Friday, October 28, 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

Instructor resources for the election
In advance of the upcoming elections, two offices in Undergraduate Education have prepared materials that provide guidance about how to talk with students about the upcoming elections, how to encourage students to vote, and how to incorporate these conversations into classes.

The Office for General Education materials connect voting as a civic obligation to the Social Responsibility and Ethical Reasoning Learning Objective in the General Education curriculum, which aims to develop in students "the self-knowledge and leadership skills needed to play a role in creating and maintaining healthy, civil, safe, and thriving communities." The Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence developed a guide to teaching through the election that provides instructors with a number of resources for both the pre-election and post-election periods.

Deadline soon to respond to research faculty survey
A new Broader Impacts (BI) committee is reviewing current BI resources and making recommendations for how the University can enhance the impact of research activities and the competitiveness of research proposals to federal agencies. Faculty are urged to complete a research faculty survey by October 31 to suggest ways that the University might better support them in the area of BI.

Accessible syllabus templates
The IT Accessibility Group and the Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence have produced an accessible syllabi template repository for instructors. The templates use best practices for accessible Microsoft Word documents; these documents can also be adapted to other materials in a course.

Red Folder
The Red Folder, which supports University faculty, staff, and student leaders in helping distressed students, has been updated and reprinted for fall 2022.

AC22 revised
Effective October 3, 2022 policy AC22, Search Procedures for Academic Administrative Positions was revised to reflect the changes proposed by the University Faculty Senate at their most recent meeting. The revisions are consistent with the 2020 revisions to AC13, Procedures for Hiring Full-time Faculty. Like the revision to AC13, the revisions

to AC22 reflect Penn State's current practices and strategic goals and add specificity to various aspects of the search process.

Rock Ethics Institute Faculty Fellows

The Rock Ethics Institute is now accepting applications for its 2023-24 Faculty Fellows program. REI fellowships provide up to $10,000 for a two-course release from teaching to support ethics-related projects by Penn State faculty. Fellowship applications are due November 1.

Administrative Fellows Program

Applications are being sought for the Administrative Fellows Program for 2023-24. The program offers Penn State faculty and staff the opportunity to work with senior University officers to gain insight pertaining to the challenges of leadership in the academic community. Mentors for 2023-2024 will be the Executive Vice President and Provost, Vice President for Human Resources, and Vice President for the Commonwealth Campuses. An information session will be held via Zoom on Friday, November 4 from 1:00-2:00 p.m.

President's Award for Excellence in Academic Integration

Nominations are being accepted for the 2023 President's Award for Excellence in Academic Integration, an honor recognizing faculty members at the rank of professor who have exhibited extraordinary achievement in the integration of teaching, research or creative accomplishments, and service. The deadline is January 14, 2023.

Penn State Laureate nominations

The University is seeking nominees for the role of 2023-24 Penn State Laureate. Nominations are due by Friday, December 9.

October Faculty Senate meeting

At its October 18 meeting, the Faculty Senate passed a package of interrelated updates to the University's general education policies and undertook two items of business intended to make the senate's governing documents and meetings more accessible and easily understood.

Advocate Penn State

All Penn State faculty, staff, students, and families are encouraged to join Advocate Penn State. As Penn State's advocacy network, Advocate Penn State is the easiest and most effective way for Penn Staters to show elected officials just how valuable Penn State is to the commonwealth's students, communities, and economy.

Fall Professional Development Opportunities for Teaching
- o Penn State faculty have access to continuous learning opportunities and professional development resources from multiple sources.

- o [Faculty Professional Development Opportunities - Continuously Updated.docx](#)
- o Penn State's teaching center, the Schreyer Institute for Teaching, offers [workshops, programs and short-courses](#), [custom workshops](#) for groups and academic units, [individual consultations](#), and [grants](#). Currently open grant programs include [Advancing Equity and Inclusion Grants](#) and [Teaching Community Grants](#).

Faculty Passings

Jay Precht, associate professor of history at the Fayette campus, [passed away on October 1 at his home](#). Dr. Precht had been at Penn State for 12 years. During his time at Penn State, he served on the University Faculty Senate.

Christopher C. French, director of the Trial Advocacy Program and professor of practice at Penn State Law, [passed away on September 10](#). French taught Torts, Trial Advocacy, Evidence, Contracts, and Insurance Law for more than eight years, in addition to regularly publishing books and law review articles.

Clifford Maurer, lecturer in information sciences and technology at Penn State Berks, passed away on September 29. He had been employed at Penn State for 21 years and most recently taught security and risk analysis courses.

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](#)