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**Subject:** 2020 Convocation and Meet Your Advisor Updates

Greetings SMSU Faculty and Staff,

As we turn the calendar to August, we count down the days until students return to campus, beginning with our new entering students who will participate in Gold Rush Days, August 20-23. The planning team has done excellent work adapting activities to ensure the safety of all involved. I wanted to share information about how two of these events—Convocation and Meet Your Advisor—will be modified this year.

**Convocation:** We will be conducting convocation virtually on Friday, August 21. To ensure that the presentation is delivered without disruption, it will be pre-recorded. Everyone will be given links to the Zoom meeting and the password.

**Meet Your Advisor:** To maintain the valuable connection that occurs between students and their advisors, we will be dividing students into groups by academic major and having them watch convocation in smart classrooms across campus with the faculty and staff members who will be advising them. Provision has already been made for advisors who are not comfortable meeting in person to do so virtually—and for identifying additional spaces advisors may wish to use depending on the size of their group. Orientation Leaders and Admissions staff will assist with both events to ensure that things run as smoothly as possible.

On behalf of those planning these and other events, I appreciate everyone's understanding and cooperation in these unprecedented times. Look for more information to be sent out as Gold Rush Days approach.

All the best,

Ross

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