

Friday, June 24, 2022

Penn State Faculty Digest

The Faculty Digest provides faculty and instructors with relevant news and information about programs and resources that promote faculty success. Watch for these emails on the last Friday of every month.

LATEST NEWS

- Nick Jones, executive vice president and provost, [has announced he will step down August 15](#) and transition into a new role as special assistant to the president through the end of 2022. He will return to the College of Engineering, where he has an appointment as a professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. On August 15, Justin Schwartz, Harold and Inge Marcus Dean in the College of Engineering, will assume the role of interim vice president and provost following a transitional period that will begin in mid-July.
- For those tenure-line faculty members who were in the probationary period during 2020 who have not yet confirmed the COVID-19 extension AND are undergoing formal review in 2022-2023, please be aware that the [form](#) to confirm the extension must be submitted no later than August 31 to stop that review and apply the extension to the current academic year. We encourage these faculty members to discuss with their academic unit head whether confirming the extension is in the faculty member's best interest, though permission to confirm the extension is not necessary. The deadline does not apply to faculty members who are going up for their sixth-year review, as the confirmation of the extension for those in their penultimate year must be received by April 1 of that year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs at vpfa@psu.edu.
- Please find [here](#) a summary of who has confirmed acceptance of the COVID-19 extension thus far. The Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs will continue to monitor extension rates and work with the University Faculty Senate on how best to support our faculty. Here are a couple of noteworthy takeaways:
 - Approximately 40% of those eligible confirmed acceptance of the extension from nearly all campuses and colleges.
 - To date, only 13 faculty members have rescinded their acceptance of the extension.
 - It appears that while men and women confirmed the exception at equal rates, faculty members who either identified as international or underrepresented in regard to race/ethnicity confirmed it at higher rates than their white/unknown counterparts.

- The Office of the Vice Provost of Faculty Affairs is pleased to invite all new faculty and administrators to the University's New Faculty Orientation to be held on **Tuesday, August 16 and Wednesday, August 17 from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.** This two-day event is a unique learning opportunity that features speakers and presenters from across the university on a variety of topics including teaching and learning, research, promotion and tenure, equity and inclusion, and student life. Interactive breakout sessions on mentoring, innovative teaching approaches, research funding, clinical practice, libraries, and more are built into the daily schedule. All new hires and all faculty members hired within the last academic year – both tenure-line and non-tenure-line – are encouraged to attend. Registration information will be sent via email in July. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ann Clements at acc13@psu.edu.
- Activity Insight training is available to faculty during fall 2022. At these sessions, you will learn tips for entering and maintaining your data in the system and how to produce a dossier and Annual Review Report. Click [here](#) to see the session dates.
- The members of the 2022-23 University Promotion and Tenure Review Committee have been announced. As specified in AC-23, "Promotion and Tenure Procedures and Regulations," the University Committee has eleven members, seven elected by the University Faculty Senate and four appointed by the President. Jennifer Wilkes, Interim Vice President for Human Resources, will serve as an ex officio, nonvoting member of the Committee.
 - Elected by the University Faculty Senate (term in parentheses)
 - Ellysa Cahoy (2021-2023)
 - John Champagne (2021-2023)
 - John Nousek (2021-2023)
 - Linda Patterson Miller (2022-2024)
 - Amit Sharma (chair) (2021-2023)
 - Pauline Thompson (2022-2024)
 - Linghao Zhong (2022-2024)
 - Appointed by the President (term in parentheses)
 - Nasr Ghahramani (2022-2024)
 - Aparna Joshi (2022-2024)
 - Christopher Kiver (2021-2023)
 - Yi (Elisa) Wu (2021-2023)
- Fifteen faculty members have received [Fulbright Scholar Awards](#) for the 2022-23 academic year.
- Laura Pauley, interim executive director of the Penn State Faculty Senate and professor of mechanical engineering, has been named the [senate's permanent](#)

[executive director](#), effective June 1.

- Penn State launched its [new curriculum management system](#) this month that will ultimately fully replace the Curriculum Review & Consultation System (CRCS).
- There are many wonderful opportunities for faculty to continue their growth and learning during the summer months.
 - The Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence is offering a DEI Summer Journal Club series. Sessions are held every other week throughout the summer and will focus on a unique article relevant to DEI information and ideas. For more information, please visit [SITE Offerings](#).
 - Teaching and Learning with Technology is offering workshops on a variety of topics. For more information, please visit [TLT Offerings](#).
 - IT Learning and Development is offering workshops throughout the summer that help faculty and staff engage with the many technology-based programs available at Penn State. Topics include SharePoint, SIMBA, OneDrive, Qualtrics, and more. For more information, please visit [ITLD Offerings](#).

COVID NEWS

- Effective June 17, [indoor masking is no longer required at Penn State Hazleton, Schuylkill, and Wilkes-Barre](#) due to decreasing COVID-19 community levels in the counties in which those campuses are located.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To obtain comprehensive, updated information at any time, please review:

- The Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs [website](#)
- The University's comprehensive [COVID-19 resources](#)
- Previous issues of this [Digest](#)