Friday, April 24, 2020

News Digest: Penn State and the COVID-19 Crisis

This weekly email provides a high-level overview of University news and updates involving Penn State and the COVID-19 pandemic. Please review and forward it to colleagues to keep them informed of recent developments.

- **President Barron’s message to the University community** on April 23 announced some salary adjustments, a 3% across-the-board cut to budgets in the next fiscal year, and his intention to work with the Board of Trustees to freeze student tuition rates for the 2020-21 academic year.

- All nonessential University events and meetings are [canceled, postponed, or held virtually through at least June 19](#).

- For tenure-line faculty in their probationary period in Spring 2020, Penn State has [updated guidance regarding a one-year extension due to COVID-19](#) and comprehensive FAQs related to the guidance.

- In preparation for virtual summer courses, Teaching and Learning with Technology (TLT) is hosting a [series of Zoom sessions for faculty](#) on engaging students in synchronous and asynchronous online environments through course revisions.

- New information in Penn State’s [Remote Teaching FAQs](#) covers special concerns for [sponsored international students](#), how the University is supporting [students with extenuating circumstances](#), and how faculty can support [students who are exhibiting emotional distress](#) or other concerning behaviors.

- New Penn State students and their families will participate in a [virtual orientation experience](#) this summer.

- New guidance in Penn State’s [Remote Learning FAQs](#) covers [students' concerns about mental health issues affecting their learning](#) and other [stressors they are experiencing](#).

- [Online Lion Quest and Leadership Values Workshops](#) are open for student registration.

- The Student Engagement Network announced [Remote Innovation Grants for summer 2020](#), with applications due by May 3.

- Career Services is offering [virtual counseling and resources](#) to help students pursue their professional goals during this challenging time.
The Office of Information Security is encouraging students to protect their personal information by increasing cybersecurity measures.

To obtain comprehensive, updated information at any time, visit:

- The University’s official COVID-19 information site and FAQ page (Note: The most recent FAQ updates are provided here)
- The “University Measures” webpage, which summarizes steps that Penn State is taking in response to COVID-19.
- The Office of Human Resources COVID-19 information site
- A robust list of contacts and resources for the University community
- The University websites dedicated to remote teaching and learning