The Challenges and Goals for the Fall

• Protect the health and well-being of students, faculty, staff, and community members by offering options and flexibility as we build the student experience.

• Address racism, bias, and intolerance at Penn State and in our surrounding communities.

• Protect our international students’ ability to attend Penn State.
Return to Campus
A Full Learning Experience With Options

- Four course delivery options: In-person, COVID Mixed-Mode, Remote Synchronous (Zoom), and Remote Asynchronous (web).
- Options are responsive to course delivery requirements to fulfill learning objectives, student housing preferences (on campus, community, or at home), and possible need to pivot to fully remote.
- The key is flexibility to meet students where they are: Students can start at home, continue at home, start at any Penn State campus including the World Campus.
Space Planning for Instruction

• Many faculty want to teach in-person, but the biggest limiting factor is available space.
• Re-thinking classrooms to ensure social distancing has reduced our space capacity by close to 70%.
• To maximize in-person instruction, we have added space that is not typically used for instruction, such as conference rooms.
• Priority for in-person instruction goes to courses required for students to make progress toward degree completion (e.g. Allied Health programs, Nursing, etc.)
Course Delivery Schedule

- With 95% of fall course delivery finalized, about half of all course sections university-wide are either fully in-person or hybrid. Note: most in-person and hybrid courses are small sections serving upper level students.
  - 4,618 (18.44%) course sections are fully in-person,
  - 7,140 (28.5%) course sections are mixed mode, which is a combination of in-person and remote learning,
  - 7,985 (31.88%) course sections are remote synchronous,
  - 3,882 (15.5%) course sections are remote asynchronous, (includes 2,399 (9.58%) of sections that were already scheduled as World Campus and resident instruction web courses.)
A Community Building Welcome Week

• Staggered move-in the week before classes with individual meeting with RAs.
• Students will participate in required programming that builds on the Virtual Orientation. Topics include:
  • Alcohol & Drug Use/Abuse; Sexual Assault Prevention and Response; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; an Introduction to the Classroom (in-person and remote); Navigating a Physically Distanced Campus; and Life in State College.
• Evening programs will help connect students.
• Ongoing in-person and virtual programming will include campus tours, opportunities for networking, and performers/concerts.
• President’s New Student Convocation, Dean’s Meetings, and Be A Part From The Start will be adapted to avoid large group gatherings.
Why Students Are Returning to Campus

- Many courses benefit from or require hands on interaction with equipment.
- Opportunities for research projects and in-person mentoring.
- Students may have on-campus jobs.
- Access to resources including libraries, internet, computer labs, studio space, and specialized facilities that include fabrication equipment, science and engineering labs, multi-media equipment, performance space, athletic venues, access to animals and plant materials, etc.
- Opportunities to live, socialize, and learn with their peers.
Why Students Are Learning at Home

• Underlying medical conditions may require limited contact with others.
• Ability to make academic progress while saving on living expenses.
• Tuition savings by attending the World Campus or a Commonwealth Campus.
• Opportunity to continue working at a job near home.
• Travel or visa restrictions prevent returning to campus.
Admissions and Enrollments as of July 16

- Total UG apps for summer/fall 2020 are 103,692.
- First-year baccalaureate applications for all campuses are 94,532, up 0.1% from 2019.
- Paid accepts are 16,725, up 0.1% from 2019.
  - University Park = 9,416 (+7.1%); Commonwealth Campuses = 7,309 (-7.6%).
- PA apps are down 3.4% and paid accepts are also down 4.1%; comprising 9,969 first-year students (59.6% of entering class).
- Out-of-State apps are up 5.0% and paid accepts are up 8.7%; comprising 5,017 first-year students (30.0% of entering class).
- International apps are down 10.5% but paid accepts are up 3.1%; comprising 1,739 first-year students (10.4% of entering class).
- African American and Hispanic/Latinx paid accepts are down 2% from last year, but up 19% from 2018; (the 2019 increase was 21% over 2018).
- Summer Session enrollments are up 9.5% for University Park, 5.8% for the Commonwealth Campuses and 10% for the World Campus.
Penn State First: Shanghai and Penn State First: Seoul

Full-time residential programs to assist our new international students:

- 488 first-year Chinese students have committed to the Shanghai program, to be hosted at East China Normal University.
- 39 first-year Korean students have committed to the Seoul program, to be hosted at Yonsei University.
- Offering equivalents of Penn State Gen Ed courses.
- Instruction by local faculty and through asynchronous remote delivery by Penn State faculty.
- Robust co-curricular programming and Penn State community-building through interaction with local alumni network.
Addressing Racism, Bias and Intolerance

Action Together

We are taking action together at Penn State to address racism, bias and community safety. This website will serve as a resource for the University community, with updates from co-chairs leading the work for our new initiatives.
An Institutional Commitment

• In response to acts of hatred and increased polarization of our nation, Penn State is taking steps to address racism and bias at our university.

• Thousands of students, faculty and staff have united behind this effort and are invested in its success.
Measures for Lasting Impact

• Focus is on addressing immediate issues and longstanding challenges.
• A multi-faceted approach driven by input from the community.
• Touches every level of the institution—from the Board of Trustees to our academic and business operations.
• Formed Select Penn State Presidential Commission on Racism, Bias and Community Safety, with co-chairs: Danielle M. Conway, dean and Donald J. Farage Professor of Law at Dickinson Law; Clarence E. Lang, Susan Welch Dean of the College of the Liberal Arts; and Elizabeth Seymour, chair of the University Faculty Senate and associate teaching professor at Penn State Altoona.
• Board oversight task force is led by Trustee Brandon Short.
New Initiatives

• Task force to review the Student Code of Conduct; co-chaired by Nyla Holland, President of Penn State Black Caucus, and Shoba Sivaprasad Wadhia, Clinical Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Penn State Law.

• Develop mandatory bias training for all employees, and coursework for students.

• Improved policies, procedures and expectations that will increase hiring and retention of faculty who are members of underrepresented groups.

• Prioritize the well-being of students and employees through enhanced mental health resources and community-building initiatives.

• Enhance communication and responsiveness to community.
June 29 Virtual Town Hall

• Highlighted the University’s planned efforts to fight ignorance, and intolerance, model inclusivity and embrace diversity.

• High degree of interest from the community with 3K+ watching the Livestream, and 400+ views on YouTube.

Clarence E. Lang, Susan Welch Dean of the College of the Liberal Arts
Supporting International Students

Virtual Town Hall

Hosted by the Office of Global Programs

Tuesday, July 14 | 8:00PM (EST)

http://watch.psu.edu/global-townhall/

Submit all questions to globalquestions@psu.edu by 5:00 PM Sunday.

Answering International Students' most pressing questions on the topics of immigration & remote learning.
The Current Situation

• COVID-19, travel restrictions, and changing Federal regulations have created uncertainty for international students.

• On Tuesday, the Federal government rescinded visa restrictions after pushback from colleges and universities including Penn State.
International Students Strengthen Penn State

- Penn State is one of the top destinations for international students in the United States, with international students from more than 115 countries; top countries of origin are: China, India, South Korea, Taiwan, and Saudi Arabia.
- 7,000+ International students attend 13 Penn State campuses, with University Park, Harrisburg, Abington, Erie, and Altoona hosting the most students.
- Top enrollments are in: Engineering, Business, Liberal Arts, Science, and DUS.
- It’s notable that nearly two-thirds of international students are undergraduates, who bring diversity and new perspectives to our classrooms and campuses.
Support for International Students

- The Global Programs International Student Emergency Fund provides one-time emergency grants to assist international students facing serious financial hardship.

- Weekly remote sessions in Mandarin have focused on the University response to COVID-19, immigration issues, remote learning options, tuition, etc.

- Class of 2024 Student Outreach - Global Programs has reached out to over 1,380 new first year students that have signed up for virtual orientation to provide one-on-one contact.
Orientation Sessions for International Students

- International Student Pathway Orientation: Includes Welcome, Canvas Course, Follow-up and Immigration seminars, small group acclimatization and one-on-one meetings.
- International Parent Virtual Orientation is part of New Family Fridays, along with sessions offered with language support in Chinese, Arabic, Spanish, and Korean.
- Virtual Pre-Departure Orientation (Chinese paid-accept students and parents).
- Global Career Success sessions.
- Virtual Global Hangouts: discussion on racial equity driven by recent events.
Summary of our Path Forward

• Protect and support the health and well-being of students, faculty and staff by offering options and flexibility for teaching and learning.

• Address the impact of racism, bias and intolerance, and make lasting change.

• Protect our international students’ ability to attend Penn State.

• Provide orientation activities and support for all students and families to allow for a smooth transition to Penn State.