Dear Members of the Penn State Law and SIA Community,

President Barron just shared with the Penn State community that in response to the spread of the coronavirus and “in the best interests of the health and safety of students, faculty, staff and our local communities, Penn State has decided to move to remote learning for all classes beginning Monday, March 16, through Friday, April 3, with a plan to resume in-person classes on Monday, April 6, at the earliest.” Penn State Law and SIA will begin remote teaching this Monday, March 16 with the rest of the university, and we will be sending detailed information to students over the next couple of days. We also are prepared to support both faculty and students who do not have current access to a computer as we move to remote instruction.

The University also is strongly discouraging students “from returning to campus, off-campus locations, and group dwellings (e.g., apartments and fraternities), and should return to, or remain at, home during this time period, recognizing that there are international students and students who must return to campus,” recognizing that international students and other students with compelling circumstances may be here on campus. We recognize that both Penn State Law and the School of International Affairs have many international students and may have other students who must return to campus; we are prepared to support these students in partnership with the university on an individual basis.

In addition, please note that “[a]ll on-campus student-sponsored events and activities, such as student organization meetings, will be postponed/canceled until April 6, at the earliest” and “[a]ll non-essential events should be canceled, rescheduled or offered virtually through April 6.” We will be updating you on events over the next few days as well.

We recognize that these steps are “a significant interruption of normal business practice for our community” and that you will have many questions in the coming days. We will do our best to be rapidly responsive and supportive, and the university’s website, psu.edu/virusinfo, will continue to provide updates and information. I also ask all of you, as the President did, to support each other and embody the spirit of “WE ARE” as we work through all of this together.

Best,
Hari Osofsky

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