Dear Members of the Penn State Law and SIA Community,

I am writing to share some updates on summer instruction and on stimulus and student support funding.

First, the University announced that it will continue virtual instruction into the summer and will adjust summer session tuition because of “the ongoing pandemic and the persistent fiscal strain it is causing across Pennsylvania and the country.” It is currently planning for asynchronous online and synchronous remote course offerings for all summer sessions, but it is also preparing for a possible return to in-person instruction in Summer Session II if health conditions allow it. The University is planning for enhanced offerings and support during the summer session.

Second, the University announced the cancellation of all in-person summer camps on Penn State’s campuses through June 19 due to COVID-19 and the need to protect health and safety. It will make a decision on camps after June 19 later this spring.

Finally, the University provided the update that it is “slated to receive just shy of $55 million from the federal Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund as part of $14 billion in support for postsecondary institutions and their students under the recently passed Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, as announced by the U.S. Department of Education.” Half of that money, approximately, $27.5 million, will “be earmarked for emergency financial grants for Penn State students” to help with “expenses incurred related to COVID-19 disruptions, including course materials and technology, food, housing, health care and childcare.”

I will provide further updates on these emergency financial grants as I have them, which will supplement Penn State’s current efforts to support impacted students. Penn State Law and SIA students are still able to apply to the University student emergency fund, which has provided $113,000 to 155 Penn State students.

Penn State Law and SIA are raising money for both the University emergency fund and the Penn State Law and SIA Future Funds to provide supplemental support for impacted students, and more information will be available on those Penn State Law and SIA resources soon. We are extremely grateful that our graduating Penn State Law students and donors to Careers in the Law are giving to those efforts, and that AccessLex is donating $25,000 to every law school in the country for emergency support for students. We also are very appreciative of the contributions of alumni and friends of both schools to these efforts to support students.

As always, please let us know any way we can be supportive as you navigate this challenging situation.

Best,
Hari