News and Announcements:

1. The call for proposals for the Arts and Architecture Incentives and Innovations Program has been distributed. **Deadline** for receipt of proposals in unit offices is April 5; deadline for receipt in the Undergraduate Studies Office is April 12. The request for proposals is appended to this NewsBlast.

2. **Students to receive 2013 Reuben and Gladys Golumbic Scholarships** were announced this week. Congratulations to the following students and their faculty sponsors:
   - John Livingston, Music (Performance), Steven Smith, Faculty Sponsor
   - Dustin Julius, Architecture (Design), James Cooper, Faculty Sponsor
   - Jessica Paholsky, Visual Arts (Humanistic), Randy Ploog, Faculty Sponsor

3. **REMINDER:** From the Office of the Provost- Beginning this semester, faculty will be required to enter a last date of attendance for students when assigning them an “F” before grades for a course can be submitted. The eLion grade submission application has been modified accordingly effective spring 2013. The documentation used to determine the last date of attendance entered for a student must be retained and be available for auditors to review upon request. The mechanism for retention of this documentation is under development and faculty will be advised as soon as the details are in place.

   This requirement is the result of revisions to federal financial aid regulations--students who do not complete at least 60 percent of a semester do not earn the full amount of their aid for the semester, and the University must return the unearned portion of financial aid. Regulations require us to document the last date of course participation for students with failing grades in order to determine the amount of aid to return.

4. **Commencement activities for Arts and Architecture faculty, students and families** will begin on May 4 with a reception in the Walters Courtyard 9:30 – 11:00. At 11:15, all faculty and graduating students will proceed together to the Eisenhower Auditorium for the commencement ceremony at noon. All faculty are encouraged to participate. Please see your unit office for information regarding regalia.
5. **A&A Admissions Update**: As of week 26, we have extended offers to 579 freshman (from our applicant pool of 1,755), which is 92 less (-14%) than the same time last year. Paid accepts are 110, equaling the number we had at the same time last year. **Target for paid accepts in the college is 292.** At University Park, the target for SU/FA paid accepts is 7,200, and while offers are down 6%, paid accepts are tracking at 14% above this time last year, which may result in an entering class closer to 7,600 students.

6. **April is Financial Literacy Month** and business librarian, Lauren Reiter, has created a financial literacy research guide for students. Please feel free to review and share with your students. [http://www.libraries.psu.edu/psul/researchguides/business/financialliteracy.html](http://www.libraries.psu.edu/psul/researchguides/business/financialliteracy.html).

In addition, **programs that the library is co-hosting** during the month include:

Dr. Cathy Bowen: **10 Things College Students Should Know About Money** on April 10, 2013 from 3 to 4 p.m. in Foster Auditorium, 102 Paterno Library. Dr. Bowen is a professor and extension specialist in the Department of Agricultural Economics, Sociology and Education at Penn State. Her talk will highlight the key topics students should know about understanding and managing their finances.

Also, Farnoosh Torabi will be presenting via Skype in a session geared toward women on April 8 from 6-7pm in 108 Business at Smeal, and Daad Rizk who was recently hired in Penn State Outreach to work on the financial literacy curriculum will be doing a hands-on budgeting workshop on April 17 from 3-4:30 in 302 Paterno.

7. **Academic Advisers**... As students begin registering for FA2013 courses, **now is the time to review the degree audits for you advisees to check progress to degree.** If you are unfamiliar with how to retrieve or read a degree audit, please contact Joane Stoneberg in the UG Studies Office. Also, **if you have students who express interest in exploring other program options**, please suggest that they consult with Joane.

8. **HOLD the Date...May 4, A&A Commencement.**

For A&A Academic Year Calendar and Deadlines, click [here](http://wwwlibraries.psu.edu/psul/researchguides/business/financialliteracy.html).

**International Programs:**

1. **Applications for study abroad during the spring semester 2014 are due April 1.** Application forms are specific to the desired program, so please direct students to Randy Ploog (rxp5@psu.edu or 865-9523) for more information.

2. Faculty wishing to propose new programs must first consult with the Education Abroad staff before submitting a proposal. The process is outlined [here](http://www.libraries.psu.edu/psul/researchguides/business/financialliteracy.html). **New proposals must be submitted to Education Abroad 12-18 months in advance** to allow for adequate review and development.

3. The University Office of Global Programs, in conjunction with a number of units across Penn State, will be hosting the **Global Penn State Conference 2013: Internationalizing the Curriculum**, on
Friday-Saturday, September 27-28, 2013, at the University Park campus. The half-day Saturday session is particularly devoted to the use of technology in this context.

The deadline for submitting presentations has been extended to March 31. Presentations are sought on aspects of internationalizing the curriculum that include (but are not limited to):

- Drawing on the scholarly and cultural expertise of international scholars and visiting experts.
- Developing joint programs with international partners, especially through the use of technology.
- Encouraging students to engage in service learning experiences.
- Using international or intercultural case studies in coursework.
- Organizing international field work in conjunction with courses on campus.

Proposals should include a) author(s), b) affiliation, c) email address, d) title of abstract, e) body of abstract. Selection of presenters will be announced no later than April 2, 2013. The Conference Committee reserves the right to combine presentations or invite presenters to serve on panels. Please submit abstracts via email to Dr. Sylvester Osagie, soo1@psu.edu.

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. Click here for additional information.

Upcoming Dates/Events

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Click Here to access Academic Calendars

Highlights of March Academic Council on Undergraduate Education (ACUE) Meeting

1. Announcements
   a. Introduction of guests including Melissa McCleery from the University Park Undergraduate Association Academic Affairs and Taylor Hall-Masiello from the Council of Commonwealth Student Government.
b. Best wishes were extended to Dr. Nancy Herron, Assoc VP for Commonwealth Campuses and Senior Assoc Dean, who will be retiring June 30.

c. Updates were provided on current searches for the University Registrar and Executive Director for Division of Undergraduate Studies.

d. Update on admissions: Paid accepts are tracking comparable to last year at UP. Yield is 3% above 2012. Numbers at the campuses are down. Emphasis continues to be on recruitment and yield enhancement activities. Overall, out-of-state is down while international students are tracking at 12% above last year.

e. A flyer announcing the Schreyer Honors College Globalization Certificate was distributed. The intent is to provide students with “an integrated, interdisciplinary model for high-level learning about a country or region through a five-week in-country experience bookended by spring and fall honors courses.” Initial focus is on India; goal over the next few years is to expand offerings to Latin America (Brazil and Columbia) and China.

2. Assessment Realities and Potentialities at Learning Centers | Tanya Furman, Neill Johnson

a. Neill Johnson provided an update on assessment issues currently being explored by directors of Penn State learning centers. Research shows that much of what we do in the cause of remedial education is not working well (see Unlocking the Gate: What We Know About Improving Developmental Education). Data indicates that students are too often failing courses that required the completion of the remedial course. Learning centers are exploring a variety of replacement activities involving “learn to learn” programs and course re-design to include more application of concepts. “Pre-assessments” including greater use of online programs as diagnostics are being used to inform students of deficiencies that can be worked on prior to the start of classes.

b. An overview of current projects was provided including efforts to teaching writing tutors to work with engineering students which better contextualizes learning, and placing more emphasis on guided study groups rather than one on one.

c. Challenges include finding the best replacement activities to address needs of specific groups. Also, the Learning Centers, which are completely dependent on peer tutors, are losing some of the best tutors to other more lucrative jobs. Wages need to be increased.

d. A key opportunity has been significant enhancements in the ability to pull and track student data over time and across campuses to assist in the assessment of outcomes.

3. Current Initiatives in Academic Affairs: UPUA and CCSG | Melissa McCleery, Taylor Hall-Masiello

a. Melissa reported on current initiatives in UPUA Academic Affairs including

i. Assembly and posting of students’ academic rights.

ii. iClicker program is very popular. 400 were rented to students this spring versus 200 in FA12.

iii. Examination of attendance culture at Penn State

iv. Preparation of an Open Educational Resources Report that identifies current resources, benchmarks with peer institutions, and offers recommendations for Penn State.

v. Exploration of an online student book exchange

vi. Continuation of test prep week (Princeton Review) program which saw greater participation this year than last.

b. The agenda for CCSG includes the following:

i. Creation of a proposal to extend the time for drop/add. Ten days, in some courses, does not provide opportunity to attend a second class meeting. Committee is looking at statistics and will make recommendations; expectation is for an extension to 13 days.
ii. Preparation of recommendations related to academic advising, transitional issues, career services, and internships
iii. Creation of course descriptions that provide more complete and up-to-date information about content
iv. Examination of credit hour definitions for different types of instruction and apparent inconsistencies.
v. Exploration into possibility of a for-credit 2nd year experience course to address issues with transitioning, change of major, housing, financial aid, etc.

4. Proposed Revision to AAPP G-10, Grade Mediation and Adjudication | Karen Schultz
   a. The revision proposed is intended to clarify the timeframe for submitting the grade adjudication petition form to “no later than five weeks after the course end date.” Discussion focused on whether five weeks was an adequate amount of time especially between fall and spring semesters. An amendment to adjust to ten weeks to be consistent with language in similar policies was suggested.
   b. Motion to approve proposed revision as amended carried.

5. Proposed Revisions to AAPP E-5 through AAPP E-10 and the Undergraduate Bulletin to Implement Changes to Senate Policies 42-92, 42-94, and 42-96 | Karen Schultz
   a. Several proposed edits were presented to bring these policies and related procedures into alignment with recent senate actions. Most significant is to clearly denote that transfer, advanced placement, CLEP, and other credits “will be posted to the student’s record but will not appear on the student’s official transcript until the student has completed a credit-bearing course at Penn State.”
   b. Revisions approved as proposed.

6. Baccalaureate Program Assessment Demystified | Tanya Furman, Suzanne Weinstein
   a. The process of reviewing unit plans was described by Tanya Furman. The assessment committee has received approximately 200 plans for 160 programs. Each plan is reviewed by a three person team representing the assessment committee, faculty senate, and the Schreyer Institute. Reviews are shared across all campuses offering the programs to encourage convergence on best practices. The rubric for assessment plans-data collection was distributed.
   b. The difference between assessments of program objectives versus student learning objectives was discussed. It was noted that most accreditation reviews are more about demonstrating programs are achieving indicators or specific targets, rather than engaging assessment as a tool for identifying areas in which programs can improve.
   c. A workshop was conducted by Tanya and Suzanne in which Associate Deans were teamed to review sample plans using the rubric provided. The role of Associate Deans in facilitating this process was discussed; assessment planning will shift in the future from the Office of Undergraduate Education to college academic affairs offices.

7. Items for Preliminary Curricular and Articulation Review | Jackie Edmondson

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.
CALL FOR PROPOSALS
Incentives and Innovations Grants – 2013
College of Arts and Architecture

Background:
Once again this year the College will use revenue generated from summer session resident instruction to fund the “Incentives and Innovations Grant Program”, the purpose of which is to improve existing courses as well as support innovative and timely course and curriculum development.

Purpose:
The primary objective of the fund is to advance college and unit strategic objectives related to undergraduate and graduate instruction. Proposals should be quite clear in describing how the course(s) to be developed or enhanced contribute to key initiatives such as:

- Advancing entrepreneurship and innovative thinking
- Strengthening our significance and reputation in the arts
- Preparing students to thrive in a global environment
- Promoting interdisciplinary teaching and program development
- Assessing and improving student learning outcomes
- Growing the quantity and diversity of general education course offerings

Two types of grants are available. Larger awards up to $15,000 will be granted to one or two proposals in the category of New Course/Curriculum Development, and several smaller awards of $4-6,000 will be provided to Course Enhancement proposals.

Proposals for New Course/Curriculum Development (up to $15,000) should briefly describe the new course or program to be created including an assessment of the need and the relationship of the new program, course or courses to existing offerings. Proposals for Course Enhancement ($4-6,000) should describe the need and how improvements will advance teaching effectiveness and student learning.

A budget describing how funds will be used must be submitted with the proposal.

Additional points to consider in developing either proposal include:

- Developing a new course/program or enhancements to an existing course that has the potential to reach a large audience and generate significant credit hours.
- Developing a new course/program or enhancements to an existing course where credit hours, while not large, may be sustained over time.
Developing a new course/program that addresses an area of content not currently offered in the academic units or the College.

Developing master classes, seminars, workshops and symposia from which student credit hours and or revenue may be generated.

Developing a new program, course or enhancements to an existing course in which a commitment for matching funds or additional support from other sources, either internal or external, has been secured.

*Please note that proposals focused solely on converting an existing course to an on-line course or proposals to develop new on-line courses should not be submitted to this call for proposals. They should be submitted to the College’s e-Learning Institute.

Proposals should not exceed three pages.

Procedures:
The Incentives and Innovations Fund will be managed in the office of the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, Instruction and Outreach. A call for proposals shall be issued during the Spring Semester of each academic year to all academic units of the College. All full time and multi-year fixed term faculty shall be eligible to submit a proposal.

Completed proposals must be submitted via the School Directors and Department Heads. The academic unit heads shall evaluate the importance of a proposal to the strategic goals of the unit; discuss the sustainability of the proposed course or program after this initial funding; and, if there are multiple proposals from an academic unit, to rank order the proposals. The deadline for submitting proposals to Directors and Heads is April 5, 2013.

Following review by unit administrators, please submit electronic copies of the proposals (PDF format preferred) to Linda Wheeland (ljw2@psu.edu) in the office of the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, Instruction and Outreach. Proposals are due to the Associate Dean’s office by Friday, April 12, 2013.

A committee comprised of The Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, Instruction and Outreach, the Associate Dean for Administration, Research and Graduate Studies, and the chair of the A&A Faculty Council will review and evaluate the proposals. The Review Committee shall forward their recommendations, in rank order, to the Dean who shall make the final awards.

Schedule:
Proposals shall be submitted during the spring semester and shall be awarded prior to the end of the semester. The duration of the award, for new or enhanced courses, shall be through the end of the next academic year following the award. For new courses, a course description, in the appropriate format, suitable for circulation in the College and to the Faculty Senate, shall be submitted to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, Instruction and Outreach by the end of the next spring semester following the award. For enhancements to an existing course, a one or two page report shall be submitted to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies,
Instruction and Outreach within two weeks of the conclusion of the semester in which the enhanced course was taught.

When a conference, workshop or symposia proposal has been granted an award, a longer period of time to expend funds will be considered. A one or two page report of the event shall be submitted to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, Instruction and Outreach within two weeks of the conclusion of the event.

Adopted by Executive Council 1-30-01
Revised - Approved by Executive Council 2-13-04
Revised - Approved by Executive Council 11-22-04
Revised – Dean Korner and Interim Assoc Dean Leslie 4-28-08
Revised – Assoc Dean Kesler & approved by DDD 2-24-10