Dear Members of the Penn State Law and SIA Community,

We hope everyone is doing as well as possible. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to be supportive. We wanted to touch base with a few important updates for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021.

**Transition to Remote**
We wanted to remind you that the last day of in-person classes for SIA is November 20 and for Penn State Law is November 24. I encourage students who are leaving State College for the Thanksgiving holiday to consider taking advantage of the university’s free COVID testing.

**Fall 2020 Grading**
The university announced a change to undergraduate grading this fall. Given that, we wanted to clarify our grading approach at Penn State Law and SIA this semester.

Penn State Law will continue, as planned, to give grades this fall. Based on national benchmarking, we have learned that other law schools plan to give grades and we do not want our students to be hurt on the job market.

SIA will follow the Graduate School’s approach to grading. As the Graduate School explained in its recent email to graduate students, it “has made the decision not to reimplement OAG for FA 20; a full explanation is presented in the document found here. However, graduate students facing significant challenge to progress toward their degree are able to request OAG on a limited basis with the support of their graduate program.”

We recognize that some students are facing unusual challenges, and we are here to support you. Please reach out to me or any other member of the administration if you need help.

**Spring 2021 Adjustments**
Penn State Law students who to stay in the same status (in person or remote) for Spring 2021 do not need to do anything. However, if you want to change your status from Fall 2020 to Spring 2021, Penn State Law students need to email Dean Engle or Dean Ferguson. SIA students will receive separate communications soon regarding modes for Spring courses through a process similar to that in Fall.

**Fall 2021**
We have begun to get inquiries about planning for Fall 2021 and whether students will have the flexibility to be remote next academic year. It is still too early to answer that question. It will depend on the status of the evolving public health crisis and for Penn State Law, what flexibility the ABA gives to law schools. We will provide you with an update as soon as we have one.

We are happy to address any questions or concerns at tonight’s student Information and Listening Session at 6 pm (zoom info below) or via email. We are here for you. We recognize that this is a challenging and stressful time, and want to support you. Let’s all continue to be there for each other.

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