News and Announcements:

1. **When students show signs of distress, studies show that interventions by faculty and staff can make a difference** in their performance and persistence. To assist our students, please take advantage of the following programs and resources:

   a. The *Early Progress Report (EPR) system* enables faculty to alert first-year undergraduate students and their advisers of academic performance problems as early as the third week of classes. The EPR period started Monday, September 10, and continues to Monday, October 8. Faculty teaching courses with students included in the EPR group will be notified by e-mail and directed to eLION to enter their progress reports during the four-week window. The EPR system depends on faculty participation. Students receiving unsatisfactory reports are notified by e-mail and referred to eLION where they will find information about factors affecting their performance as well as resources and strategies to help them improve; advisers are also notified. More information on the EPR system can be found [here](#).

   b. **If you observe other concerns such as financial difficulty, cultural or social isolation, and personal issues**, please help students connect with the appropriate offices and services. For a **comprehensive guide to undergraduate student services, resources and academic tools**, please click [here](#) to consult the *Undergraduate Information Network Portal*.

2. **Save the Date...March 16, 2013, for the 2013 Teaching and Learning with Technology Symposium.** Faculty are invited to learn and share effective uses of technology to enhance teaching and learning at the 2013 TLT Symposium. The Symposium will take place at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, University Park. The theme of this year’s Symposium will be announced soon. There is no registration fee and a continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. **In mid-September, the call for proposals will be opened for sessions that address the theme or otherwise showcase innovations in teaching and learning with technology.** See [http://symposium.tlt.psu.edu/](http://symposium.tlt.psu.edu/) for updates.

3. **eLion is getting a facelift!** Based on input from students, the enhanced eLion platform will incorporate visual improvements and several new services, such as an easy to read Message Center, a “favorite services” option, quick-links for easy access to popular features, and a newly
added predictive auto-fill search engine. The unveiling will be October 2 (https://elion.psu.edu). The original version will continue to operate simultaneously with the new version until it is decommissioned in early January 2013.

4. Reminder: Undergraduate curriculum proposal deadlines for the AY 2012-13 have been posted on the college website http://artsandarchitecture.psu.edu/facstaff/undergraduate-curriculum-proposal-deadlines. Please note that a prospectus must be reviewed by the Academic Council on Education prior to submitting proposals for majors, options and minors. ACUE meets the first Thursday of each month. Prospectuses must be submitted to the UG Studies Office one week in advance of the ACUE meeting to be included on the agenda.

5. An exhibition of photographs taken by Jessica Paholsky (ARTBA and Visual Communications) during her summer 2012 study abroad in Italy will be on display in 417 Old Main, Office of Undergraduate Education, September 18 to November 2, 2012. A reception for Jessica is being hosted in room 417 on October 4, 2:00-4:00 PM.

6. HOLD the Dates... October 8, A&A Fall Visit Day (http://visit.aanda.psu.edu/) and December 18, All-College Meeting (2:00-3:00) and Reception (3:00-5:00) at the Hintz Family Alumni Center. http://artsandarchitecture.psu.edu/facstaff/calendar/academic-year-2011-2012-calendar-deadlines

Outreach

1. The 13th annual National Outreach Scholarship Conference will be hosted by The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa on September 30 –October 3, 2012. The conference theme challenges students, faculty and communities to PARTNER. INSPIRE. CHANGE. To build a stronger, more prosperous, and just society. For more information about the conference, see http://www.nosc2012.ua.edu/.

International Programs:

1. Jamie Nesbit, representative of Studio Art Centers International (SACI) in Florence, Italy will be on campus October 8 and 9 visiting classes and talking to students. SACI is one of Penn State's most popular study abroad programs for art majors as it is one of only a few that offers upper-level studio courses. Ten of our visual art majors attended SACI in Spring 2012.

2. The University Office of Global Programs Education Abroad Fair will be conducted Tuesday, October 9, 2012, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Alumni Hall, HUB Robeson Center. Representatives from many of Penn State's study abroad providers and student exchange partners will be available.
This is a great opportunity for students considering study abroad to gather information. This annual “one-stop shop event” highlights more than 200 education abroad opportunities at Penn State.

3. Nominations are now open for the 2012-13 W. LaMarr Kopp International Achievement Awards. Four awards are given annually in the categories of undergraduate student, graduate student, staff member, and faculty member. For information about the awards including previous winners and instructions for preparing a nomination, please click here. Nomination forms may be completed and submitted electronically; however, if you prefer hard copies, email Janet Haner at jah3@psu.edu and copies will be sent to you via campus mail. Deadline for receipt of nominations is 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 10, 2012.

Upcoming Dates/Events

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Click Here for a complete Fall 2012 UP Academic Calendar

Highlights of the September Academic Council on Undergraduate Education (ACUE) Meeting

1. Announcements

   a. Congratulations to Ken Womack on election to ACUE Chair. Thanks to Jackie Edmonson for serving in this role the past two years.
   b. The Energy Engineering program has received full accreditation from ABET.
   c. New ACUE members were introduced.
   d. Congratulations to Assoc Deans Hardin, Long and Edmonson on promotion to full professor.
   e. Tracy Hoover has been appointed Assoc Dean in Ag Sciences.
   f. Some streamlining of ACUE committee work is being implemented. The two committees focused on courses and programs are being combined into one.
   g. Representative from the University Libraries has been added to ACUE membership. We are attempting to “hold the line” on voting membership to those in positions of managing academic programs. A new category of membership, Affiliate Member, has been created to facilitate participation in meetings from other units.
   h. President Erickson and Provost Pangborn recently met with officials from Middle States. Report is in the process of being prepared. With necessary funding and leadership in place, signs for a positive outcome are good. Status with Middle States should be known by January.
   i. We anticipate Fall 2012 PDACCs to be 100-150 students above last year. Student retention is also tracking above last year by 5%. Both PDACC and retention numbers are down slightly at the Commonwealth Campuses.
   j. Undergraduate application is now live. We received over 1000 apps on the first day. Several campus recruitment programs have been expanded including a new counselor’s newsletter and
receptions for prospects. Mailings have also been expanded significantly and the importance of responding to queries was emphasized.

k. The November election will require voters to have an ID with picture and expiration date. Campus is currently preparing stickers that may be placed on university IDs. These will be available at the HUB ID office beginning September 17. Also, it is up to a faculty member’s discretion if s/he wishes to allow groups to speak with students in class about registering to vote, but discussions must be non-partisan.

l. Kudos were offered to President Erickson on the much improved freshman convocation program.

m. Still working to resolve some issues regarding mandatory reporting requirements (e.g. entries written in student journals).

n. Gus Colangelo will be stepping down as Assoc Dean in Smeal in December. Also, Eric White, Executive Director, Division of Undergraduate Studies, will be retiring after 42 years effective end of the calendar year.

o. ScholarSphere repository of the University Library is expected to be online soon. For more information about the repository, click here.

2. Recommended Academic Plan Template | Tom Harrington, Margaret Sebastianelli, Eric White

a. Since 2006, it has been our practice to provide students with recommended academic plans (RAPs) showing a semester by semester suggested course sequence. This has become a “best practice” model for universities across the country, as it’s proven to be very helpful in matters of academic advising, persistence and timely completion of degree programs. Links are provided from the Campus Bulletin and all RAPs may be accessed from the D.U.S. website (http://dus.psu.edu/students/sem_plans.html)

b. The next step in advancing this service is to publish these in a more interactive web format that also addresses issues of accessibility. The new template was presented, and the intent is to roll out a pilot this fall. October 2014 is the deadline for compliance, so DUS will be working to convert current RAPs into new format this academic year. The template will be printable and viewable on small screen devices.

3. Grade Reporting Under Federal Regulations | Anna Griswold

a. Currently, 84% of Penn State undergraduate students receive financial aid; 61% receive aid from federal sources.

b. A key regulation for distribution of aid to a student is that s/he must complete 60% of coursework in a semester. The 60% rule also applies to completion of individual courses. This requires that in cases where a student fails a course, the last date of participation must be documented. A recent audit of our systems indicated that we were not properly determining the last date of attendance.

c. The grade entry process effective Spring 2013 will no longer allow a faculty member to skip the field for last date of attendance for any student receiving a grade of F. If a faculty member has no record, s/he may select “never attended”, in which case the burden of proof falls on the student.

d. The importance of informing students about this change and its potential impact on their financial aid was noted. We are also looking at how other institutions are handling this requirement.
4. Program Proposals and Learning Outcomes | Jeremy Cohen

   a. A proposed revision to the P-Rules that would require P-1 and P-3 curriculum proposals to contain “a statement of clear, measurable and rigorous program objectives and learning outcomes” was presented. Such a statement would not be expected in the prospectus, but would be included under justification criteria in common program proposals.
   
   b. Motion was approved.

5. Proposed Revision to AAPP R-5 Syllabus (to implement revisions to Senate Policy 43-00 Syllabus)

   a. The Faculty Senate passed legislation in the spring that requires course syllabi to reference information available about procedures for academic adjustments identified by the Office of Disability Services. Suggested language is available here. A motion to revise R-5 Syllabus accordingly was made and approved.
   
   b. Concern was expressed about the provision in R-5 that requires distribution of a syllabus “within the first ten calendar days” of a semester. Comments indicated that most thought access to a syllabus should occur earlier, or that the language should be revised to “within the drop/add period of a semester.” It was recommended that this matter be taken up by the Faculty Senate.

6. Proposal New AAPP C-6 Course with Requirements that Extend Beyond Semester Boundaries | Jeremy Cohen

   a. A draft of a new proposal C-6 was presented that makes clear the requirement for each student to “be registered for the course during the semester in which its requirements are completed and the grade or symbol must be assigned at the end of the semester.” One of the considerations driving the implementation of this policy is the US Dept of Education Title IV regulations that require educational institutions that receive federal funding to be “term-based.” It was suggested that the Registrar’s webpage include a link to semester start and end dates.
   
   b. Motion carried.

7. Items for Preliminary Curricular Review | Jeremy Cohen

Contact
If you have questions or desire additional information related to any of the above items, please contact the Undergraduate Studies Office at 865-9523 or email Gary Kesler (gbk10@psu.edu) or Linda Wheeland at ljw2@psu.edu.