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COVID-19

Navigating A Global Pandemic



A Discussion with the Board of Trustees
May 8, 2020



PennState

University Measures—January

- Penn State began closely monitoring new strain of coronavirus.
- Restricted University-affiliated student travel to China and recommends against any travel to China.
- Consulted experts to develop international travel guidance.
 - Experts included: U.S. Department of State, CDC, WHO, United Healthcare Global World Watch Intelligence database.
- UHS began screening and precautionary measures for those with respiratory symptoms and fever.



University Measures—February

- Offered affected student communities on campus support/assistance.
- Launched dedicated COVID-19 website to provide regular updates.
- Joined global effort for open access to emerging coronavirus research.
- Canceled/suspended faculty-led programs to CDC Level-3 Advisory countries.
- Called home students studying in Italy and offered assistance to PSU travelers with chronic diseases in CDC Level-2 Advisory countries.
- Recommended 14-day quarantine for travelers from China, Iran, Italy and South Korea.



University Measures—March 1-7

- Canceled spring break travel for embedded courses and student orgs.
- Canceled all remaining study abroad programs and directed students to return home immediately.
- Began contacting all students abroad to offer help and to be aware of their plans

Major Task Force Effort Established—March 1-7

- (1) communications
- (2) campus health preparedness and response
- (3) study abroad and support of international students
- (4) general emergency preparedness and response
- (5) community interaction and coordination
- (6) semester/summer course delivery and enrollment management
- (7) commencement
- (8) summer and emergency accommodations
- (9) general business continuity
- (10) research support
- (11) athletics, camps and other large events
- (12) academic issues



University Measures—March 8-16

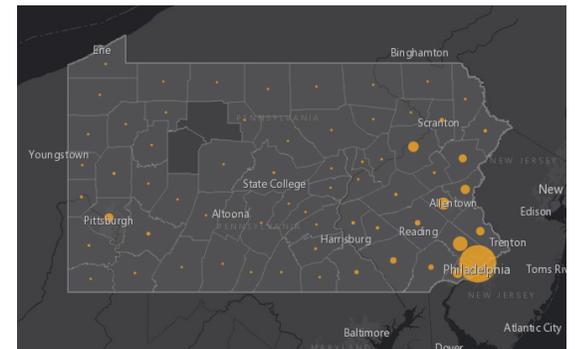
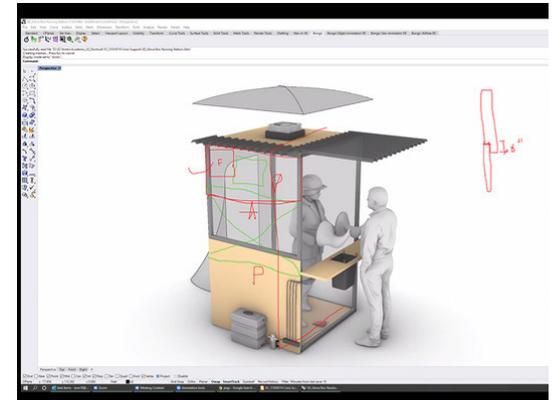
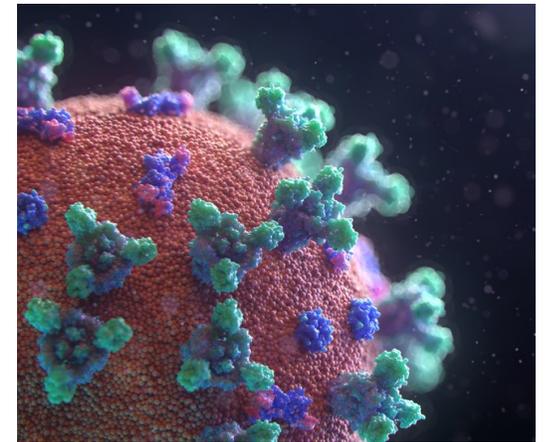
- Penn State Health hosted meeting to discuss COVID-19; enacted temporary changes for hospital visitation.
- All classes began taking place remotely as of March 16; 63K students online by 10AM on the first morning.
- Offered prorated on-campus housing and meal plan reimbursements.
- Staff began telecommuting.
- Focused attention on student support emergency fund through a targeted fundraising effort (now \$480K thanks to 2,625 donors).
- Made decision not to alter campaign goal and timeline.

Additional Activity—Research

Huck Institutes of the Life Sciences provided \$2.25M to 47 teams of researchers from three campuses, 10 colleges and 25+ departments to conduct COVID-19 research.

Examples:

- Developed prototype for testing site protective booth.
- Created online dashboard to monitor spread of COVID-19.
- Developing biosensor platform to detect coronavirus in enclosed spaces.
- Created system to sterilize N95 masks for multiple reuse.



University Measures—March 17-30

- Closed on-campus recreational facilities and all non-essential operations; library and research labs operated with reduced hours.
- Held virtual town halls for students/families, faculty and staff; more than 30,000 unique views.
- Announced that university will cover all worker salaries through April 30.
- Reminded students all off-campus social activities must be suspended.
- Implemented alternative grading scale for spring semester.



Additional Activity—Faculty

- Extended tenure-clock by one-year.
- Determined that SRTes will be administered but results will not be used for evaluative purposes by administrators.
- Launched [RemoteTeaching.psu.edu](https://remoteteaching.psu.edu) with tips, training and FAQ to enable faculty to provide highly interactive synchronous instruction when possible.
- Developed guidelines to retain fixed term faculty to the extent possible even during significant times of significant budget and enrollment reductions.



Major Task Force Established: Scenario Planning – April 1

- **Best Case:** Largely back to operations with tuition revenue down about 5%.
- **More Likely Case:** Could be hybrid remote/residential instruction with tuition revenue down about 10%-12% (acknowledges financial impacts of the crisis on families and students).
- **Worst Case:** Fully remote instruction in the fall with tuition revenue down about 30%-35% (acknowledges likely postponement/deferrals of starting at PSU for first-year students, impacts on retention of current students).



University Measures—April 1-15

- Developed new protocols to protect the health of employees whose responsibilities require working on campus.
- Penn State Extension began offering coronavirus-related resources; registrations for online courses have topped 78K with 4.5M+ pageviews.
- Extended virtual delivery of courses into summer; adjusted tuition.
- Canceled all in-person summer camps through June 19.



Federal Measures—Stimulus

- Informed by U.S. Department of Education that our stimulus allotment is \$55M. University paused to assess use.
 - ***\$27.497M for students.*** For all intents and purposes, the university is basically a pass-through of federal funding for cash grants to students.
 - ***\$27.497M directly from the federal government for institutional use; key to employee support and meeting federal guidelines for the funds.***
 - To date, US Dept of Education has suggested that they intend to provide maximum flexibility for universities to use these funds.



Additional Activity—Community

Initiated We Are Moments to celebrate the work of students, faculty and staff.

A few examples:

- Research community has donated 10,000 pieces of PPE to the Mount Nittany Medical Center, PSU Health Services and the Hershey Medical Center.
- Virtual Performing Arts Celebration attracted nearly 8,000 views from 23 countries and 47 states; 3,500+ archived views.
- New Kensington “Nittany Neighbors” initiative aids and supports students living off campus.



University Measures—April 16-30

- Announced that events through June 19 needed to be canceled, postponed, or held virtually.
- Enhanced online offerings and support for students taking summer courses; Career Services ramped up virtual career counseling/resources.
- Announced adjusted salaries from May 4 to June 30 for employees who can no longer perform their jobs due to campus shutdowns.

Major Forward-looking Task Forces Established

- Scientific Underpinning of Pandemic (led by experts so PSU can make decisions based on facts, data);
- Return to Work (faculty/staff-focused);
- Return to Campuses and Communities (student-focused).



Additional Activity—Community Health and Outreach

- UHS moved to telehealth and set up testing in the ambulance bay; Pharmacy began offering curbside service for prescription pick-ups.
- CAPS continued to offer vital student services, including same-day phone support, individual counseling through telehealth, and daily virtual Life Hacks sessions.
- UHS Legal services has been expanded to Commonwealth Campuses.
- WPSU supported K-12 learning partnership with the PA Department of Education for 105 school districts.
- 21 LaunchBoxes and Innovation Hubs are providing free remote courses and other resources to community businesses and citizens.



Additional Activity—Alumni

Thousands of alumni have stepped up to support others.
Examples:

- Ed and Helen Hintz made a \$100K gift to the Student Emergency Fund.
- Shanghai and Beijing Penn State alumni chapters raised \$3,500+ to purchase masks for UHS.
- Hazleton alumni chapter collected food for the community.



Admissions—Summer/Fall 2020 (as of May 5)

- Total undergraduate applications for summer/fall 2020 are 100,519; first-year baccalaureate applications are down 0.3% from last year.
- Paid accepts are 15,337, down 6.8%.
- Prospective students can extend the deadline for submitting their deposit from May 1 to June 1; 5,800 students have requested an extension.
- Year-to-year comparisons problematic because of extension.
- International applications are down 11% and paid accepts are down 2.5%.
- Out-of-State applications are up 5% and paid accepts are up 0.3%.
- PA applications are down 4% and paid accepts are also down 10.7%.



Celebrating Our Graduates—May

- Planned virtual University-wide Commencement; Colleges and Campuses are holding complementary virtual events with specialized online content.
- Planning for an on-campus ceremony once it is safe to return to our campuses.
- Mailed all graduates a mortarboard and tassel and Strat Comm is using social media to recognize achievements.
- Penn State's Senior Week celebrated outgoing seniors and welcomed them into the Penn State Alumni Association.



Planning for Class of 2024

- Will make decision by June 15 about status of second summer session and fall semester.
- Second session could possibly have a limited start with student cohorts advantaged by being together.
- Plan A is to open residentially in the fall; June 15 trigger if conditions or federal/state guidelines do not permit opening.



Budget Impacts—Fiscal Year 2020-21

- Operating under “most likely” scenario in budget development
- Hiring restrictions and plan for zero GSI for faculty and staff.
- Requiring a three percent cut in units’ education and general fund budgets for fiscal year 2020-21.
- With the support of the Board, freeze 2020-21 tuition to help ease COVID-19 hardships.
- Implementing capital cost saving measures including several delayed or deferred capital projects that will save nearly \$60M.
- Potential to borrow funds to smooth out financial impact.



Looking Ahead...

- Penn State maintains critical reserves, which can be used to help manage the deficits if revenue losses exceed our best estimates.
- Our strong online learning capacity can enable international students for example, to take courses remotely until travel restrictions are lifted, when they can return to campus.
- Our fundraising success will continue to play a vital role for the University as the economy recovers.
- Our research enterprise is continuing to show a solid trend in generating competitively awarded grants and contracts.

