

Friday, February 23, 2024

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

FAQ: Teaching Effectiveness

My fall semester SEEQ results had a lower response rate than my past SRTE results. What can I do to increase the response rate for this semester's SEEQs?

Discussing the SEEQ with your students may help increase your response rate.

- Remind students that the SEEQ is not available during the last week of class for 15-week courses.
- Review the [new questions](#) with students
 - Questions are narrow and focused, so answers can be short (no paragraphs necessary!)
 - Questions are designed to elicit constructive feedback for the instructor
- Be sure to communicate how you have incorporated past student feedback into the course
- Consider providing students time in class to complete the SEEQ
- See [Talking to Students about SEEQ](#) for more suggestions.

Upcoming changes for Fall 2024

- At instructors' request, SEEQs will be available after the Late Drop period, which shortens the availability to Weeks 13 and 14.
- The MSEEQ will be administered for the first time in fall semester 2024, not spring 2024 as originally planned.

COVID Extension Deadline Approaching

April 1 is the deadline for tenure-line faculty in the penultimate year of their probationary period to accept a one-year extension to their probationary period due to COVID-19. By completing the online form "[Confirmation of Extension of the Probationary Period Due to COVID-19](#)," the faculty member's probationary period will be extended by one year. Detailed information is available [here](#).

Distinguished Professors Named for 2024

The Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs is pleased to announce [13 recipients of Distinguished Professorships](#) in 2024. The recipients are:

- Peter Arnett, Professor of Psychology, College of the Liberal Arts
- Ellysa Cahoy, Education Librarian, University Libraries, University Libraries
- Zoltan Fodor, Professor of Physics, Eberly College of Science

- Dajiang Liu, Professor of Public Health Sciences and Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, College of Medicine
- Carsten Krebs, Professor of Chemistry and of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Eberly College of Science
- Paola Migliaccio-Dussias, Professor of Spanish, Linguistics, and Psychology, College of the Liberal Arts
- Nicholas Rowland, Professor of Sociology, Penn State Altoona
- Senel Poyrazli, Professor of Counseling Psychology, Penn State Harrisburg
- Joseph Reese, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Eberly College of Science
- Tom Reinsfelder, Head Librarian, Penn State Mont Alto, University Libraries
- Edward Smith, Professor of Aerospace Engineering, College of Engineering
- Jennifer Van Hook, Professor of Sociology and Demography, College of the Liberal Arts
- David Witwer, Professor of American Studies and History, Penn State Harrisburg

Penn State Ranks First in Fulbrights

Penn State has been ranked [first in the nation in faculty Fulbright Scholar awards](#) for the second straight year, with 12 faculty members offered Fulbright awards for academic year 2023-24. Click [here](#) for a list of 2023-24 Fulbright recipients and [here](#) for a list of 2022-23 recipients.

Faculty Senate January and Special February Meeting Updates

During its [first meeting of the spring semester](#) on January 23, the Faculty Senate heard updates from Penn State leadership engaged in conversation on the future of the University. Topics included the budget, a new business approach, and the academic program and portfolio review (APPR). At a [special meeting on February 14](#), the Senate voted to pass a nonbinding “Agreement of Shared Governance Cooperation” as well as a proposal for several Senate committees to give regular updates on the status of various initiatives.

Faculty Passings

Roy Robson, professor of history at Penn State Abington, passed away on January 29. Robson joined Abington in 2015 as the division head for Arts and Humanities and professor of history with a special interest in Orthodox Christianity. His distinguished scholarly record includes three books and more than two dozen book chapters and journal articles. Read more about Robson [here](#).

Andy Landmesser, associate teaching professor of information sciences and technology at Penn State Brandywine, passed away on February 12. Andy taught courses in cybersecurity, information technology, and security and risk analysis, and he was instrumental in launching the campus’s cybersecurity analytics and operations major.

His impact on the Brandywine campus and its students went well beyond the classroom. In early 2023, Andy helped establish a National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS) chapter on campus. He also built and fostered a rewarding relationship with several prominent companies, including SAP. In fall 2022, he was named the College of Information Sciences and Technology Statewide Faculty Member of the Year.

FACULTY OPPORTUNITIES

Penn State Emerging Academic Leaders Program

Applications are now open for the [Fall 2024 session of the Penn State Emerging Academic Leaders \(PSEAL\)](#) program. The program fosters the growth of Penn State faculty members looking to enhance their leadership skills. [Applications are open](#) through Friday, March 1.

Campus Access and Success Grants

Penn State faculty and staff are invited to submit [proposals for Campus Access and Success Grant \(CASG\) funding](#) to support projects that increase college access, facilitate college transition, and encourage college success for Pennsylvania students who wish to attend Penn State but may not have a typical academic profile due to socioeconomic disadvantages, under-resourced high schools, or systemic barriers. The submission deadline for the 2024-25 academic year is 5 p.m. on Monday, April 15.

Travel Awards Program

Penn State Global has announced [Faculty and Staff Travel Awards for 2024](#). These awards are given on a rolling basis and are meant to support faculty and staff travel related to developing or expanding collaboration with select Penn State global partner universities and organizations. These are current or developing strategic partnerships with multi-disciplinary and university-wide engagement across education, research, and outreach. All application materials must be received electronically via [the InfoReady portal](#) at least six weeks before the proposed travel departure date.

Academic Program and Portfolio Review Steering Committee Seeking Nominations

The Academic Program and Portfolio Review (APPR) steering committee invites faculty, staff, and students to nominate themselves or members of the community to [participate in one of the emerging working groups](#) that are essential to the project's success. Nominations can be submitted at this [form](#), which is also linked at the APPR website. Nominations for this current call for participation will be accepted until Friday, March 1.

Applications Open for Provost Endorsement Program Providers

Applications are open for the [Provost Endorsement Program](#) for the 2024-25 academic year. This initiative, part of the University's ongoing efforts to support faculty professional development, invites faculty and academic leaders to apply for the

opportunity to lead a program in the coming academic year. The application deadline is March 15.

Provost Endorsement Program Spring and Summer Offerings

The Provost Endorsement Program at Penn State, launched by the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost and the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, has announced its spring and summer 2024 offerings. See the full list of offerings [here](#). If you have questions, please contact the management team at provostendorsement@psu.edu.

Nominate a Student for a Fellowship

The Undergraduate Research and Fellowships Mentoring office is looking for Penn State's next Rhodes Scholar. Are they one of your students? Fellowships like the Rhodes are competitive, interest- or merit-based opportunities that fund education-related expenses like research, language learning, study abroad, and in the case of the Rhodes Scholarship, graduate study at a prestigious institution. Some students seek out these opportunities on their own, but we know there are many other exceptional Penn Staters who would make competitive applicants. If you know one of these students, we encourage you to refer them to the URFM office through the new [fellowships nomination form](#). URFM staff will regularly check the form and work with nominated students to identify which awards they may qualify for.

EVENTS AND TRAINING

First-Gen Student Support Summit

The third annual hybrid [First-Gen Student Support Summit](#), hosted by the Student Success Center, is coming up on April 3. The Summit is a great opportunity for faculty to learn how to support the first-generation students in their classrooms, as well as connect with student support professionals across the University. The [Call for Proposals](#) window is open through Feb. 26. Faculty are encouraged to submit proposals on the topic of intersectionality through the first-gen lens; additional details can be found on the [proposal form](#). Registration for the Summit will be opening soon. For full details, visit success.psu.edu/events.

TLT Virtual Symposium Lite

Penn State Teaching and Learning with Technology (TLT) has announced that its virtual [Symposium Lite](#) will return on March 28, the week after the in-person TLT Symposium. The half-day event will feature four 30-minute, prerecorded presentations followed by 15-minute, live facilitated discussions with presenters.

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities for Teaching

- [SITE faculty consultants](#) are available to discuss these [self-reflection resources](#) for annual reviews. You can also schedule a meeting with a SITE faculty consultant to discuss how to collect [midsemester feedback](#).
- The Schreyer Institute offers [Peer Review of Teaching Grants](#) to support academic units as they update peer review guidelines. SITE's [Advancing Equity](#)

[and Inclusion grants](#) are available for the next academic year and require a pre-proposal consultation by April 1.

- The Schreyer Conference, co-hosted by the Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence and the Schreyer Honors College, present Dr. Sarah Rose Cavanagh as this year's plenary speaker. Her talk, [Energizing Learning with the Spark of Emotion](#), is scheduled for March 27, 12-1 p.m. (Zoom).
- Dr. Bryan Dewsbury, an expert on inclusive teaching in STEM, will give an interactive presentation on "Beyond Content: Teaching for Civic Engagement and Participation" on March 21 from 12-1 p.m. (in person at the Foster Auditorium, co-sponsored by University Libraries) and on March 18 via Zoom. [Register here](#).
- Penn State's [Teaching and Learning with Technology](#) (TLT) units, [Creative Learning Initiatives](#) and the [Learning Design Team](#), along with [IT Learning and Development](#) 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](#)
- Previous issues of this [Digest](#)