Friday, May 31, 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

Tenure-Line and Non-Tenure-Line Faculty Promotions Announced
Penn State has announced academic promotions for tenured and tenure-line faculty and for non-tenure-line faculty, effective July 1, 2024. Congratulations to all!

University to Centrally Fund Faculty Promotions
Penn State will be contributing more than $4.8 million toward faculty promotions in the fiscal year 2024-25 budget and $5.4 million in fiscal year 2025-26. Along with support for tenure-line promotions, the University will now also fund non-tenure-line faculty promotions at all campuses centrally starting in fiscal year 2024-25.

Applications Open for Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program
The Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program’s 2025-26 competition is now open, featuring over 400 awards offered in more than 135 countries. The awards cycle is open until September 16.

Faculty Senate Special Meeting
The University Faculty Senate held an off-cycle meeting on May 15 to discuss the Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP) made available to eligible Commonwealth Campus employees. The program, announced May 8, provides a financial incentive to eligible faculty and staff at the Commonwealth Campuses who wish to pursue retirement or other professional opportunities outside Penn State.

Voluntary Separation Incentive Program
As a critical step in its efforts to attain a sustainable financial operating model for its Commonwealth Campuses and position the university for a successful future, Penn State is offering eligible full-time faculty, staff and administrators employed at its Commonwealth Campuses the option to leave Penn State with a significant pay and benefits package. The Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP), with enrollment open through May 31, provides a financial incentive to eligible faculty and staff at the Commonwealth Campuses who wish to pursue retirement or other professional opportunities outside Penn State. Read the article here.

Budget Model Shared with Faculty Senate
Penn State’s Faculty Senate held an off-cycle meeting on May 7 to walk through the details of the University’s budget model with Senior Vice President for Finance and Business Sara Thorndike. This meeting built upon the high-level presentation Thorndike gave on the budget model during the April meeting of the Faculty Senate.
Reminder of asynchronous day of learning on Election Day – Tuesday, Nov. 5
As you prepare your syllabi for this year, faculty on all Penn State campuses are reminded of Faculty Senate Policy 42-27, which encourages faculty members to teach asynchronously and try to avoid scheduling exams or “high-stake assignments” on Election Day. Passed in March 2023, the policy was meant to encourage and give time for all Penn Staters to vote in November General Elections. For more information, see the Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence guidance on asynchronous instruction on Election Day.

2024-25 Administrative Fellows Selected
Three faculty members have been selected as Administrative Fellows for the 2024-25 academic year. The Administrative Fellows Program offers Penn State faculty and staff the opportunity to work with senior University officers to gain knowledge and experiences pertaining to leadership in the academic community. The 2024-25 Administrative Fellows are:

- **Saurabh Bansal**, professor of supply chain management, Department of Supply Chain and Information Systems, Smeal College of Business (mentor: Sara Thorndike, senior vice president for Finance and Business/treasurer and chief financial officer);
- **Vivian C. Hsu**, associate teaching professor of psychology, Division of Social Sciences, Business, and Education, Penn State Abington (mentor: Michael Wade Smith, senior vice president and chief of staff);
- **Roderick L. Lee**, associate professor of information systems, School of Business Administration, Penn State Harrisburg (mentor: Margo DelliCarpini, vice president for Commonwealth Campuses and executive chancellor).

Updated Conflict of Interest System
Penn State is launching a comprehensive Conflict of Interest System (COINS) Transformation Project to consolidate multiple disclosure processes into one digital platform. The new version of COINS will roll out this fall with all University faculty, researchers, and officials using the new system for their annual disclosures in Spring 2025.

FACULTY OPPORTUNITIES

Scholarly Communications and Copyright Workshops
University Libraries will offer virtual workshops on scholarly communications and copyright topics for students, faculty, staff, and the public. For more information, visit the Workshops page. Sessions include “Copyright in One Hour,” “Using the Researcher Metadata Database,” “Sharing Research Software with Open Source Licenses,” and “Copyright and Generative AI.”

CTSI Community-Engaged Research Fellowship Program
Penn State Clinical and Translational Science Institute’s Community-Engaged Research Core is accepting applications for the 2025-26 Community-Engaged Research Fellowship Program now through October 1. The program offers training and a mentorship network to scientists interested in advancing their community-engaged research expertise across Penn State campuses.

CTSI Virtual Conference
Penn State’s Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) will be co-hosting a virtual conference this fall in collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh, University of Pennsylvania, and national Office for Human Research Protections. The theme of this national Research Community Forum is “Collaboration, Community, and Connection: Partnering to Advance Research.” The registration fee is $50 and the conference will take place September 9-10. Register here.

EVENTS AND OTHER FACULTY DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Provost Endorsement Program Offerings
Registration is open for the Endorsement on Inclusive and Equitable Teaching, part of the Provost Endorsement Program. This program, offered through the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, aims to make large-scale professional development opportunities more easily discoverable and accessible to faculty across all Penn State campuses and colleges and to promote the growth of rich professional development opportunities. Browse all offerings here.

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities for Teaching
- Are you teaching this summer or planning for fall semester? Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence (SITE) faculty consultants are available throughout the summer to meet with you about any aspect of your teaching topic. talk to your students about how the course is going. Reach out if you are teaching a new course in the fall or would like to talk through your SEEQ feedback from previous semesters. We are interested in your teaching! We can:
  - Conduct class interview with your students to help you learn about how the class is going; another benefit of this process is for students to hear other students’ views
  - Discuss your student feedback from last year or help you prepare for a peer review of your teaching
  - Facilitate discussion or comment on your peer review guidelines (updates are due July 1)
  - If you are interested in delving deeper into Inclusive and Equitable Teaching, consider registering for our Provost Endorsement.
- 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