

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of University Council
From: Wendell Pritchett, Interim President
Date: March 30, 2022
Subject: Report to the University Council

Two weeks ago, we shared the news that everybody has been waiting two long years to hear. In keeping with city and CDC guidance, Penn dropped its masking mandate with the exception of health care facilities and classrooms. Our campus and community continue to move closer to normalcy.

Penn arrived at this point thanks to all of you and the concerted efforts of our entire University. Of course, the most enduring lesson we have learned in this pandemic is to expect the unexpected. We will remain vigilant, keeping close tabs on the latest science and public health guidance as Penn and the world continue to meet the challenges of COVID-19. For now, thank you once again for your leadership and service in support of Penn's efforts.

At the spring Stated Meeting of the Board of Trustees, the Board approved a resolution naming Liz Magill the 9th president of Penn. President-elect Magill accepted and joined the Board, University leadership, faculty, students, and staff for a celebratory march down Locust Walk. Escorted by the Penn Band and the Quaker—with a surprise appearance by Philly Flyers mascot Gritty—the President-elect enjoyed a truly warm and memorable Penn welcome.

The Penn community is also celebrating a number of auspicious anniversaries. This Friday, Du Bois College House celebrates the 50th anniversary of its creation with a Family Reunion. In addition, the Asian American Studies Program recently marked their 25th anniversary. On behalf of the entire University, I congratulate our students, faculty, and staff on these and many other extraordinary milestones for Penn.

Amid all of this good news, the Penn community also reaches out to all those who are suffering in Ukraine during this terrible time. We announced the University's and Penn Medicine's support for humanitarian efforts in Ukraine. We created a gift page to collect donations from the Penn community and pledged to match dollar for dollar \$100K in donations—and quickly raised far in excess of our announced goal. This is in keeping with similar matching campaigns for other recent humanitarian causes, from COVID-19 relief for India to Hurricane Irma recovery for Puerto Rico. I am proud to join Dr. Jameson and the Penn community in this important effort.

I hope you all enjoyed a restful spring break, and I join you in looking forward to the rest of the spring semester.

PROVOST'S STATUS REPORT

University Council

March 2022

I am very pleased to congratulate Prof. Michael Horowitz, who will be taking a leave as the Richard Perry Professor and Director of Perry World House to serve in an important position with the US Department of Defense. His vision, energy, and intellectual rigor have defined the mission of [Perry World House](#) from its founding in 2016. Executive Director LaShawn Jefferson has agreed to assume the role of Senior Executive Director, and we will also be forming a new faculty council – led by Prof. Ezekiel Emanuel, Diane v.S. Levy and Robert M. Levy University Professor and Vice Provost for Global Initiatives – to provide even greater faculty engagement and ensure that Perry World House expands its vital role as a place for cutting-edge research and events that address the most important global policy questions. We are confident that the new leadership team will sustain the invaluable work of Perry World House, at a time when its leadership on global challenges is needed more than ever.

The [Excellence Through Diversity Fund](#) is one of the University's most important means of supporting faculty projects that promise to advance faculty diversity, equity and inclusion; promote collaborations across disciplines, departments, and/or Schools; and/or foster new understandings of the structures, policies, and programs that advance faculty diversity, equity, and inclusion. Projects are open to faculty at any rank and may include cross-School research, conferences and events, large-scale faculty development work, and projects that assess the climate for diversity and inclusion at Penn. This year's Fund also prioritizes proposals that recognize and seek to address the needs of junior faculty who have been disproportionately negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Proposals are due by April 29, and you can consult the full [Call for Proposals](#) for more detailed information.

I also encourage faculty members to consider applying for an [Academically Based Community Service Course grant](#) for next academic year. These courses, which faculty and students often tell us are among their most rewarding experiences at Penn, are designed to engage undergraduate and graduate students in real-world problem-solving projects in partnership with schools and community organizations in West Philadelphia. The grants support faculty in developing new courses or adapting existing courses that combine research with school and community projects. The courses are based in the [Netter Center](#) for Community Partnerships, which will support the course beyond the duration of the grant by providing undergraduate work-study teaching assistants, transportation, and ongoing community partnerships. Proposals are due by April 15, and you can learn more about [previous ABCS courses](#) on the Netter Center website.

I look forward to working together as we head into the great spring season ahead.

Beth A. Winkelstein
Interim Provost



University of Pennsylvania Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA)

Constituency Status Report for University Council – March 30, 2022

GAPSA is thankful for the continued leadership and partnership from Interim President Wendell Pritchett and Interim Provost Beth Winkelstein during this period of University leadership transition towards bettering the Penn community and experience for all.

- Policy/Advocacy:
 - Our COVID Policy and Support subcommittee has procured and distributed masks to our constituents, helping to promote COVID safety and alleviate our constituent's burden in independently procuring their own supply.
 - GAPSA has passed a resolution – in collaboration with the Undergraduate Assembly, Law School Council of Student Representatives, and Wharton Graduate Association – detailing our constituent's concerns and recommended actions for consideration by the Faculty Senate against offensive comments by Professor Amy Wax.
 - GAPSA Wellness Committee has compiled results from a recent survey of all 12 schools and will work with Penn Wellness and school leadership to address key findings.
 - GAPSA continues to advocate for financial and legal resource support for our constituents affected by the war in Ukraine

We seek partnership, collaboration, guidance, and support from the University and your groups on these topics to help improve the Penn experience for all our community members.

- Our Programming division remains ambitious and diligent with plans for large-scale in-person events to fulfill our ongoing mission towards rebuilding our community, while continuing to apply best practices for COVID safety in accordance to evolving policies. These include the Spring Gala, Beyond Penn, and Spring Olympiad, to name a few. Details will be publicized on our channels ([website](#), facebook, instagram, and newsletter) as they are finalized.
- Our fourth and final round of Student Group Event Funding and Green Leaf Funding for the academic year is open – we are proud to have supported the returning activities of existing student groups and help support the founding of tens of new student groups.
- Please reach out to collaborate and engage with us – our councils, committees, and general assembly meetings are open to all. Meeting details, agendas, and approved minutes can be found [here](#).

Thank you very much for reading! Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions/comments.
Respectfully submitted,

Paradorn (Joe) Rummaneethorn, *GAPSA President 2021-2022*
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Contact us: <https://www.gapsa.upenn.edu/contact-us>



Weekly Paid Professional Staff Assembly Status Report

- WPPSA is hosting a Benefits and Open enrollment Information session with Susan Sproat, Executive Director Human Resources during our General Assembly meeting on **March 23, 2022 at noon.**
- **Elections:** WPPSA is ramping up for both University Standing committees and WPPSA's Executive Board elections. A call for nominations will begin Monday March 28, 2022. Interested individuals can email abanayat@upenn.edu or visit our [website](#) for more information.
- Our 2nd Voices with Jack will be on April 5th at noon. If you are interested in participating during the discussion, RSVP [here](#). The purpose is to develop a reciprocal partnership and dialogue with HR. Staff will be selected and given the opportunity to share experiences and learn more on career, policy, and university-relations.
- Our 2nd Restorative Practices @ Penn collaboration with WPPSA will be on April 13th. The trainings are focused on the basics of the Restorative philosophy along with some key communication, conflict skills and techniques with an emphasis on "managing up" and email communication. More Information: [HERE](#)
- WPPSA's website is now up to date. Learn more about [events](#) and email us at our new contact email: pennwppsa@upenn.edu.
- **Job openings:** We are still looking to fill two new positions including: Outreach Specialist and Digital Platform Specialist. Both positions will work in tandem with the Communications Deputy and oversight by the WPPSA Chair. If interested, staff should fill out the [contact us form](#).

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

Contact Us: [HERE](#)



Best,

Amber Banayat, Chair of WPPSA