News and Announcements:

1. The Office of Undergraduate Education is pleased to announce the following undergraduate research opportunities open to students at all Penn State campuses:

   **2013 Summer Undergraduate Discovery Grant** applications will be accepted beginning in December 2012. The deadline for applications is Friday, February 8. This highly competitive program provides summer support for undergraduate student engagement in original research, scholarship, or creative work under the direct supervision of a faculty member. Information about the program and application requirements is available at [www.undergradresearch.psu.edu/summer_discovery/](http://www.undergradresearch.psu.edu/summer_discovery/)

   Entries are invited for the **2013 Undergraduate Exhibition**, Wednesday, April 10 at the University Park Campus. Abstracts will be accepted beginning January 7 and must be submitted by Friday, March 1. Entry guidelines and forms are available at [www.undergradresearch.psu.edu/exhibition/](http://www.undergradresearch.psu.edu/exhibition/)

2. The College of Arts & Architecture has once again been granted $2,000 from the "President's Fund for Undergraduate Research" allowing for small grants ($500-700) to support undergraduate research/creative activity across the college during the **Spring 2013 semester**. Interested faculty may submit one-page proposals to their unit directors/heads. (Please inquire as to the internal deadline set by your unit's administrative office.) Unit heads shall forward proposals along with their recommendations in digital format to Linda Wheeland ([ljw2@psu.edu](mailto:ljw2@psu.edu)) in the Undergraduate Studies Office by 5:00 PM, January 11, 2013. Notice of awards will be distributed by January 16.

3. REMINDER: **Grade Reporting**...As we approach the end of finals week, faculty are encouraged to please post grades promptly! Per Senate policy, deferred grades (DF) and no grades (NG) prevent students from graduating; timely submission of grades will avoid unintended consequences for our students.

4. **Intent to Graduate Activation**—Faculty and unit advisors please remind your seniors that the intent to graduate activation period for May commencement is January 2 - 21, 2013.
5. **The Forum on Black Affairs’ 38th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Banquet** will be held on Dr. King’s birthday, **Tuesday, January 15, 2013**, at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, President’s Hall. For the complete 2013 Schedule of Events, click [here](#).

6. **A&A Admissions Update:** Applications are tracking well below (23%) last year at this time (week 13). Total apps to date total **1,458**; target for new freshman in the college is **292 students**. **Applications for University Park are also down 15%**. The Office of Admissions is working to extend as many offers as it can before the semester break. **Additional efforts this year within A&A will focus on follow up correspondence with accepted students to achieve targets for each unit.**

7. For A&A Academic Year Calendar and Deadlines see [http://artsandarchitecture.psu.edu/facstaff/calendar/academic-year-2011-2012-calendar-deadlines](http://artsandarchitecture.psu.edu/facstaff/calendar/academic-year-2011-2012-calendar-deadlines)

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**International Programs:**

1. **Students considering a semester abroad next fall should be planning now.** For a list of all programs, click [here](#). The Education Abroad application deadline for fall semester is **January 20, 2013** (decision date March 15); for summer study abroad programs it is **February 1** (decision date February 27). Students should be encouraged to make an appointment with Randy Ploog (RandyP@psu.edu) to review programs before the end of the fall semester so they can further consider their options over the semester break.

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**Outreach**

1. The **2013 meeting of the Engagement Scholarship Consortium** (formerly the National Outreach Scholarship Consortium) will be held October 8-9, 2013 at Texas Tech University. The theme is *Engaged Scholarship across disciplines, Communities and Geography.*

Proposals are sought for presentations and posters that will inform or advance the research and practice of Engaged Scholarship and University-Community Partnerships through means of research findings, innovative program design and partnership models, proven community/institutional impacts, effective curriculum or service-learning models, collaborative policy development and integration, or successful civic engagement practices. Presenters should indicate ways in which their proposal relates back to the conference theme and/or the conference tracks. **Proposal submission opens January 15, 2013!** Click [here](#) for additional information.

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**Upcoming Dates/Events**

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<tr>
<th>January 4</th>
<th>Deadline to Request Leave of Absence</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 5</td>
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<td>January 7</td>
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<td>January 16</td>
<td>Regular Drop Deadline</td>
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<td>January 17</td>
<td>Regular Add Deadline (8:00 a.m.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 17</td>
<td>Late Registration Begins</td>
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January 21  | No Classes: Martin Luther King Day
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March 3-9 | No Classes: Spring Break
April 5 | Late Drop Deadline
April 26 | Withdrawal Deadline/Classes End
April 27-28 | Study Days
April 29-May 3 | Final Exams
May 3-5 | Commencement

Click Here for a complete Spring 2013 UP Academic Calendar

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

1. **Announcements**
   
   a. **This meeting is the last for Jeremy Cohen** (Sr Assoc Dean Undergrad Ed), **Eric White** (Ex Dir DUS), and **Gus Colangelo** (Assoc Dean-Smeal College). A collective thanks to all was conveyed by the Council.
   
   b. **An update on the issue of reporting when a student, who is to receive a grade of “F” in a course, last participated in the class was provided.** This is a requirement that relates to student financial aid, and the “switch will be flipped January 1” requiring us to make a good faith effort to comply. A working group will continue to work on tools for reliable reporting, but it is expected to be very challenging especially in large lecture format courses. It was stressed that faculty must know about this at the beginning of the semester (an email is being developed by the Provost), and that students must also be informed since their record of attendance may impact their federal aid. Information regarding how long such records must be kept for a course will be forthcoming.
   
   c. **The report of the General Education Study Group was distributed** in hard copy. With the departure of Jeremy Cohen, the Provost and Faculty Senate will be taking up this issue in the future. **A conference on general education will be co-hosted in fall 2013 by the Schreyer Honors College and the Schreyer Institute.**

2. **Preferred Name in ISIS | Boyer**
   
   a. **A field is being created in ISIS that will allow a transgender student to be known by a preferred name.** A new screen has been created with the intent of ensuring that everything is in sync including course rosters, Angel, eLion, etc. Records and Admissions will be developing a policy around this issue, but the intent is for this option to be operational spring semester.
   
   b. The process and procedures for residential (both UP and CWC) and World Campus students to make this request are to be finalized soon.

3. **ISIS Replacement Update | Schultz**
   
   a. **ISIS is thirty years old. The decision has been made to purchase a system rather than develop one in-house.** A working team with broad representation from campus units is in place and meeting monthly
   
   b. Principles that are driving current discussions include:
      
      i. **System will be university-wide** and must be “inclusive”
ii. **System will not be customized but “highly configurable”** (allowing for easier implementation of system updates)

iii. **Trade-offs are inevitable;** in some cases greater functionality may be gained, in others it may be lost.

c. **Future work will include more involvement of records managers from across colleges.** Important to bring in those that know Penn State well and have worked extensively with ISIS to assist with mapping current processes (and determining how we want to do or whether it’s still necessary to do certain procedures) and defining system requirements.

d. Will be preparing **an RFP for the product which will be distributed to vendors such as Oracle, Banner and PeopleSoft.** Timeline is to select a product by early summer and launch project in the fall. A minimum three year implementation period is anticipated with project being phased in to coincide with the residency cycle of a student.

e. **Currently the team is looking to add a Project Director** to provide continuous, full-time project supervision. A **web site will be launched soon** and will include an announcement for a project naming contest. **A graphic identity for the project is also needed.**

f. While the university may continue to review and make decisions regarding campus policies, **implementation of policy changes may be suspended during the phase-in period.**

4. **Proposed Revision to AAPP A-9, Experimental Admissions Programs** | Cohen

   a. The **need for a complete re-write of AAPP A-9 regarding admission of high school students and “experimental” admissions programs** has been identified. Policy presented is based on practices currently being followed by the Faculty Senate, Admissions and Undergraduate Education, and formally establishes a University Special Committee on High School Admissions.

   b. Motion to approve policy as presented was approved.

5. **Proposal Revision to AAPP L-2, Degree Checking, and AAPP L-8, Exceptions to Degree Requirements** | Cohen

   a. **Some minor revisions to policy L-2 Degree Checking** were presented that insert references and links to specific senate policies referenced in L-2 and clarifies where exceptions may and may not be made by deans and directors.

   b. Motion to approve policy as presented was approved.

6. **Proposed Revisions to AAPP P, Curricular Principles and Procedures, and AAPP P-3, Moving/Discontinuing Degree Programs Among Colleges and Campuses (approval of Video Learning Network delivery)** | Cohen

   a. The revision proposed addresses **the use of the Video Learning Network (VLN) and establishes the need for a prospectus and approved P-3 proposal for programs delivered using this technology**, just as is currently required for programs delivered by the World Campus and Continuing Education. **VLN used to deliver an individual residential education course does not require a prospectus or proposal.**

   b. Motion to approve revision carried.
Advising Issues for ACUE | White

Eric White, who will be retiring as Executive Director Division of Undergraduate Studies and Associate Dean for Academic Advising at the end of the calendar year, shared the following observations on his tenure at Penn State and the future of academic advising:

a. D.U.S. was established by the Faculty Senate in 1973. Prior to that, advising was conducted by faculty and the Division of Counseling.

b. New ways to organize and navigate the amount of information available to students are needed. Much related to advising and campus life—policies, practices and procedures--has become too complicated and increasingly difficult to explain.

c. There is growing dialogue nationally around the issue of academic advising by faculty versus professional advisers. Adding to faculty workload the responsibility to contribute to academic advising may not be realistic for Penn State.

d. Trends related to advising include developing scholarship and theory on the subject and positioning advising more closely with educational objectives and academic assessment activities.

e. There are many opportunities and options available to students that did not exist not that long ago—having professional academic advisers available that can work effectively with students to chart a path to achieve their academic goals is here to stay!

8. Items for Preliminary Curricular Review & Preliminary Articulation Agreement Review | 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.