

News for Faculty – Friday, August 26, 2022

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### **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**

#### **Welcome Back!**

The Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs welcomes all faculty members back to campus for the 2022-23 academic year. We also welcome the more than 550 new full-time faculty to Penn State. This Digest, which is published on the last Friday of every month with occasional “special editions” at other times, is intended to provide you with news, resources, and other items of importance to faculty. We are committed to your success; please contact our office ([vpfa@psu.edu](mailto:vpfa@psu.edu)) if you need assistance.

#### **COVID-19 Extension Deadline Approaching**

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](mailto:vpfa@psu.edu).

#### **Fall Activity Insight Training**

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.

#### **Promotion and Tenure Workshop Series – September Offerings**

The Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs is pleased to offer a workshop series on preparing for success in the promotion and tenure process. The series will provide an in-depth exploration of the promotion and tenure process for all Penn State faculty, including tenure-line and non-tenure-line. This series is offered live via Penn State’s

Zoom platform ([link](#)) and each session will be recorded for later viewing. Links to recordings will be posted [here](#) after each workshop session. Audience questions are highly encouraged. Registration is not required to attend. If you have questions about the workshop series, contact Assistant Vice Provost Ann Clements at [acc13@psu.edu](mailto:acc13@psu.edu). Sessions include:

- Administrator and Staff Engagement in the Tenure-Line and Non-Tenure-Line Promotion Reviews Process (September 15)
- Committee Chair and Committee Member Engagement in the Tenure-Line Promotion Review Process (September 19)
- Promoting Faculty Success through Tenure and Promotion at Penn State (September 29)
- For more information or to explore the full series, see our website <https://vpfa.psu.edu/promotion-and-tenure-workshop-series/>

### **Fall Professional Development Opportunities for Teaching**

- Penn State faculty have access to continuous learning opportunities and professional development resources from multiple sources. Learning opportunities for faculty can be found on the following two links:
- [Faculty Professional Development Opportunities - Continuously Updated.docx](#)
- <https://www.schreyerinstitute.psu.edu/events>

### **Planning for Class Absences**

A new document published by the Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence helps faculty plan for class absences. The document, "[Planning for Class Absences \(Including Your Own\)](#)," discusses how to communicate expectations related to absences and how to plan for missed classes.

### **Faculty Senate Policy on Class Attendance**

The University Faculty Senate Policy on Class Attendance ([42-27](#)) reminds instructors to provide, within reason, [opportunity to make up work](#) for students who are obliged to miss classes for legitimate, unavoidable reasons, such as illness, military service, family emergency, or religious observance.

### **Making Classrooms and Teaching Practices More Equitable**

Penn State instructors who wish to [make their classrooms and teaching practices more equitable and inclusive for students](#) can choose from a range of services and programming related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA). These include a grant program, DEIA journal club, teaching communities, and DEIA workshops.

### **Tech Tutors**

[Tech Tutors are available to faculty](#) from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday through Friday to provide support in Zoom, Canvas, Kaltura, Adobe Creative Cloud, and other technology platforms used in their courses. Visit [techtutors.psu.edu](http://techtutors.psu.edu) to learn more and schedule a virtual appointment. Now that the majority of courses are in-person, the Tech TA program will no longer be offered.

### **Faculty/Staff Appreciation Day at Beaver Stadium**

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.

### **COVID-19 Resources**

The University continues to provide resources to help individuals stay safe and healthy and prevent the spread of COVID-19. Read more about University resources pertaining to masking, testing, vaccines, and more [here](#).

### **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](#)