**Friday, May 1, 2020**

**News Digest: Penn State and the COVID-19 Crisis**

This email provides a high-level overview of University news and updates during the past week. Please review and forward this weekly news digest to colleagues to keep them informed of recent developments.

* Three new task groups are working to establish the necessary infrastructure and processes to uphold health and inform [a plan for Penn State students, faculty, and staff to return to campus](https://news.psu.edu/story/617879/2020/04/29/administration/penn-state-coronavirus-task-groups-continue-future-focused). In line with the latest directives and guidelines from government and public health authorities, the University remains optimistic for a Fall 2020 return to on-campus learning, **Penn State will keep people informed and provide updates and additional information by June 15, if not sooner.**
* Penn State released instructions on [how to use the GPA calculator tool in LionPATH](https://news.psu.edu/story/616659/2020/04/22/academics/gpa-calculator-tool-can-be-used-factor-alternative-grading) to help undergraduates estimate how alternative grades will impact their GPAs.
* The Office for Summer Session published [FAQs for students taking online courses this summer](https://summersession.psu.edu/summeronline/faq/summer-online-student-faqs).
* By May 12, all Penn State [students must enroll in and use two-factor authentication](https://news.psu.edu/story/617590/2020/04/28/administration/students-must-enroll-two-factor-authentication-may-12) (2FA) to access more than 2,300 sites and services protected by WebAccess.
* [Updated sabbatical leave FAQs](https://www.vpfa.psu.edu/files/2020/04/AC17-Sabbatical-Leave-FAQs-Updated-04.24.20.pdf) were provided on the Faculty Affairs website.
* Reports released by Moody’s Investors Services and S&P Global Ratings [gave Penn State’s credit rating a stable outlook](https://news.psu.edu/story/617933/2020/04/29/administration/penn-state-receives-stable-outlooks-credit-rating-agencies).
* The Office of Global Programs provided [clarifications about immigration policy](https://news.psu.edu/story/617303/2020/04/27/impact/global-programs-clarifies-immigration-policy-international-population) for the University’s international population.
* The [2020 Symposium for Teaching and Learning with Technology](https://symposium.tlt.psu.edu/) (TLT) and Canvas Day will be held virtually, and the [TLT Summer Series](https://symposium.tlt.psu.edu/summer-series/) will have its first session on May 13. Ten additional sessions will be held on Wednesdays throughout the summer.
* Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) will continue to [offer vital student services during the summer](https://news.psu.edu/story/617699/2020/04/29/campus-life/caps-offering-services-support-students-remotely-through-spring), including same-day phone support, individual counseling, and daily virtual Life Hacks sessions.
* Beginning May 4, University Police and Public Safety [will host four weekly Zoom sessions](https://news.psu.edu/story/617345/2020/04/27/campus-life/penn-state-police-hold-public-safety-programs-zoom) (registration required) for the Penn State community. Two sessions each week will cover the University’s Active Attacker Response Program; the other two will be open Q&A sessions.
* Penn State faculty now have [access to Microsoft MyAnalytics](https://news.psu.edu/story/617716/2020/04/28/microsoft-myanalytics-now-available-faculty-and-staff), an Office 365 program that provides tools for personal productivity.

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

* The University’s official [COVID-19 information site](https://sites.psu.edu/virusinfo)and [FAQ page](https://sites.psu.edu/virusinfo/faqs/)  
  (Note: The most recent FAQ updates are provided [here](https://sites.psu.edu/virusinfo/faqs/#latest))
* The [“University Measures” webpage](https://virusinfo.psu.edu/university-measures/), which summarizes steps Penn State is taking in response to COVID-19.
* The [Office of Human Resources COVID-19 information site](https://hr.psu.edu/covid-19-coronavirus)
* A robust [list of contacts and resources](https://sites.psu.edu/virusinfo/contacts-and-resources-for-penn-staters/)for the University community
* The University websites dedicated to remote [teaching](http://remoteteaching.psu.edu/) and [learning](http://remotelearning.psu.edu/)