

1. Student Employment
 - a. Not finalized, but we expect the same policies as fall for:
 - i. Prior student employees caught overseas and
 - ii. New students on contract in the US. If the students are unable to come to Athens to complete their I9's, they should be able to complete an I9 remotely if their work can be structured for online completion.
2. I20's for spring start students have all been rewritten (whether they can get here is another question).
 - a. Andy reports some encouraging news about a few students getting emergency visa appointments.
3. International Student and Faculty Services (ISFS) has started pre-arrival communications with international students
 - a. You can find all communications international students receive on the following ISFS web page in the a section entitled 'pre-arrival communication' (<https://www.ohio.edu/isfs/resources-new-students/arrival-and-orientation-information>).
 - b. International student numbers to date:
 - i. 15 undergraduate students
 - ii. 5 OPIE
 - iii. 129 graduate students
4. We have no further information from SEVP on what requirements will be for Spring. We will inform students and this group as soon as we hear anything.
 - a. Unless we receive contradictory guidance, we also expect students who are unable to travel to the US due to COVID to be able to study while overseas.
 - b. We are awaiting final guidance from ISFS (who is awaiting government guidance) on the ability of F/J visa holding students to be able to study fully/mostly online. Please note, this guidance may break late.
5. We are still waiting for further movement on the proposed regulation related to the duration for which students would have their initial I-20's (among other proposed changes).
 - a. Over 32,000 comments were submitted, and most were opposed to the proposed regulation change.
 - b. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) must review all comments before moving forward.

Contact Diane Cahill at ISFS if you have any questions about items #3, #4, #5.

6. Merit Scholarship Update
The Graduate College is in communication with Legal Affairs regarding merit scholarships. The target date for go/no-go decision is Dec 1.
7. The spring graduate appointment deadline is Friday, January 15, 2021. If not received by this time, students will not receive their January 31st disbursement.
8. Pakistani Higher Education Commission (HEC) PhD initiative update
Beth expects a short list in early January.
9. Graduate Student Senate (GSS) passed a resolution extending of alternative grading for graduate students. There is a misleading headline in the Post. This could contribute to misinformation. GSS does not make this decision. The university committee tasked with making this decision voted against it. If this changes, we will let you know.

10. Problem with multiple digital signatures on forms

With the change in the university's use of Adobe Acrobat DC, using multiple digital signatures is complicated or may not work. The Graduate College is in conversation with OIT about this. In addition, the Graduate College is in a self-exploration stage with all Graduate College paper forms. Once cataloged, the Graduate College will discuss alternative options with OIT.

11. Quarantining for spring?

It is recommended that all students living off-campus quarantine. On-campus students will be required to quarantine. On-campus students will have a quarantine space as determined by Housing and Residence Life. Quarantining is based on where students live, not based on whether students are allowed back on campus.