

To: Members of University Council
From: President Liz Magill
Date: September 14, 2022
Subject: Report to the University Council

Welcome to a new academic year and our first meeting of University Council. I'm grateful for your service and look forward to a productive year ahead.

The fall semester is off to a great start. We formally welcomed new transfer students and the Class of 2026, the most diverse and accomplished Class that Penn has ever assembled. I was delighted to meet many new students and their families during Move-In and throughout New Student Orientation. I was also pleased to host a picnic for Sophomores and Juniors, as well as mingle with our graduate and professional students at a welcome back event.

As we prepared to welcome students back to campus, we also successfully concluded some important leadership searches. We were pleased to announce that Penn's new Vice President for the Division of Public Safety (DPS) is Kathleen Shields Anderson, who has worked in DPS for the past decade. Penn's new Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations is Jim Husson, who comes to us from Boston College and will officially begin his duties in October. And our new Vice President for Finance and Treasurer is Mark Dingfield. Also beginning his tenure in October, Mark is currently Associate Provost for Finance and Planning. I hope you will join me in congratulating and welcoming them all.

Penn also continues to host prominent world leaders for important engagement opportunities on campus. An excellent example is the September 13th Perry World House event featuring former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull on the urgent challenges of climate change. The event also features new Penn faculty member and prominent environmental scientist Michael Mann, who is the inaugural director of Penn's new Center for Science, Sustainability, and the Media. The moderator is Dr. Kathleen Hall Jamieson, renowned communications expert, director of the Annenberg Center for Public Policy, and co-founder of FactCheck.org. This event exemplifies the many ways Penn's students, faculty experts, and staff engage globally on the biggest issues we face today.

Once again, thank you for your service to University Council and welcome to another great year at Penn.

PROVOST'S STATUS REPORT

University Council – September 2022

It is a great pleasure to be back with all of you for the fall semester. I hope that everyone had a great summer and is enjoying the first weeks of classes. It is a particular pleasure to welcome President Magill as we look ahead to another year of important work on Council. I am also very pleased to welcome [Will Atkins](#), who joined us in July as Associate Vice Provost for University Life with oversight of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, and to thank Tamara Greenfield King for her outstanding service as Interim Vice Provost for University Life. We have begun the search process for a new Vice Provost for University Life, and we welcome input from every member of the community on this critical role. There will be a community meeting for the search on September 20 from 4:30-5:30 in the Class of '49 Auditorium in Houston Hall, at which all members of the Penn community are invited to provide input and suggestions. You can also contact any member of the [advisory committee](#) or submit confidential nominations and applications to: PennUniversityLife@storbecksearch.com.

This semester, we are also beginning the University's [process of reaccreditation](#) by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. This process begins with a campus-wide Self-Study Report and culminates in a site visit in 2024 by an external team that will issue its own report and recommendations. On September 15, from 12-1 pm, we will host a Zoom meeting with Dr. Idna Corbett, Lead Vice President of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, at which all members of the Penn community can learn more about the reaccreditation process and provide input on this year's Self-Study theme, *Inclusively and Effectively Educating the Whole Person for the 21st Century*. You can email PennMSCHE2024@pobox.upenn.edu to receive the Zoom link. We will also talk more about the Self-Study process at the October Council meeting, led by Vice Provost for Education Karen Detlefsen.

September 13 marks the beginning of [GradFest](#), the annual twelve-day celebration of graduate and professional students, which will culminate in the 21st birthday celebration of the [Graduate Student Center](#). Other events include a [welcome reception](#) and happy hour at the LGBT Center, a Saturday morning [brunch and playdate](#) at the Family Center, a campus food truck tour, a trip to Reading Terminal Market and Chinatown, and the first [GAPSA](#) general assembly meeting of the year, followed by a reception for graduate and professional students to meet their GAPSA representatives. I want to remind doctoral students of three important programs with deadlines of September 23: [Health Insurance Grants](#) to offset the cost of health insurance for PhD students who are no longer funded by their departments; [Dental Insurance Grants](#) to reimburse half the cost of the [Penn Dental Student Insurance Plan](#); and [Family Grants and Dependent Insurance Grants](#) to offset the costs of childcare and/or dependent health insurance.

I look forward to working together in the semester ahead!

Beth A. Winkelstein
Interim Provost



PPSA – Penn Professional Staff Assembly

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

CONTACTUS: ppsa@lists.upenn.edu

Status Report for University Council – September 14, 2022

We invite you to reach out to us at *any* time about matters of Penn staff interest. The email listserv, ppsa@lists.upenn.edu, will reach the PPSA Tri-Chairs collectively.

A selection of PPSA programming for the coming year includes:

- **Employee Resource Fair** (October 6, 2022, 12p-2p at Pottruck Health and Fitness Center)
- **Penn Campus Safety** (Fall 2022): DPS to present on the resources available to staff to enhance the quality of life, safety and security on campus.
- **PPSA Book Club**, re-starting in late September. [Click here to join the Book Club](#). (*Monthly except Jul., Aug., Dec.*) Book club will meet in a hybrid setting.
- **PPSA Connection**, a campus networking tool for Penn staff. Each month, you will be randomly “matched” with another Penn staff member and encouraged to meet up for coffee, lunch, or a simple virtual conversation. [Get Connected with other PPSA members by registering here](#). (*Powered by Spark Collaboration software*)

We welcome our new Board members:

- Kyle Czarnecki, Research Specialist B, [The Heller Lab](#), Systems Pharmacology, Perelman
- Atiya German, Director of Facility Rentals and Project Coordinator, [Penn Museum](#)
- Katherine Toder, Research Project Manager, [Orthopaedic Surgery](#), Perelman

And we extend our gratitude to the Board members continuing for another term:

- Kathy Tang, Sr. Clinical Research Operations Specialist, Perelman School of Medicine
- Dawn M. Deitch, Executive Director, [Office of Government and Community Affairs](#)

A selection of PPSA programming for the past year includes:

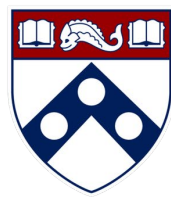
- PPSA Annual Election Meeting. PPSA is grateful to Bill Braham, Professor of Architecture, for joining our annual election meeting during May 2022 to provide an interesting overview of Penn’s carbon footprint calculation process.
- 2022 Accessibility Awareness Talk: Tonya Bennett moderated a panel discussing the focus on physical and digital access and inclusion for people with disabilities and impairments. (*Penn Today summarized the [event](#).*)
- On June 21, 2022, Penn Food and Wellness Collaborative Coordinator Lila Bhidé offered PPSA members a virtual tour of the [Penn Farm](#). We look forward to another gathering at the Farm during the coming year.
- PPSA and the Penn Libraries organized the 6th annual *Lightning Talks* on July 20, 2022, which provided an overview of the many services and benefits offered by Penn Libraries. An archived recording is available on the PPSA website.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Corcoran, PPSA Chair, Associate Director, Wharton ExecEd, corcoran@wharton.upenn.edu

Natalie Dury Green, PPSA Chair-Elect, Director, Penn Law, ndgreen@law.upenn.edu

Patrick Walsh, PPSA Past Chair, Executive Assistant, Faculty Senate, walshjam@upenn.edu



Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA) Status Report

University Council Steering Committee

September 2022

Councils & General Assembly

GAPSA's first General Assembly of 2022 – 2023 will be held on September 14 and, as always, is open to all the graduate and professional students to attend and raise any concerns.

Advocacy

In response to the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* Supreme Court ruling on abortion, GAPSA has released a [Statement on Abortion and Reproductive Care](#), highlighting available reproductive care resources and services.

In addition, GAPSA also released a [Statement on Recent Gun Violence](#) following the tragic mass shooting in Philadelphia in early July. While our thoughts and prayers are with the families, friends, and loved ones of the victims, we strongly condemn these violent acts. We call on our federal, state, and local legislators for meaningful violence prevention measures and gun policy reform.

President and Provost's Reception and Resource Fair

GAPSA was thrilled to cosponsor the President and Provost's Reception and Resource fair with the Graduate Student Center to introduce new graduate students to Penn. The graduate students had a wonderful time learning about campus and getting to meet with President McGill and Interim Provost Winkelstein. The fair attracted over 900 graduate students and we are thrilled by the strong start to our academic year of 2022 – 2023.

GradFest

GAPSA's annual [GradFest Celebration](#) will be held from September 13 – 24, with over 20 events to welcome and celebrate the beginning of the academic year. From GAPSA 101 to apple picking at Linvilla, GAPSA has planned something for everyone!

Robert Blake Watson
*Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
President*

Ludwig Zhao
*Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
Chair for Research Students*



Undergraduate Assembly

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Undergraduate Assembly Status Report

September 8, 2022

The Undergraduate Assembly currently has 29 undergraduate students from all three class years representing all four schools. New student elections for the class of 2026 will end on September 18th where we will add 9 new members including a transfer student. The UA had its first general body meeting on September 11th. GBMs are weekly on Sunday nights 9p-12a and open to the public. If you would like to attend, please email secretary@pennua.org for details.