

April 23, 2020, 9:30-10:30 am via Zoom

Theme: COVID-19 Check-in

Attendance: 30+

- **Updates from GP Admissions**
  - a. There is currently a lot of concern from everyone about enrollment, I-20s, and Visas (prospective students, staff, administrators, etc.) and decisions may be delayed due to the evolving situation.
  - b. GP Admissions continue with the financial review process for international students and issuing paper I-20s. There are mail issues around the world due to the pandemic, so exploring using electronic I-20s instead with OIA.”
  - c. Currently university is most likely considering a hybrid model for AU20 instruction (one possibility is online lectures and in-person recitations, to avoid large lecture meetings)
  - d. Question regarding residency issues (if students don’t move to Ohio for AU20, will they still be able to get in-state residency the following autumn?) – no information about AU20 instruction at this time, students may need to make decisions based on their own best judgment at this time
  - e. Question regarding deferrals (are they allowed by a single semester?) – yes deferrals can be made for any future semester, up to three academic semesters (so for AU20 admitted students to SP22), but depends on Department/program approval (might not be possible due to coursework, advising, etc.)
- **Questions about international students**
  - a. If AU20 is online and an international student doesn’t come to the US until Spring 2021, would s/he be eligible for summer internships? *Unofficially*, a few people confirmed that OIA’s answer is that they would not, because internships (CPT) require that the student hold F-1 status for 9+ months for to be eligible for internship.
  - b. Do students need to hold F-1 status to be hired as a GRA? Jennifer was unsure, Dina seeking clarification from HR/fiscal colleagues or OIA.
- Someone mentioned returning to campus by July 6, and there was confusion regarding that date—is this the date for returning to campus for staff or only the date through which on-campus events are cancelled? The latest from President Drake (on 4/30) says *“For now and until further notice, all university events are canceled through July 6, and all non-essential university employees are to continue teleworking and remain off campus, physical distancing and taking all other precautions to stay safe.”* Still seems like you can read the employee return date both ways, so best to be in touch with your supervisor/unit regarding specific plans for returning to campus.
- Several folks brought up wanting to get more communication from graduate-facing administrative units and OIA. There has been little formal communication on the graduate level about planning for AU20, deferral recommendations, possibility for international students taking online courses, embassy closures and effect on Visa process, best practices for communicating with students, international orientation plans, etc. AGPA



members recognize that this is a difficult time and ever-evolving situation, but recognition of issues and timely communication would be appreciated.

- Kerry Hodak mentioned Student Life has a good pandemic communication model—can AGPA look into this model?
- Can AGPA work with grad-facing units to provide additional guidance?

– **Ideas for coordinators/units/Colleges**

- Kindness checks (calls) for students (especially first years, those graduating)
- Communicating with prospective students/looking forward to AU20:
  - Can share a virtual tour link: <https://www.osu.edu/tour.html>
  - Taylor White from Environment and Natural Resources is willing to share ideas and resources for an online orientation. Feel free to email him at [white.1917@osu.edu](mailto:white.1917@osu.edu).

*For more information and resources from the Association of Graduate & Professional Administrators, visit <http://u.osu.edu/agpa/>*

