**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 pandemicl. Please review and forward it to colleagues to keep them informed of recent developments.

* [President Barron’s message to the University community](https://news.psu.edu/story/617057/2020/04/23/message-penn-state-president-eric-j-barron) 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](https://news.psu.edu/story/616091/2020/04/17/administration/all-events-be-canceled-postponed-held-virtually-through-june).
* 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](https://www.vpfa.psu.edu/files/2020/04/Guidance-Extension-of-the-Probationary-Period-Due-to-COVID-19-Updated-04.23.20.docx) and comprehensive [FAQs related to the guidance](https://www.vpfa.psu.edu/files/2020/04/FAQs-Extension-of-the-Probationary-Period-Due-to-COVID-19-Updated-04.23.20.docx).
* In preparation for virtual summer courses, Teaching and Learning with Technology (TLT) is hosting a [series of Zoom sessions for faculty](https://news.psu.edu/story/616053/2020/04/17/academics/faculty-sessions-offered-ways-blend-asynchronous-and-synchronous) on engaging students in synchronous and asynchronous online environments through course revisions.
* New information in Penn State’s [Remote Teaching FAQs](https://remoteteaching.psu.edu/faq/) covers special concerns for [sponsored international students](https://remoteteaching.psu.edu/ufaqs/are-there-special-concerns-for-sponsored-international-students/), how the University is supporting [students with extenuating circumstances](https://remoteteaching.psu.edu/ufaqs/one-of-my-students-is-experiencing-extenuating-circumstances-such-as-financial-insecurity-academic-concerns-etc-due-to-covid-19-how-can-the-university-support-them/), and how faculty can support [students who are exhibiting emotional distress](https://remoteteaching.psu.edu/ufaqs/how-can-i-support-students-who-may-be-exhibiting-emotional-distress-or-other-concerning-behaviors/) or other concerning behaviors.
* New Penn State students and their families will participate in a [virtual orientation experience](https://news.psu.edu/story/615948/2020/04/16/academics/new-students-and-their-families-participate-virtual-orientation) this summer.
* New guidance in Penn State’s [Remote Learning FAQs](https://remotelearning.psu.edu/faq/) covers [students’ concerns about mental health issues affecting their learning](https://remotelearning.psu.edu/ufaqs/i-feel-overwhelmed-stressed-and-or-anxious-consistently-and-have-noticed-its-starting-to-affect-my-functioning-what-are-my-options/) and other [stressors they are experiencing](https://remotelearning.psu.edu/ufaqs/im-experiencing-new-stressors-during-this-time-how-should-i-manage-them/).
* [Online Lion Quest and Leadership Values Workshops](https://news.psu.edu/story/615469/2020/04/14/campus-life/virtual-lion-quest-and-online-leadership-values-workshops-open) are open for student registration.
* The Student Engagement Network announced [Remote Innovation Grants for summer 2020](https://news.psu.edu/story/616158/2020/04/20/academics/student-engagement-network-announces-remote-innovation-grants), with applications due by May 3.
* Career Services is offering [virtual counseling and resources](https://news.psu.edu/story/615461/2020/04/16/academics/career-services-available-coach-students-through-current) to help students pursue their professional goals during this challenging time.
* The Office of Information Security is [encouraging students to protect their personal information](https://news.psu.edu/story/616428/2020/04/21/campus-life/students-encouraged-increase-cybersecurity-measures) by increasing cybersecurity measures.

**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 that 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/)