

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of University Council
From: Amy Gutmann, President
Date: October 27, 2021
Subject: Report to the University Council

At the start of October, the Penn community celebrated the conclusion of our record-breaking *Power of Penn* Campaign. This extraordinary show of Penn community engagement raised more than \$5.4 billion to advance inclusion, innovation, and impact. Combined with \$4.3 billion from the *Making History* Campaign, we will have raised almost \$10 billion in support of Penn's greatest priorities during my presidency.

With the *Power of Penn* alone, we created 830 new undergraduate scholarships and raised nearly \$900 million for student aid. We launched Penn First Plus to comprehensively support our first-generation and low-income students. We created nearly 190 newly endowed positions, including many new Penn Integrates Knowledge University Professorships and Presidential Professorships. We have built spectacular new academic and residential facilities. We have created innovative new interdisciplinary programs. These span all our Schools and Centers and have made our campus irresistibly more integrated, beautiful, dynamic, and sustainable. That we massively exceeded our ambitious *Power of Penn* goal even during the most challenging pandemic in generations speaks to the profound and passionate support of Penn alumni, friends, families, and all our faculty, students, and staff.

Penn is now more strongly positioned than ever to continue making a world-class education more affordable and accessible, to producing world-changing research and life-saving innovation, and to engaging for good here and globally.

We had the opportunity to celebrate another important milestone just before Fall Break: the long-awaited Hey Day for the great Class of 2022. It was my honor and delight to greet our Seniors on the steps of College Hall and, at long last, officially declare them so. What a wonderful occasion and yet another powerful reminder of how we can enjoy campus life and our beloved traditions by working in solidarity to meet and defeat this pandemic. Congratulations, Seniors.

Congratulations and thanks to Dean Fritz Steiner of the Stuart Weitzman School of Design, whose superb term of exemplary leadership and service has been extended for two years. Thanks to his strong, far-sighted leadership and collaborative approach, the Weitzman School of Design is more inclusive, innovative, and impactful than at any point in its history.

Congratulations as well to David and Lynne Silfen University Professor Sarah Tishkoff and the Perelman School of Medicine's Marylyn Ritchie on their election to the prestigious National Academy of Medicine—one of the highest honors in health and medicine.

We're also very proud of eight Penn researchers who have received coveted Director's Awards from the National Institutes of Health. Congratulations to Amber Alhadeff, Ben Black, Peter Choi, Erica Korb, Michael Lampson, Mustafa Mir, Jennifer Phillips-Cremens, and Liling Wan.

As we celebrate these and many other Penn achievements, let us continue standing with and working for one another to keep our community and neighbors safe and healthy. Penn's commitment to ensuring we can live and learn in person is a source of great pride and hope for me. Let's keep it up!

PROVOST'S STATUS REPORT

University Council

October 2021

I hope that everyone will have an opportunity to visit our beautiful new [Biotech Commons](#) at 36th Street and Hamilton Walk. This renovated space, formerly the Biomedical Library, is our newest frontier in reimagining library spaces at Penn, with flexible collaborative work spaces, including accessible adjustable tables and a dedicated “design thinking” room; digital work stations with curved large-screen computer monitors; a Mixed Reality Lab with virtual and augmented reality resources; and a state-of-the-art Digital Fabrication Lab with 3D printers. We will learn more at this Council meeting about this new space and how it reflects the wide range of exciting initiatives under the leadership of Vice Provost Constantia Constantinou.

Please join me in welcoming this year's Provost's Distinguished Visiting Faculty Fellow, [Michele Goodwin](#), Chancellor's Professor of Law and founding director of the Center for Biotechnology and Global Health Policy at the University of California at Irvine School of Law. Prof. Goodwin is a pioneer of health law whose visit will be hosted by the Department of [Medical Ethics and Health Policy](#) in the Perelman School of Medicine. The Provost's Distinguished Visiting Faculty Fellowship is awarded annually to a senior scholar whose work promotes civic engagement, scholarly innovation, and inclusive communities, with the aim of enriching the intellectual and cultural life of the Penn community. Fellows mentor Penn students, participate in panels and public discussions, collaborate on research projects, and provide at least one public presentation to the Penn community. I also want to congratulate the four faculty members who received this year's awards from the [Excellence Through Diversity Fund](#), which supports faculty projects that advance our goals of diversity and inclusion. This year's awardees are: Joretha Bourjolly, from the School of Social Policy and Practice; Carmen Guerra, from the Perelman School of Medicine; Megan Kassabaum, from the School of Arts and Sciences; and Emily Steiner, from the School of Arts and Sciences.

I encourage all of you to consider applying for a grant from the [Sachs Program for Arts Innovation](#). This initiative offers a wide range of [different kinds of grants](#) to support collaborative and innovative arts activities at Penn, including small rolling grants for students and student groups, community partnership grants, and an annual grant process for larger projects including first year seminars, curricular support, artist residencies, and other ways of enhancing our educational mission through arts and artists.

I am grateful to every member of the Penn community for your resilience and perseverance as we continue to resume our shared lives on campus this semester, and I look forward to working together as we head into the second half of the semester.

Beth A. Winkelstein
Interim Provost



PPSA – Penn Professional Staff Assembly

WEBSITE: <https://ppsa.upenn.edu>

CONTACT US: ppsa@lists.upenn.edu

Status Report for University Council – October 27, 2021

- The Employee Resource Fair was held virtually October 14-15. Forty-eight organizations from Penn and our community shared descriptions of the resources they offer to Penn staff and faculty. In addition, a series of 31 “live” sessions allowed participants to speak directly with representatives from several of these organizations across the two-day period. The site received more than 3,000 views during the two days, and many of the materials remain accessible in archival form at www.upenn.edu/erf/.
- We invite you to reach out to us at *any* time about matters of Penn staff interest. The email listserv, ppsa@lists.upenn.edu, reach the PPSA Tri-Chairs collectively.
- PPSA’s Executive Board meets on the second Monday each month from 12:30-1:30pm. All monthly paid staff are invited to attend and observe. Meetings are held via Zoom until further notice.
- PPSA publishes a **weekly newsletter** on Tuesday mornings. [Click here to join the mailing list.](#)
- The PPSA **Book Club** will next discuss *Libertie* by Kaitlyn Greenidge on November 17, from 12-1pm. [Click here to join the Book Club.](#) (*Monthly except Jul., Aug., Dec. Open to monthly-paid staff.*)

Respectfully submitted,

J. Patrick Walsh, Chair

Kris Forrest, Past Chair

Anne Corcoran-Petela, Chair-Elect

walshjam@upenn.edu

krisf@upenn.edu

corcoran@wharton.upenn.edu

Executive Assistant to the Faculty Senate

Director of Finance, Penn Museum

Associate Director, Aresty Institute of
Executive Education, Wharton School



Weekly Paid Professional Staff Assembly Status Report

- WPPSA 2021-2022 hosted its first General Members meeting on Sept. 16th 2021.
- Our executive committee selected both a Chair and Co-Chair for the 2021-2022 AY.
- Representation from WPPSA has now been assigned for all University committees.
- WPPSA Executive Committee outlined 2021-22 goals. The focus will be on building social and cultural capital at UPenn. Initiatives include:
 - Increase membership through outreach, awareness and brand management.
 - Facilitate community and connection through monthly general membership meetings and our guest speaker series: "Creating Capital: What is social and cultural capital and why you need it?"
 - Cross-advertise and collaborate with PPSA on activities in order to establish continuity in professional education for all staff.
- Website:
 - Updates to our website with an emphasis on our about, mission and board member sections.
 - Restructuring will allow better navigation and accessibility to events and campus resources.
- Meeting with Vice President of HR, Jack Hauer
 - Develop strategies to support engagement with weekly paid staff

Website: <https://wppsa.upenn.edu>

Contact Us: https://upenn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_abgOq0SqM9YpRL8



Best,

Amber Banayat, Chair of WPPSA

Cynthia Di Loretto, Co-Chair of WPPSA