



## Office of the Provost

Dear Colleagues,

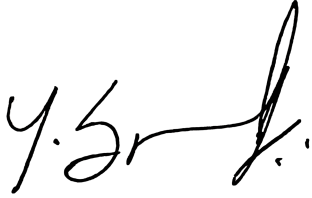
I hope your semester is going well. I want to update you on recent news impacting Academic Affairs:

- **Curriculum Process Agility Improvement.** In an effort to continually improve our agility and time to market for new programs, the curriculum process has been modified to allow simultaneous, rather than sequential, submission to the Financial Analysis and University Curriculum Committee review steps. As a result, we anticipate a 30-45 day savings in the new program development timeline. The step of Academic Affairs Council approval is no longer required. In addition, a new program tracking dashboard will soon allow faculty, staff, and administrators to track, in real time, the status of each program making its way through the approval process.
- **Reallocation of Faculty Positions.** Last fall, at the request of President White, the Academic Affairs reallocation advisory committee made suggestions for division budget reallocation. Those efforts have resulted in the reprioritization of faculty positions. As I continue to work with the deans, we are hoping to conclude this process by the end of the month, after which time I will plan to share additional information.
- **Shared Governance.** The Shared Governance Task Force has completed a draft of new bylaws for the formation of Faculty Senate. The bylaws will be brought forward to the Texas State University System (TSUS) board meeting on Nov. 20. If approved, elections will be held at the end of the fall semester, and faculty will have a functioning Faculty Senate again in January. Faculty wishing to view and comment on the new bylaws should contact [Audrey Murfin](#) or [Kevin Crouch](#).
- **New Programs Coming Soon.** SHSU recently gained Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) approval for a Master of Health Administration, a Master of Science in Engineering Technology and Management, and a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences in Business. Several programs have been proposed and are currently pending review by the TSUS Board of Regents and THECB, including: Master of Physician Assistant Studies; Doctor of Physical Therapy; Associate of Applied Science and Level 1 and 2 Certificates in Health Information Technology; Associate of Applied Science and Level 1 Certificates in Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning; and Associate of Applied Science and Level 1 Certificates in Real Estate.
- **Research Funding.** In a significant news for our students, the U.S. Department of Education renewed both TRIO awards for a total of \$3 million. These will provide support to students in need and first-generation students across campus, with a significant portion of the budget devoted to pre-service teachers. In addition, Dr. Sharmin Hasan and her cross-disciplinary team received the competitive internal 2025 BRIDGE 2.0 Center of Excellence Award for their visionary proposal to establish an Aging Research Collaborative (ARC) at SHSU.

- **Office of Research Administration (ORA) Restructure.** This fall, the Division of Finance and Operations is restructuring the Office of Research Administration with a renewed focus on partnership, service, and faculty success. This transformation will create a collaborative team dedicated to supporting your research goals, and helping SHSU expand its impact through discovery and innovation.

I hope to see many of you later this month as President White and I visit with the colleges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Yenduri', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sumanth Yenduri, PhD  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

---

*This email is being sent to faculty and staff in the Division of Academic Affairs and the President's Extended Cabinet.*

---

Box 2087 | 936.294.1001 | [provost@shsu.edu](mailto:provost@shsu.edu)

1905 University Ave. | Huntsville, TX 77340 US

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.