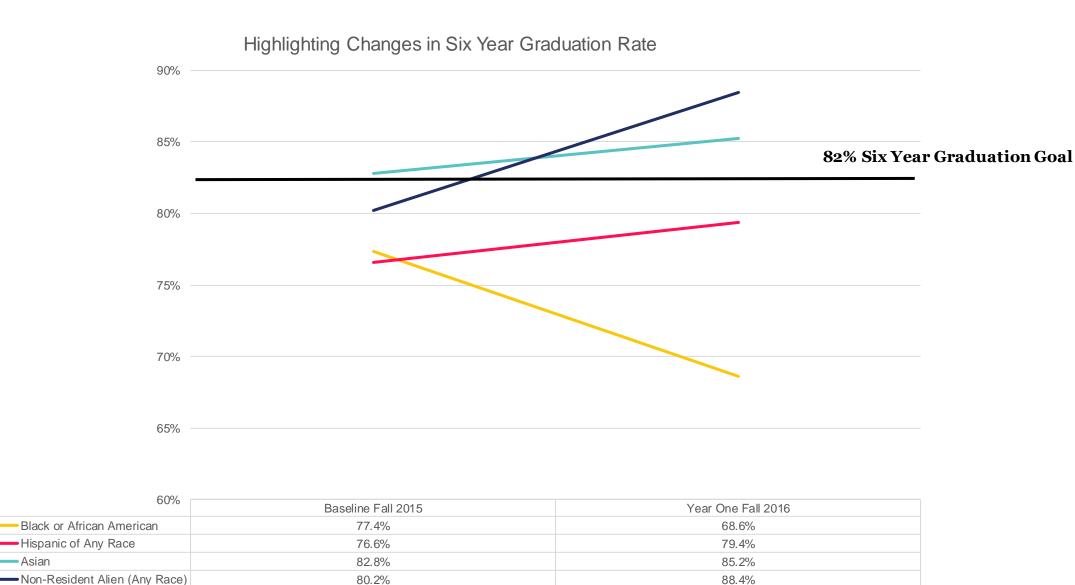
### **SMU in Four: Four Year Graduation Rates**





-Asian

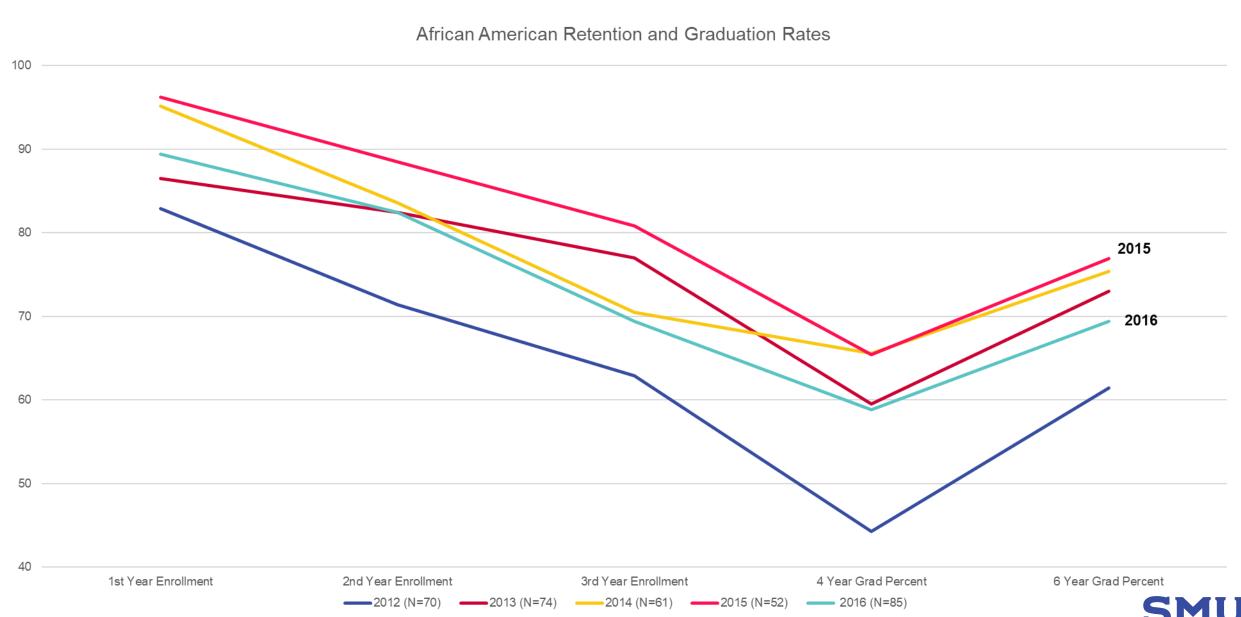
## **SMU** in Four: Six Year Graduation Rates



88.4%



## SMU in Four: African American Experience



## **Early Alert Pillar**

Improve the collection of early and midterm progress report data to support student interventions to promote student success.

#### Dr. Sue Bierman

Executive Director for Student Academic Success Programs

#### Audryanna Reed

Associate Director for High-Impact Practices





## **Early Alert Pillar: Initiatives**

#### **Year-One Initiatives**

- 1. Improve the collection of early and midterm progress report data to support student interventions to promote student success. This includes how all the data about student success is managed and shared.
- 2. Faculty will realize the importance of providing students with early and midterm feedback in order to increase the chances of student success in the course.
- 3. Students and faculty will have increased understanding of what resources are available to students who are earning a deficient grade.
- 4. Utilize partnership with Residence Life and Student Housing (RLSH) early in the semester to promote services and best ways to respond to reports indicating deficiencies.
- 5. Determine effectiveness of current outreach methods.





## Early Alert Pillar: Year 1 Progress

#### **Faculty Collaboration**

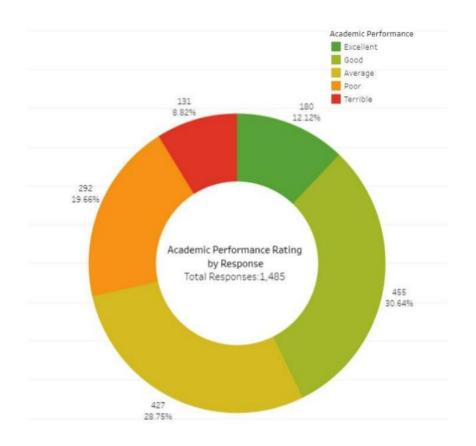
- » Department meetings outreach from data
- » Dashboards for Early Progress Reports (EPR)/Midterm Progress Reports (MPR) deadline – reminders

#### **Data Management Collaborations**

- » The Office of Student Advocacy & Support and Student Success & Retention (SSR)
- » Advising notes
- » Outreach practice analysis

#### **Residence Life and Student Housing Partnership**

- » Peer Academic Leaders (PALs)
- » Micro-Assessment survey
- » Faculty in Residence (FiRs) & Residential Community Directors (RCDs) EPR training





## Early Alert Pillar: Plans for Year 2

#### **Year-Two Initiatives**

- 1. Review data for the fall semester to determine if current outreach is effective.
- 2. Determine how to help students seek academic support earlier (after EPRs).
- 3. Identify other behaviors that can be used to track outreach effectiveness such as advisor appointments.
- 4. Help increase the number of accurate reports (No Deficiencies for all classes at EPR and MPR compared to DFW end grade).
- 5. Visit with more departments to explain what is done after EPR/MPR info received.
- 6. Identify other areas to broaden outreach opportunities.



## Advising Pillar

Implement changes to the advising experience so that students view their assigned advisors as important resources on campus who care about their situation.

#### Josh Beaty

Associate Director for University Advising Center





## **Advising Pillar: Initiatives**

"Implement improvements to academic advising through the integration of technology solutions and changes to academic policies..." (SMU-in-Four QEP, p.7)

- » Connect advisors to students
- » Assist in degree planning and record keeping

"Implement changes to the advising experience so that students view their assigned advisors as important resources on campus who care about their situation" (SMU-in-Four QEP, p. 7)

- » Connect advisors and share knowledge
- » Standardize process
- » Increase advisor satisfaction



## **Advising Pillar: Year 1 Progress**

#### **Technological Tools**

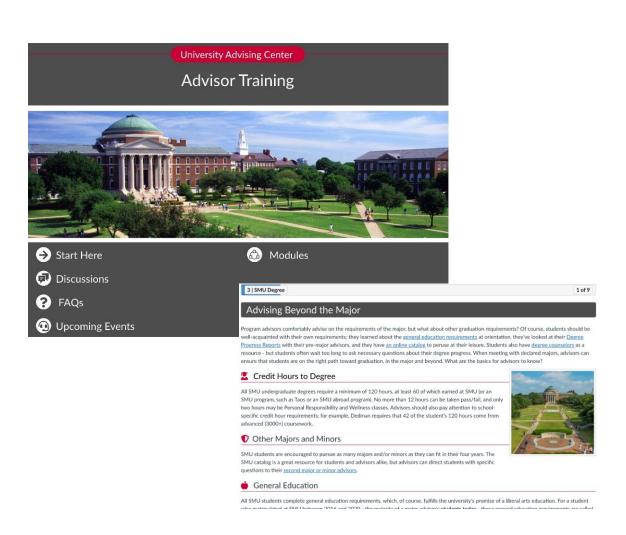
- » Booking.SMU.edu
- » Advising Notes

#### **Advisor Training**

» Modules on academic policies, resources, my.SMU, and other information useful to advisors.

#### **Advisor Survey**

- » 100 respondents
- » Asked about workload, compensation, feelings about advising





## **Advising Pillar: Year 1 Progress**

#### **National Survey of Student Engagement 2022: First-Years Report**

#### **Summary**

- » <u>Compared to 2019</u>, SMU first-year responses in 2022 showed at least a slight score increase on almost every question.
- » <u>Compared to cohort and aspirant peers</u>, first-years reported advising scores significantly higher on most questions.

#### In particular...

- » meeting with their advisors slightly more times
- » advisors **reaching out to them slightly more**
- » advisors discussing academic goals and extracurricular activities much more than in 2019 and slightly more than cohort/aspirant peers
- » assigned advisors being more helpful in developing academic goals and plans





## **Advising Pillar: Plans for Year 2**

#### **Technological Tools**

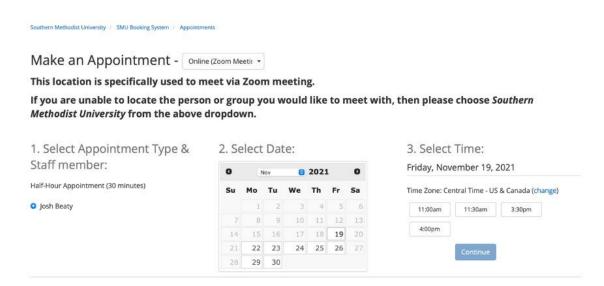
- » Increase use of Booking.SMU.edu and Advising Notes
- » Establish PeopleSoft permissions for advisors
- » Assist advisor implementation of Degree Planner

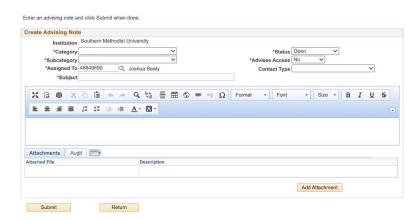
#### **New Processes**

- » Centralize database and training of major/minor advisors
- » Automate communication to newly declared majors and their advisors
- » Revive Advisor Networking Group (MustANG) for regular advisor events, communication

#### **Advisor Survey**

» Evaluate advising structure at SMU and possible alternatives







# First Year & Gateway Courses Pillar

Improve the design and instruction in first year and gateway courses to promote student engagement and success and reduce any unintended equity gaps that might exist.

#### Dr. Paige Ware

Associate Provost for Faculty Success and Professor for the Department Teaching & Learning

#### Dr. Molly Ellis

Director of Strategic Initiatives, Office of Faculty Success





## First Year & Gateway Pillar: Initiatives

#### **Course Redesign**

- » Improve design of large courses to support student success
- » Use data of student DFW rates to identify potential gaps across student groups
- » Support faculty in developing materials, assignments, and tutorials to augment where student data indicates supports are needed

#### **Student Engagement Institute (SEI)**

» Support faculty, through CTE, to generate ideas for successful pedagogical approaches for first-year and gateway courses through an equity lens

#### Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE)

» Gather faculty feedback on areas where they see room for improvement (to support the above two goals)





## First Year & Gateway Pillar: Year 1 Progress

#### **Course Redesign**

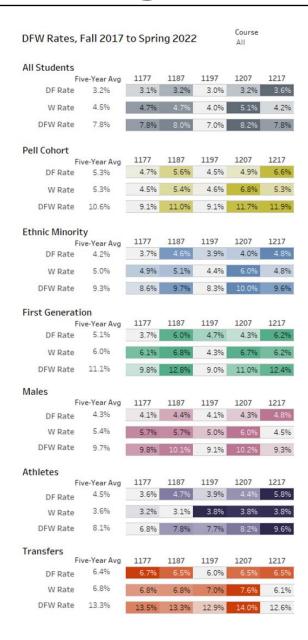
- » Piloted Course Redesign with Economics with the goal of reducing DFWs and improving student learning and persistence
- » Two full reports were submitted by Mea Ahlberg and Beth Wheaton in fall 2021 and spring 2022 with detailed recommendations based on extensive discussion with faculty

#### **Student Engagement Institute (SEI)**

» CTE hosted first iteration of SEI in May of 2022 at the Dallas Arboretum to outline a strategic orientation for future SEI planning

#### **Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE)**

- » Administered to FSSE Survey to all SMU faculty in Spring of 2022
- » Currently analyzing data to inform year 2 guidance





## First Year & Gateway Pillar: Plans for Year 2

#### **Course Redesign**

- » Continue working with Economics to implement recommendations identified in year 1 reports
- » Begin work with Chemistry department on the next set of courses for redesign

#### **Student Engagement Institute (SEI)**

» Develop and pilot the curriculum for the SEI in Spring 2023

#### Faculty Survey of Student Success (FSSE)

- » Analyze and report initial findings
- » Draw on findings to support SEI and Course Redesign



## Technology Projects & Support

Curt Herridge

Associate Chief Information Officer for OIT





## **Technology: Teams and Activities**

#### **Project Based Teams**

- » Academic Technology Services
- » Data and Application Services
- » Planning and Customer Service
- » Division of Enrollment Services

#### **Types of Project in Support of the Pillars**

- » Implement Software
- » Integrate Datasets
- » Analyze Processes and Data



## **Technology: Year 1 Projects**

#### my.SMU Implementations

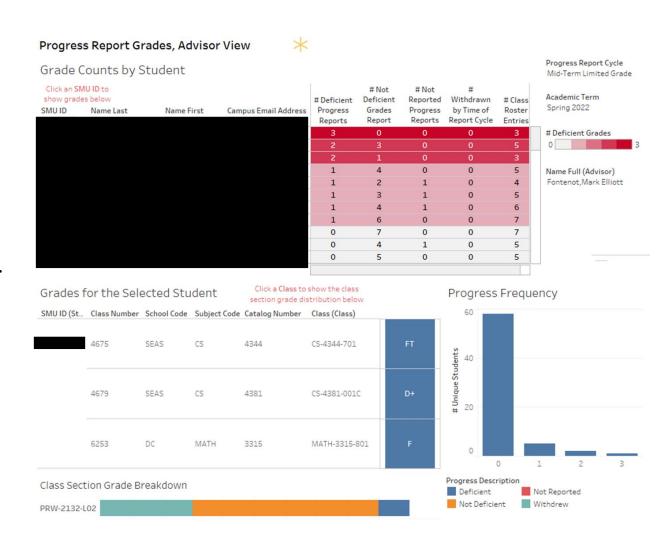
- » HighPoint Student Dashboard
- » HighPoint Schedule Builder
- » Advising Notes

#### **Data Projects**

- » Early and Midterm Progress Report Data Mart Early Alert Pillar
- » New Student Tracking Data Mart Advising Pillar
- » Enrollment Process and Data Analysis Advising Pillar

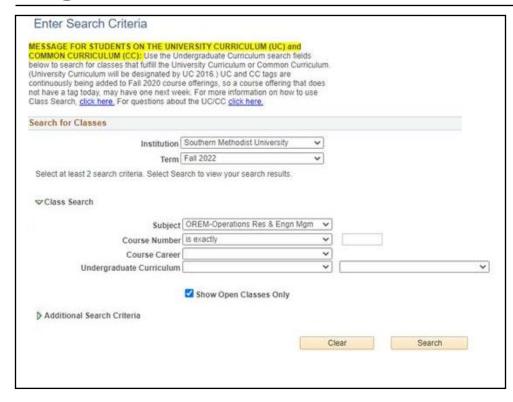
#### **Instructional Technology**

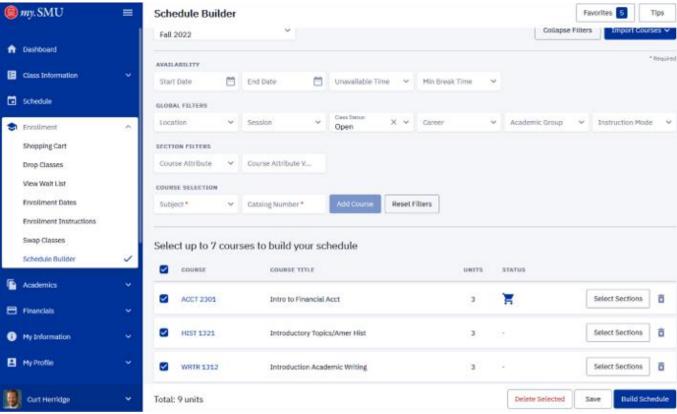
- » Canvas Improvements
- » Simple Syllabus
- » Dropout Detective
- » Feedback Box





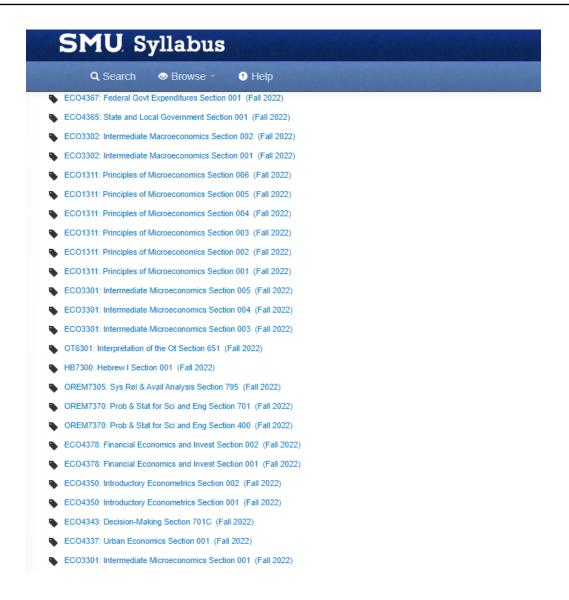
## my.SMU Before and After

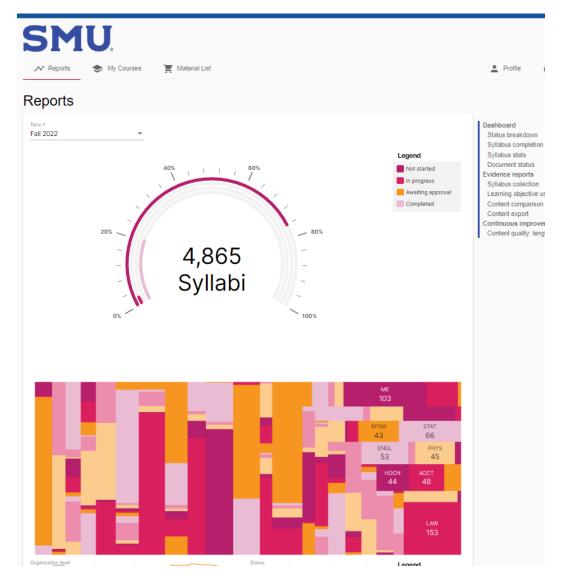






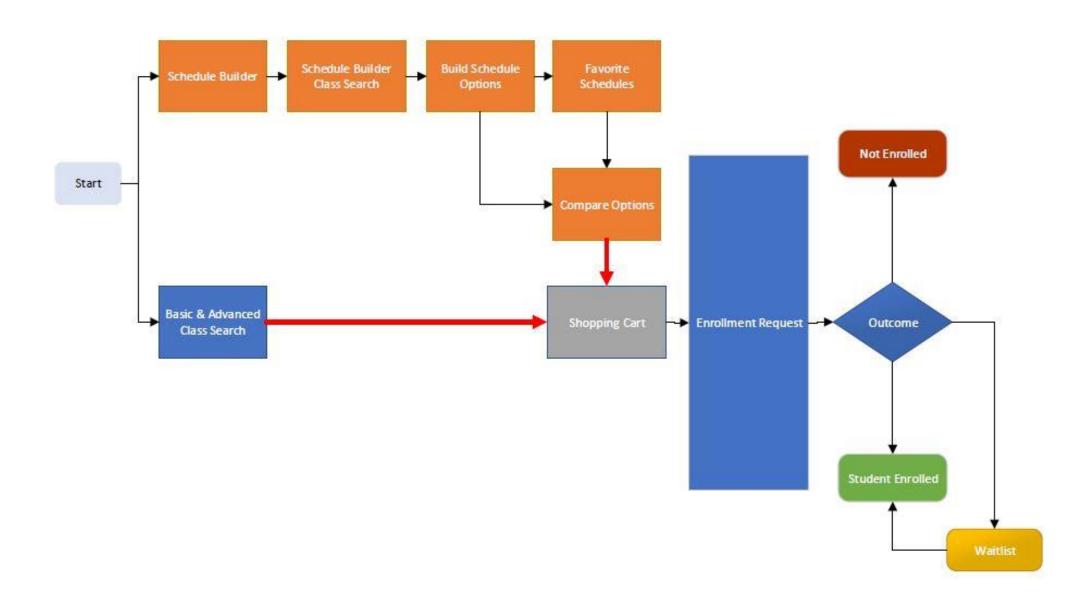
## Simple Syllabus Before and After







# **Enrollment Process Analysis**





## Technology: Projects for Year 2

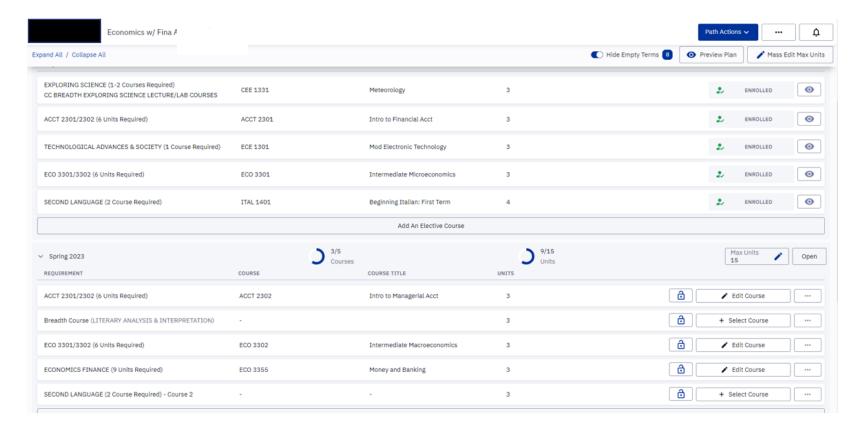
# Continue Refining Student Experience With These New Technologies



## Technology: Project for Year 2

## **HighPoint Four Year Degree Planner**

- Degree Plan Checks by Departments October 7 to October 31
- Training and Communications October 15 to October 31
- Available to Staff and Advisors November 29





# Student Steering Committee

Dr. Dustin Grabsch

Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Education & Academic Success





# **Student Steering Committee: Year 1 Progress**

# Students performed the following projects over a 6-month time period

- Major Characteristics Analysis
- Academic Policies Analysis
  - » Pass/Fail Policy
  - » Double-Counting Policy
  - » Major Declaration Policy





# **Student Steering Committee: Year 2**

Student Name	School	Major
Aguer Atem	Dedman, Cox	Public Policy, Business Management
Madisyn Cantu-Rison	Dedman	Marketing, Psychology
Da'Shayla Foard	Dedman, Meadows	Political Science, Corporate Communications
Marcia Garcia	Lyle	Engineering Management
Son Phan	Lyle	Computer Science
Reyna Reyes	Cox, Dedman	Business Administration, Marketing, International Studies
Alicia Toliver	Dedman, Cox	Spanish, French Studies, Business
Silvia Vazquez	Cox	Accounting
Helen Tran	Dedman	Biology, Economics



# **Student Steering Committee: Year 2 Projects**

#### **Three Subcommittees**

### **HighPoint Degree Planner**

» Aid with testing, user experience feedback, and training & marketing resources for the new HighPoint Degree Planner

### **SMU-in-Four Marketing & Awareness**

» Suggest and develop marketing and communication strategies to address common pitfalls with progress toward degree completion

#### **General Education Catalog**

» Recommend updates to the SMU catalog to improve student understanding and clarity of general education and Proficiencies & Experiences requirements





# Question & Answers



# SMU in Four Contributors (Second Year)

SMU in Four Committee	Name	SMU in Four Committee	Name
Advising Pillar	Josh Beaty	Faculty Steering Committee	Libby Russ
Advising Pillar	Prisna Virasin	Faculty Steering Committee/Early Alert	Brandi Stigler
Advising Pillar	Barbara Mohrle	Faculty Steering Committee/Advising	Larry Winnie
Advising Pillar	Ellen Richmond	Faculty Steering Committee/FY Courses	Brian Zoltowski
Advising Pillar	Meghan Budig	Faculty Steering Committee/Advising	Randall Griffin
Advising Pillar	Janet Stephens	Faculty Steering Committee	Sid Muralidharan
Advising Pillar	John Georges	Faculty Steering Committee/Advising	Megan Murphy
Advising Pillar	Megan Murphy	Faculty Steering Committee	Ginger Alford
Advising Pillar	John Easton	First Year Courses	Jonathan McMichael
Advising Pillar	Randall Griffin	First Year Courses	Addy Tolliver
Advising Pillar	Scott Norris	First Year Courses	Faye Walter
Advising Pillar	Larry Winnie	Implementation Teams	Jim Bryan
Assessment Team	Yan Cooksey	Implementation Teams	Tom Carr
Assessment Team	Adam Cebulski	Implementation Teams	John Georges
Assessment Team	Caroline Kirschner	Implementation Teams	Renee McDonald
Early Alert Pillar	Sue Bierman	Implementation Teams	Jie Sun
Early Alert Pillar	Adreana Julander	Implementation Teams	Kelyn Rola
Early Alert Pillar	Cori Middleton	Implementation Teams	Dick Barr
Early Alert Pillar	Lauren O'Brien	Implementation Teams	Elena Borzova
Early Alert Pillar	Jennifer Post	Implementation Teams	Jim Dees
Early Alert Pillar	Melissa Stanford	Implementation Teams	Misti Compton
Faculty Steering Committee	Greg Sommers	Implementation Teams	John Easton
Faculty Steering Committee/Early Alert	Don Vandewalle	Implementation Teams	Ginger Alford
Faculty Steering Committee/Early Alert	Stephanie Amsel	Implementation Teams	Kathy Hubbard

# SMU in Four Contributors (Second Year)

	l s
SMU in Four Committee	Name
Implementation Teams	Duncan MacFarlane
Implementation Teams	Volkan Otugen
Implementation Teams	Behrouz Peikari
Implementation Teams	Dinesh Rajan
Implementation Teams	Sheila Williams
Implementation Teams	David Willis
Implementation Teams	David Sedman
Implementation Teams	Gretchen Smith
Implementation Teams	Corinna Nash-Wnuk
Implementation Teams	Tim Jacobbe
Implementation Teams	Scott Davis
Implementation Teams	Marilyn Swanson
Strategy Team	Molly Ellis
Strategy Team	Dustin Grabsch
Strategy Team	Curt Herridge
Strategy Team	Sheri Kunovich
Strategy Team	Peter Moore
Strategy Team	Dayna Oscherwitz
Strategy Team	Paige Ware
Technology Team	Susan Flanagin
Technology Team	Bobby Lothringer
Technology Team	Cassidy Porter
Technology Team	Michael Rossi



# **SMU** in Four Contributors (First Year)

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Advising Pillar	Josh Beaty	Faculty Steering Committee	Larry Winnie
Advising Pillar	Prisna Virasin	Faculty Steering Committee	Randall Griffin
Advising Pillar	Barbara Mohrle	Faculty Steering Committee	Don Vandewalle
Advising Pillar	Ellen Richmond	Faculty Steering Committee	Brian Zoltowski
Advising Pillar	Nancy Skochdople	Faculty Steering Committee	Stephen Sekula
Advising Pillar	Janet Stephens	Faculty Steering Committee	Stephanie Amsel
Advising Pillar	John Georges	Faculty Steering Committee	Megan Murphy
Advising Pillar	John Easton	Faculty Steering Committee	Elizabeth Russ
Advising Pillar	Randall Griffin	Faculty Steering Committee	Sidd Muralicharan
Advising Pillar	Laurence Winnie	Faculty Steering Committee/ Technology	Mark Fontenton
Assessment Team	Molly Ellis	Implementation Teams	Jim Bryan
Assessment Team	Megan Murphy	Implementation Teams	Tom Carr
Assessment Team	Caroline Kirschner	Implementation Teams	John Georges
Assessment Team	Allison Kanny	Implementation Teams	Renee McDonald
Assessment Team	Edward Collins	Implementation Teams	Jie Sun
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Early Alert Pillar	Elsie Johnson	Implementation Teams	Dick Barr
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Faculty Steering Committee / Early Alert	Brandi Stigler	Implementation Teams	Bruce Gnade
Faculty Steering Committee /Advising	Scott Norris	Implementation Teams	Kathy Hubbard

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Strategy Team	Paige Ware
Technology Team	Curt Herridge

SMU in Four Committee	Name	
Technology Team	Cassidy Porter	
Technology Team	Michael Rossi	
Technology Team	Bobby Lothringer	
Communication Team	Sidd Muralidharan	
Communication Team	Regina Moldovan	
Communication Team	Beth Andresen	
Communication Team	Daniel Eady	



## **SMU** in Four Call to Action



## Sign Up for Blog

• Subscribe for a weekly digest of SMU in Four happenings at **blog.smu.edu/saes/subscribe** 



#### Goals

• Get to know our goals and approach. Visit smu.edu/smuinfour



## **Engage In Campus Events & Activities**

• Periodically we offer events and activities to collect feedback or provide updates. We hope to see you there.



#### **Volunteer Your Time**

• SMU in Four relies on volunteers to move our important work forward. Consider joining a pillar or team.



## **SMU** in Four Contact

## Molly Ellis, Ph.D.

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- mkellis@smu.edu

## **Dustin Grabsch, Ph.D.**

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