

To: Members of University Council
From: President Liz Magill
Date: October 26, 2022
Subject: Report to the University Council

Two weeks ago, we announced the start of a historic University-wide undertaking to envision the future of Penn. We call it Tomorrow, Together. Guiding this strategic planning process is the Red and Blue Advisory Committee, comprising faculty, student, and staff leaders.

I am grateful to all the Committee members for kindly agreeing to serve in this important effort. Special thanks again to the Committee Chair, Annenberg School Dean John Jackson, and to the three Vice Chairs, SAS Dean Steve Fluharty; Senior Vice Provost for Research Dawn Bonnell; and Professor Emilie Feldman of the Wharton School.

I have charged the Committee to engage broadly, to solicit ideas from people across our campus and throughout the Penn community, and to synthesize what they learn. I have also strongly encouraged—and will continue to urge—everybody at Penn to get involved. It's enormously important that we all do so. The success of Tomorrow, Together depends on the wholehearted engagement of our Penn community.

As we plan for Penn's future together, I want to take a moment to acknowledge another historic University milestone: The inaugural festivities in celebration of the University of Pennsylvania and the achievements and world-changing contributions of our people. Let me share my deepest appreciation once again for all those who worked so hard to bring this important moment to pass for Penn. I also want to thank the Penn community for taking time to participate and enjoy.

And the achievements of our community keep on coming. To cite just two out of countless recent examples: We're deeply proud of Penn's newest members of the prestigious National Academy of Medicine. Congratulations to Regina Cunningham, Elizabeth Howell, Steven Joffe, Katalin Karikó, and Drew Weissman.

And a big cheer for our student-athletes who are making waves all across their respective sports. To highlight just one example: As I write this, Penn Football is riding an undefeated streak and will take on the Bulldogs on 10/22. No matter the outcome, what a great season it has been. Congratulations and good luck to all our Quakers.

Looking ahead to November 8, every registered voter has the opportunity and responsibility to cast their vote in the midterm election. I strongly encourage every eligible member of the Penn community to do so. I want to thank everyone who has committed their time and energy to registering folks and getting out the vote. Special thanks to the student leaders of Penn Leads the Vote and other campus organizations who are driving this important effort. In 2020, Penn was awarded "Gold Campus" status for its voting rate by ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge. That same year, Penn also surpassed our Ivy peers in both average voter registration rate and average voting rate. I am confident we can and will continue Penn's laudable track record.

PROVOST'S STATUS REPORT

University Council

October 2022

I am delighted to congratulate our first group of Provost Leadership Fellows. These faculty members will be the initial participants from Penn in the Institute on Inquiry, Equity, and Leadership of the [Faculty Advancement Network](#), a new consortium of national research universities that are collaborating to advance diversity and inclusion: David Goldsby (Earth & Environmental Science, SAS); Junhyong Kim (Biology, SAS); Marisa Kozlowski (Chemistry, SAS); Chinedum Osuji (Chemical and Biomedical Engineering, SEAS); and Shu Yang (Materials Science and Engineering, SEAS). I would also like to thank Laura Perna, Vice Provost for Faculty, and Joann Mitchell, Senior Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer, for leading Penn's participation in this significant new group. Please also join me in congratulating our first group of [Lauder Fellows](#) in the School of Nursing, who are studying tuition-free to become nurse-practitioners in underserved urban and rural communities, and our new [Presidential PhD Fellows](#), drawn from all nine of our Schools with doctoral programs, who receive three-year fellowships including tuition, stipends, and research funds.

I invite all members of our community to consider applying for two of our great fall funding opportunities. The [Campaign for Community](#) is accepting proposals from students, faculty, or staff to support projects related to equity and justice at Penn or between Penn and our Philadelphia community. These grants – up to \$1500 per project – can be submitted by individuals or by departments, programs, and student groups. The [Sachs Program for Arts Innovation](#) offers a wide range of funding for arts activities, including grants for students and student groups, artist residencies, community partnerships, faculty research, and public engagement with the arts at Penn, such as performances, programs, and exhibits. I also encourage faculty and advanced graduate and professional students to learn more about our [Postdoctoral Fellowships for Academic Diversity](#), which bring to Penn each year a group of the most promising and diverse scholars – from Penn and from other universities – who have recently completed their PhD or other advanced professional degree. We currently have 27 postdoctoral fellows at Penn in this program, who are working across more than half of our Schools as well as the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Finally, I encourage you to consider submitting a nomination for our important University-wide [teaching awards](#): the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching, awarded each year to eight members of the standing faculty, divided equally between the health and non-health Schools; the Provost's Award for Distinguished PhD Teaching and Mentoring; and the Provost's Award for Teaching Excellence by Non-Standing Faculty. We welcome [nominations](#), which are due by December 2, and we celebrate all of the awardees at a public reception at the end of the academic year in April.

Beth A. Winkelstein
Interim Provost



PPSA – Penn Professional Staff Assembly

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Status Report for University Council – October 26, 2022

- The Employee Resource Fair was held in person on October 6 – our first live Fair since 2019. Sixty-five organizations were represented from Penn and our community, sharing the resources they offer to Penn staff and faculty. Almost **600** attendees attended the Fair, double the amount that attended in 2019. In addition to a live component, we also provided an informational webpage for staff and organizations unable to attend in person which remains accessible at www.upenn.edu/erf/.
- The PPSA **Book Club** will next discuss *The Secret History of Home Economics: How Trailblazing Women Harnessed the Power of Home and Changed the Way We Live* by Danielle Dreilinger on October 26, from 12-1pm. [Click here to join the Book Club](#). (Monthly except Jul., Aug., Dec. Open to monthly-paid staff.)
- PPSA's Executive Board meets in-person on the second Tuesday each month from 1:00-2:00pm. All monthly paid staff are invited to observe by contacting us to request location information.
- PPSA publishes a **weekly newsletter** on Tuesday mornings. [Click here to join the mailing list](#).
- We invite you to reach out to us about matters of Penn staff interest. The email listserv, ppsa@lists.upenn.edu, reaches the PPSA Tri-Chairs collectively.

Respectfully submitted,

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GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSEMBLY (GAPSA) STATUS REPORT

University Council Committee

October 2022

Ph.D. Student Town Hall

GAPSA Research Council along with the Advocacy Division hosted the Ph.D. Student Town Hall on September 15, 2022. Over 100 students participated in the conversation and focused on a wide range of topics, including the new student relocation stipend, advisor-advisee relationship, graduation rate & time, housing, and food insecurity. As part of the emerging concerns, the Ph.D. stipend issue was extensively discussed. GAPSA has been working diligently with different University administrators and partners to address these concerns. The Town Hall minutes can be found [here](#).

Ivy+ Summit

The Ivy+ Summit is an annual meeting of student government leaders from the Ivy League schools, along with MIT and UChicago, serving as a forum for student leaders to discuss a wide range of emerging advocacy issues and initiatives pertaining to different aspects of graduate student life. This year, the Ivy+ Summit was held from October 21 – 23 at Columbia University. Nine student delegates along with two administration staff from the Graduate Student Center attended the Summit and exchanged institutional updates, constituents' concerns, future visions, and ways to foster inter-school synergy. The themes discussed this year included integration & community building, academic & student affairs, and health & wellness.

Postdoctoral Trainee Representation in the University Council

Followed by the recently proposed Bylaw amendments of adding one postdoctoral trainee to the University Council membership, GAPSA reached out to the postdoctoral community as well as their constituents regarding such a decision. Both parties were thrilled by the proposal and gave high praises to the amendment. Postdocs have been serving as an indispensable intellectual force in our institution, helping to build scholarly bridges and elevate our research reputation, and mentoring generations of graduate students. This formal recognition of postdoctoral trainee representation at the University Council is a step further in building a more diverse and inclusive community.

Robert Blake Watson

*Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
President*

Ludwig Zhao

*Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
Chair for Research Students*