

News for Faculty – Friday, July 28, 2023

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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 (or earlier when there is a campus closure).

### **LATEST NEWS**

#### **Programs and Offerings for New Faculty**

The Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, Teaching and Learning with Technology, the Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence, the Office of Research Protections, and the University Libraries have announced [new and revamped programs for new full-time Penn State faculty](#). These offerings include initiatives to foster professional growth, build a sense of belonging, and facilitate connections within the University community. They include a revamped New Faculty Orientation on a single afternoon (August 16), a new faculty Canvas site, the New Faculty Network, and more.

#### **Tech Tip: How to Block Unwanted Emails**

Did you know that you can block unwanted email senders via Outlook? Please visit <https://security.psu.edu/block-sender> for instructions for blocking a sender.

#### **A Message from Global Safety and the Travel Safety Network**

Global Safety's mission is to promote the safety, well-being, and resiliency of Penn Staters traveling abroad. We aspire to empower Penn State travelers to explore, learn, and thrive in diverse global settings while prioritizing their safety and security. We are committed to providing comprehensive support, rigorous assessment and analysis, and effective emergency response protocols to mitigate potential global travel hazards and risks. Global Safety utilizes the [Travel Safety Network \(TSN\)](#) to create a record of university-affiliated international travel. TSN data enables Global Safety to provide university leadership with the information needed to support international research, partnerships, exchanges, and other engagements while simultaneously supporting Penn State travelers. In addition, recording travel in the TSN allows for rapid verification of a traveler's status with the international emergency medical insurance provider for seamless care in a crisis. Through collaboration, education, and continuous improvement, we promote inclusivity and cultivate a culture of safety, so that everyone can thrive and succeed within the higher education community. For more information about Penn State Global Safety and how we can be a resource for you, please contact us at [globalsafety@psu.edu](mailto:globalsafety@psu.edu) or 814-863-8788.

#### **Ally Canvas Tool**

In Fall 2023, the [Anthology Ally tool](#) will be integrated into Canvas to provide students with on-demand alternatives to digital course content and guide instructors in making all course content more inclusive. More inclusive and accessible content enhances the learning experience for all students, including students with disabilities, and supports Penn State's commitment to fostering diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging.

Several colleges and campuses across the University piloted the tool, commonly known as Ally, during the Spring 2023 semester. Resources can be found on the [Penn State Anthology Ally webpage](#).

### **University Promotion and Tenure Review Committee Members Named**

As specified in Policy [AC23](#), "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. A list of committee members is available [here](#).

### **Faculty Senate Recap**

In its [final meeting of the 2022-23 cycle](#), the Penn State Faculty Senate heard updates from President Neeli Bendapudi on the University's state appropriation and continued support of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging (DEIB) following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision on affirmative action and use of race in admissions. The senate also discussed proposed changes to the 2024 health care plans, passed recommendations on further standardizing faculty workload across the University, made recommendations to facilitate promotion to full professor, and voted on revisions to its policy on auditing and visiting courses. The senate also passed a positional resolution, affirming its support for antiracism and the principles of affirmative action, racial, social and environmental justice, as well as the ongoing University efforts in diversity, inclusion, equity and belonging.

### **SHC Faculty Fellows**

The Schreyer Honors College invites proposals for its new Faculty Fellows Program beginning in Fall 2023 (<https://www.shc.psu.edu/faculty/fellows-program/>). Three fellows will be selected to work closely with a Schreyer Honors College dean or associate dean and with each other on programming of mutual interest. The term for each fellow is one academic year and comes with an allotment of \$5000 in discretionary funds. Interested faculty should communicate their current and future connections to honors education and tentative plans for their work with SHC leadership. In the initial year, applications are invited from tenured faculty at University Park. To apply, please submit your CV and a brief letter of interest to Lisa Mellott ([llk3@psu.edu](mailto:llk3@psu.edu)) by August 31. For questions about the program, contact Zaryab Iqbal ([zxi1@psu.edu](mailto:zxi1@psu.edu)).

### **Faculty Recipients of Fulbright Awards**

Twelve Penn State faculty have received [Fulbright Scholar Awards](#) for the 2023-2024 academic year. Penn State was recently recognized as the top U.S. producer of faculty Fulbright Scholars for the 2022-2023 academic year. The competition for Fulbright

awards for the 2024-25 academic year has been announced and the deadline for submission is September 15.

### **University COVID Protocol Changes**

[Penn State will continue to follow CDC guidance on COVID-19](#), and university officials urge all members of the Penn State community to take recommended preventative steps to keep themselves and others healthy. Individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19 should [follow CDC guidance](#) for masking, testing and isolation, as needed.

With the elimination of on-campus isolation space specifically for COVID-19, the university is no longer communicating students' isolation status to instructors. Students are expected to communicate directly with their instructors if they must miss class and/or lab-related activities due to a confirmed case of COVID-19 and they are strongly encouraged to share their isolation dates provided by contact tracing with their instructors.

### **Faculty Passing**

Suchismata Sen, associate teaching professor in the Department of Asian Studies, College of the Liberal Arts, passed away. Suchismita was the director of the department's Hindi Program from 2012 to 2022, and a Penn State alumna of the Department of Comparative Literature. In addition to Hindi language, she taught courses on the history of Indian literature, South Asian religious traditions, and survey courses on world religions. A commemoration event honoring her life and years at Penn State is being planned by the department for Fall 2023.

## **EVENTS AND TRAINING**

### **Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities for Teaching**

- Penn State's university-wide teaching center, the Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence (SITE), offers customized [programming](#) for groups from any campus or college—all you need to do is [reach out!](#) We sponsor a number of [grants](#) and [consult with instructors](#) to discuss any aspects of their teaching.
- Penn State's [Teaching and Learning with Technology](#) (TLT) units, [Creative Learning Initiatives](#), [IT Learning and Development](#), and the [Learning Design Team](#), offer workshops, programs, and individual consultations for faculty looking to enhance their teaching and learning through technology.
- SITE and TLT offer many continuous learning opportunities and professional development resources for Penn State faculty: [Faculty Professional Development Opportunities - Continuously Updated.docx](#)

## **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](#)