

News for Faculty – Friday, September 29, 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**

#### **Faculty Teaching Assessment Framework**

The Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs will begin [implementing a new Faculty Teaching Assessment Framework](#) that was recommended by the Faculty Senate and approved by President Neeli Bendapudi in May. The framework identifies four [Elements of Teaching Effectiveness](#) — effective design, effective instruction, inclusive and ethical pedagogy, and reflective and revolving practice — to serve as standards against which the combined sources of evidence are assessed. Please visit the Schreyer Institute's [Assessment of Teaching webpage](#) for more information and useful resources.

*What changes can faculty members expect to see this academic year in regard to changes in assessment of teaching effectiveness?*

- The Student Educational Experiences Questionnaires (the SEEQ) will be administered in all courses beginning fall of 2023.
- Mid-semester Student Educational Experiences Questionnaires (the MSEEQ) will be administered beginning spring of 2024.
- Faculty annual reviews for 2023 will include both SRTE and SEEQ data, as well as a self-reflection on teaching that is limited to 1500 words.
- Alternate assessments will not be included in formal tenure-line promotion and tenure reviews moving forward. For non-tenure-line faculty promotions, units may make their own determinations about whether non-tenure-line faculty going up for promotion may include alternate assessments conducted in summer 2023 or prior in their promotion dossier.
- Units are asked to update their peer review guidelines by July 1, 2024; more guidance will be forthcoming.
- The utilization of teaching review committees in the promotion and/or tenure process for tenure-line and non-tenure line faculty members will not be implemented until fall of 2025 to provide sufficient time to develop implementation guidelines and support.
- The Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence [website](#) provides more details about these changes and announcements for opportunities for professional development will be listed here.

### **Reminder of COVID Extension**

Tenure-line faculty members who were in their probationary period in 2020 are reminded that they are eligible to accept an extension to their probationary period due to the COVID pandemic. To date, approximately 42% of eligible faculty have accepted the extension. Once accepted, faculty members have a one-time option of rescinding the extension if they find they no longer need the additional year. For more information about the extension and how to accept or rescind it, please see published guidance [here](#). If you have any questions, please reach out to the Office for the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs at [vpfa@psu.edu](mailto:vpfa@psu.edu).

### **Academic Integrity Reporting Form**

Effective for the fall 2023 semester, all faculty must report [student academic integrity violations](#) at Penn State through an [online form](#). The streamlined process centralizes how violations are reported and addressed, which promotes consistency and allows claims to be processed in a more timely manner.

### **Asynchronous Classes on November Election Days**

The University Faculty Senate passed a modification of Policy 42-27 (Class Attendance) in March 2023 aimed at increasing student civic engagement across the commonwealth in local, state, and federal elections. The modification states that instructors should provide, within reason, the opportunity for a day consisting solely of remote asynchronous instruction on a November election day. It is understood that some situations (i.e., labs, Tuesday-only classes) make it necessary to hold traditional classes in order to achieve the curricular objectives of the course. Students are expected to participate in the day of instruction while also having the flexibility to participate freely in the democratic process. Instructors who cannot accommodate a remote asynchronous format “should provide, within reason, the opportunity to make up work for students who miss synchronous or in-person classes.” For more information, please see the guide at <https://www.schreyer institute.psu.edu/pdf/ElectionDayGuidance.Fall2023.pdf>.

Instructors are encouraged to contact a [Schreyer Institute faculty consultant](#) to discuss options for following this modification.

### **September Faculty Senate Recap**

During its [first meeting of the 2023-24 academic year](#), the Penn State Faculty Senate passed a positional resolution affirming its support for diversity in Penn State’s student body. It also engaged in a robust discussion with University leadership around the issues of free speech and faculty harassment.

### **Faculty Exit Survey – Corrected Link**

In the last Digest, we provided an incorrect link to the 2022 Faculty Exit Study. The exit study can be found [here](#), or visit OPAIR’s Faculty Exit Study webpage at <https://opair.psu.edu/institutional-research/projects/faculty-exit-study/>.

## **FACULTY OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Schreyer Honors College Reviewers**

The Schreyer Honors College charter requires that scholars be selected by faculty, so we are seeking more faculty to help read our applications. We have a great need to engage new faculty and desire to significantly expand the number and diversity of the committee to accommodate our applications, which continue to grow in both number and diversity.

This commitment will consume about 40 to 60 hours of time from mid-November to mid-January and will involve reading and rating about 40 applications. Reader training will be made available by video at the end of October.

If you would like to join the committee, please email Deyo Olorunnisola at [mzd1@psu.edu](mailto:mzd1@psu.edu) by October 6, 2023.

### **Proposals for EOPC Funding**

The Equal Opportunity Planning Committee invites faculty to [submit proposals for EOPC funding](#) to support the University's equity, respect, and belonging efforts and advance the University's strategic plan. The deadline to submit proposals for summer 2024 is Friday, December 8, and the deadline to submit proposals for the 2024-25 academic year is Friday, January 19, 2024.

### **Rock Ethics Institute Faculty Fellows Program**

The Rock Ethics Institute is [now accepting applications](#) for its 2024-25 Faculty Fellows program. The [program](#) offers a one- or two-course release from teaching during a single academic year to support faculty with ethics-related research projects.

### **TLT Impact Award Nominations**

[Nominations are being accepted](#) through October 13 for the 2024 Teaching and Learning with Technology Impact Award. Any full-time faculty member with a demonstrated history of transforming education through the long-term, innovative use of technology is [eligible for nomination](#).

### **Nominations for Faculty and Staff Achievement Awards**

Penn State Human Resources is now accepting applications for the [Faculty and Staff Achievement Awards](#) for 2024. Visit the [FSAA webpage](#) for more information.

### **Get Your Flu Shot!**

[The University will not offer campus-based flu shot clinics this season](#). For Penn State employees and their dependents who have one of the Highmark health care plans, the flu vaccine is covered at 100% and can be obtained at most in-network pharmacies, as well as at in-network primary care physician offices. For more information, visit the [Highmark website](#).

## **EVENTS AND TRAINING**

**Penn State Forum Speaker Series Presents Patrick Evans: October 23**

The 2022-23 Penn State Forum Speaker Series continues this fall, with speaker Patrick Evans presenting, "Communicating a Culture of Belonging."

Patrick Evans is currently a Captain in the United States Navy and serves as the Special Assistant for Public Affairs for the Secretary of the Navy. Previously, he served as the Navy's Deputy Chief of Information (CHINFO) – the office that develops and leads communication campaigns and guides the voice of the Navy. Evans received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism from the Pennsylvania State University and a master's degree in Mass Communication and Media Studies from San Diego State University, where he successfully completed the Examination for Accreditation in Public Relations (APR). [Visit the registration page to purchase tickets/ tables.](#)

### **Lunch with LEADS**

Faculty are invited to join colleagues at [Lunch with LEADS](#), a new University-wide series that will focus on the experiences of women in higher education. The inaugural event will be held from noon to 1:15 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 19, at the Pasquerilla Spiritual Center on the University Park campus, and lunch will be provided. The series is a diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging (DEIB) initiative.

### **Assessment Workshop Series**

Registration is now open for the [2023-24 assessment workshop series](#) presented by the Office of Planning, Assessment, and Institutional Research (OPAIR). This workshop series features a variety of assessment topics to support program learning assessment leaders and other faculty across the University. It will cover the full cycle of Penn State's program-assessment process requirements including assessment best practices, assessment in general education courses, and using Nuventive to submit reports. For more information or to register for a workshop, go to [opair.psu.edu/assessment/resources](http://opair.psu.edu/assessment/resources) and select "Workshops."

### **Penn State Athletics Faculty/Staff Appreciation Days**

Penn State Athletics has announced the return of [Faculty/Staff Appreciation Days](#) with Penn State Football for the UMass game on Saturday, October 14, and the Rutgers game on Saturday, November 18. The second of two Women's Volleyball Faculty/Staff Appreciation Days will take place on Friday, November 3 against Nebraska (the first has already passed). Faculty, staff, and their families can purchase discounted tickets.

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

- The Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence (SITE), Penn State's university-wide teaching center, offers a variety of [events and programs](#). We also offer [customized programs](#) for academic units from any campus or college—all you need to do is contact the [SITE Liaison](#) for your unit! All instructors are welcome to request a [teaching consultation](#) with a faculty consultant. Instructors may be particularly interested in these upcoming events:

- [Teach to Reach with Universal Design for Learning](#), Mon. 10/2/2023 to Tues. 10/31/23, Canvas
- [Grading Differently: Rethinking How and Why We Do Classroom Assessment](#), Thur. 10/5/23, 10:35-11:50 am, via Zoom.
- [Teaching Community: Teaching Multilingual Students at Penn State](#), Thur., 10/19/23, 12:15-1:15 pm, via Zoom.
- 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](#)