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

Promotion and Tenure
• Updated promotion and tenure guidelines and documents are now available on the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs’ website. These include:
  o 2022-2023 Administrative Guidelines for AC23: Promotion and Tenure Procedures and Regulations
  o Frequently Asked Questions about Promotion and Tenure
  o Summary of Revisions to the Administrative Guidelines
  o In addition, you can find documents related to COVID-19:
    ▪ FAQ for the Extension of the Probationary Period due to COVID-19
    ▪ Guidance on Promotion and Tenure Narratives
    ▪ Guidance for Administrators and Members of Promotion and Tenure Committees
    ▪ Guidance on Assessment of Teaching Effectiveness
    ▪ Recommended Charge to Promotion and Tenure Committees
    ▪ Considerations for Non-Tenure-Line Promotions in the Time of COVID-19
• Congratulations to all non-tenure-line faculty who received a promotion.
• 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. More information is available in this document. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs at vpfa@psu.edu.
Policy and System Updates

- Conducting research outside of Penn State? Starting a company related to your expertise? These “Outside Professional Activities” require prior approval per Penn State policy AC80. This policy governs faculty’s engagement with activities outside the scope of their employment with Penn State. Policy AC80 was revised in December 2021. If you are a full-time faculty member, AC80 applies to you. Some Outside Professional Activities require prior approval even outside of the Appointment Period. For more information, please click here.

- Beginning July 1, all full-time faculty with newborn or adopted children, or who are newly appointed as a legal guardian of a child/children, will be eligible for at least six weeks of paid parental leave under the updated HRG18. In addition to paid parental leave, a faculty member also has the option to either take a leave of absence without pay for the rest of the semester or be relieved of all classroom teaching responsibilities at full pay for the rest of the semester. This option to be relieved from teaching responsibilities is now extended to non-tenure-line faculty; previously, it was available only to tenure-line or tenured faculty.

Congratulations

- Justin Schwartz, Harold and Inge Marcus Dean in the College of Engineering, will assume the role of interim executive vice president and provost on August 15 following a transitional period that began in mid-July.

- The Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) Department Executive Officers program has gained five additional fellows from Penn State. Participants for the 2022 program were selected based on their significant contributions and potential to achieve even more as University leaders. The participants are:
  - Kristin Buss, department head, psychology, College of the Liberal Arts
  - Leigh Ann Haefner, department head, division of Education, Human Development, and Social Sciences, Penn State Altoona
  - Krishna Jayakar, department head, telecommunications, Bellisario College of Communications
  - Susan Land, department head, learning and performance systems, College of Education
  - L. Martin Overby, director, School of Public Affairs, Penn State Harrisburg

- The Big Ten Academic Alliance Academic Leadership Program (ALP) will include six new fellows from Penn State in 2022-23. The participants are:
  - Jeffrey Barzell, professor of information sciences and technology and associate dean of undergraduate and graduate studies, College of Information Sciences and Technology.
  - Dan Cahoy, professor of business law and research director of the Center for the Business of Sustainability, Smeal College of Business.
  - Miguel Mostafa, associate dean for research and innovation, Eberly College of Science.
o Michele Stine, associate teaching professor of biobehavioral health and chair of the University Faculty Senate, College of Health and Human Development.

o Shelley Stoffels, associate dean for faculty and professor of civil and environmental engineering, College of Engineering.

o Darrin Thornton, associate dean for academic affairs and outreach and teaching professor of music, College of Arts and Architecture.

- Michele Stine, associate teaching professor of biobehavioral health, has been named chair and chair-elect of the Faculty Senate, effective July 5. Stine succeeds Kimberly Blockett, who began her tenure as chair for the 2022-23 academic year but departed the University to assume a post at the University of Delaware.

A Message from the Office of Student Care and Advocacy
- As the new academic year approaches, the Office of Student Care and Advocacy (SCA) is providing some information around faculty notifications sent from its office:
  - SCA does not have the authority to validate or authenticate absences.
  - SCA will only reach out if a student is hospitalized without access to technology or if a student has lost a loved one and cannot communicate due to emotional distress.
  - Outreach from SCA regarding a student’s attendance is simply a notification and a request for flexibility as the student navigates this challenge.
  - Students are instructed to work directly with their faculty on creation of a plan to make up any missed assignments when they are able to do so.

Events, Training, and Other Opportunities
- Penn State’s Center for Global Studies and Humanities Institute are offering Global Humanities Research Impact Grants of up to $5,000 to support international travel by Penn State scholars conducting advanced global humanities research.
- 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.
- For the first time since 2019, Penn State Athletics is proud to announce the return of Faculty/Staff Appreciation Day at Beaver Stadium on September 10 as the Nittany
Lions take on the Ohio University Bobcats at noon. Faculty, staff, and their families are eligible to purchase discounted tickets in the Upper South End Zone. Tickets are $44 per seat.

- 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.

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