

# The Path Forward



A Discussion with the Board of Trustees  
July 17, 2020



PennState

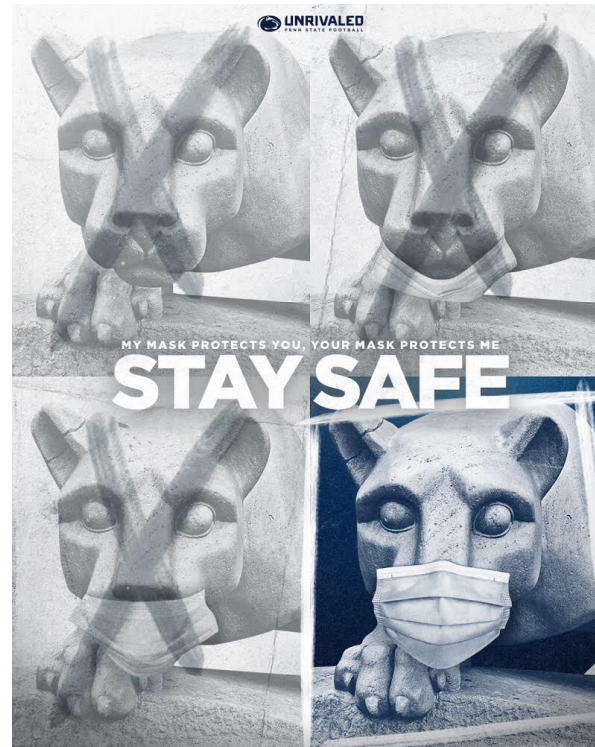
# The Challenges and Goals for the Fall

- 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



PennState

# 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



ADVANCING DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION AT PENN STATE

## 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.*



PennState



# 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.



IMAGE: GETTY IMAGES/SEAN\_WARREN



# 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



PennState

GLOBAL PENN STATE



VIRTUAL  
**TOWN  
HALL**

HOSTED BY THE OFFICE OF GLOBAL PROGRAMS

TUESDAY, JULY 14 | 8:00PM (EST)

[HTTP://WATCH.PSU.EDU/GLOBAL-TOWNHALL/](http://watch.psu.edu/global-townhall/)

SUBMIT ALL QUESTIONS TO [GLOBALQUESTIONS@PSU.EDU](mailto:GLOBALQUESTIONS@PSU.EDU)  
BY 5:00 PM SUNDAY,

ANSWERING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' MOST PRESSING QUESTIONS  
ON THE TOPICS OF IMMIGRATION & REMOTE LEARNING



PennState

# 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.

## THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

NEWS OPINION ADVICE STORE JOBS V

### SECTIONS

FEATURED: Enrollment and Access in an Age of Disruption Vulnerable Students and the Covid-Era Safety Net

### INTERNATIONAL



## Trump Administration Rescinds Visa Rule Amid Widespread Pushback

By Andy Thomason | JULY 14, 2020



Kitt Hodsdon via Wikimedia Commons

The Trump administration has rescinded guidance that would have prohibited international students from studying at campuses offering online-only instruction this fall. The move came on Tuesday amid widespread pushback from the higher-education community that included multiple lawsuits and a near-unanimous chorus of protest, alleging unnecessary [cruelty by the White House](#)

during a deadly pandemic.



PennState

# 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.

