

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](#)