

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE
FOR UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
2021-2022**

Prepared by the Office of the University Secretary

This is the forty-fourth annual report of the Steering Committee for University Council, prepared in accordance with Council Bylaws that the Steering Committee publish an annual report to the University community that reviews the previous year's Council deliberations and highlights "both significant discussions and the formal votes taken on matters of substance."

SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 MEETING

With the advice of Steering and consent of Council, President Gutmann appointed Dr. Amalia Dache as Moderator. President Gutmann appointed Scott Schafer as Parliamentarian for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Faculty Senate Chair William Braham called attention to the University Council Focus Issues and committee charges, which were previously distributed. Council reviewed the 2021-2022 committee charges and Professor Braham announced the two Open Forum sessions scheduled for the December 1, 2021 and February 23, 2022 meetings.

Interim Provost Beth A. Winkelstein remarked on the success of the New Student Orientation (NSO), and the University's first ever second-year orientation that was held in August.

OCTOBER 27, 2021 MEETING

In accordance with the Bylaws, President Gutmann and Interim Provost Winkelstein presented State of the University reports.

President Gutmann began her presentation, *Data Science at Penn*, by announcing the groundbreaking on a new data science building on Chestnut Street. Professor Vijay Kumar, the Nemirovsky Family Dean of Penn Engineering, spoke about the new building, to be called Amy Gutmann Hall, and the University's investment in new technology. Data science is changing the processes of scientific discovery, research, development, technological innovation, and education and Penn has positioned itself at the center of this transformation.

Then Interim Provost Winkelstein introduced the Provost's presentation *Penn Libraries: Inspiring Critical Inquiry and Creative Expression* by calling attention to the newest campus library, the Biotech Commons. She then introduced Constantia Constantinou, H. Carton Rogers III Vice Provost and Director of Libraries, to present *Penn Libraries: Inspiring Critical Inquiry and Creative Expression*.

Vice Provost Constantinou discussed the ways in which Penn Libraries adapted to the challenges posed by the pandemic and remote school year. To support students, the library staff provided virtual consultations, expanded its digital library through a partnership with the HathiTrust Digital Library, scanned rare books, and mailed the print collections to students, faculty, and staff across the world. When the University transitioned back to in-person, Penn Libraries developed new contactless workflows and operations, including contactless book checkout.

Finally, to support racial equity research and scholarship, Penn Libraries highlighted its program *Diversity in the Stacks* and continuing support of the Department of Research Data and Digital Scholarship's project analyzing the correlation between historical redlining and the distribution of COVID-19 cases across neighborhoods.

Three students spoke during New Business. The statements addressed the topics of increased space for cultural centers, communications pertaining to transportation accommodations for graduate and professional students, transportation benefits for graduate and professional students, adoption of a digital PennCard, and reducing the cost of official transcripts.

DECEMBER 1, 2021 MEETING

Associate Vice President and University Council Secretary Lizann Boyle Rode provided an update on the New Business items raised by three students at the October 27, 2021 University Council meeting.

Moderator Amalia Dache introduced John Zeller, Senior Vice President, Development and Alumni Relations who presented on *The Power of Penn Campaign*. Mr. Zeller discussed the timeline and goals of the project and reported that the campaign surpassed its \$4.1 billion fundraising goal, and in fact raised \$5.4 billion. The funding will go towards renovations and new buildings, including Amy Gutmann Hall, named in honor of President Amy Gutmann and who Senior Vice President Zeller credited for her philanthropic leadership.

The Council held the first Open Forum of the year. The following topics were discussed.

- Housing for Transfer Students
- Focused on Fraternity: An Update on the Interfraternity Council
- Cancelling Classes on Election Day
- Sexual Assault Prevention
- Climate Research at Penn
- Recognition of Indigenous Peoples' Day and Resources and Support for Native Students
- Impact of Climate Change on the International Community and Divestment from Fossil Fuels
- Penn's Climate Curricula and Divestment from Fossil Fuels

There was no new business.

FEBRUARY 2, 2022 MEETING

Associate Vice President and University Council Secretary Lizann Boyle Rode provided an update on the eight topics that were presented at the Open Forum on December 1, 2021.

Dr. Benoit Dubé, Associate Provost and Chief Wellness Officer, Batsirai Bvunzawabaya, Director of Integrated Care Initiatives for Outreach at Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and Rebecca Huxta, Associate Director at Campus Health provided a wellness update to the University.

Dr. Dubé spoke about the history of wellness services on campus, and then introduced the vision for a new organization that integrates the science, theory, and practice of wellness. This organization will be based around two existing campus organizations: Student Health and Counseling, and Public Health and Wellbeing. Both organizational pillars operate in an integrated fashion to provide services to the campus community.

Student Health and Counseling brings together clinicians to cater to students' physical and emotional needs as they navigate their academic journey at Penn. Care options are designed to reach students where they are, and services include embedded programs, behavioral health consultants, the Let's Talk program, and I CARE, which is an interactive training program for students, faculty, and staff to increase mental health literacy and skills within the University community.

Meanwhile Public Health and Wellbeing, brings together various existing entities whose goal is to create a community of care, and this community extends beyond the student population to include faculty, staff, and post-docs as well. Under the stewardship of Ashley Halbritter, the new Executive Director, this division is made up of campus wellbeing initiatives and public health activities on campus. Campus wellbeing is designed to offer health, education, prevention, and health policy on campus, such as the tobacco-free campus initiative, immunizations, and response to the COVID pandemic.

During New Business, Sarah Payne, C'23 representing survivors of sexual misconduct and the antiviolence community at Penn, introduced two questions regarding the preservation of campus CCTV recordings and the formation of a committee to advise the administration on issues around sexual violence. Finally, Robert Watson, L'23, Wellness Director for the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly requested the Faculty Senate provide transparency and a timeline into the investigation process of Professor Amy Wax.

FEBRUARY 23, 2022 MEETING

Associate Vice President and University Council Secretary Lizann Boyle Rode provided an update on the two New Business items raised during the February 2, 2022, University Council meeting.

The second focus issue of the year was presented by Joann Mitchell, Senior Vice President of Institutional Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer, and Fritz Steiner, Dean of the Weitzman School of Design, and entitled *Campus Iconography and Expressive Spaces*.

The administration charged a Campus Iconography Group, comprised of administrators, professors, and curators, with advising on efforts to promote diversity, inclusion, and belonging in Penn's campus iconography. The working group met with students, faculty, alumni, and members of the wider West Philadelphia community, and concluded that there was a significant lack of understanding about existing policies and protocols for removing campus iconography.

To address this, the Campus Iconography Group developed a framework for assessing the removal of campus iconography and pioneered a framework for assessing the introduction of new campus iconography. Using this framework, the working group developed a number of recommendations; the removal of a frieze in the Perelman School and Health System, the removal of a medallion named after Supreme Court Justice Taney, and as well the introduction of the Maya Lin statue in the Pavilion at Penn Medicine.

The Campus Iconography Group also recommended that the administration increase diversity amongst design committees, move forward with discussions about a more formal and unified land acknowledgement, continue using technology and virtual design to overcome challenges regarding limited campus space, create a joint financed fund to commission new pieces, and finally publish policies pertaining to design, acquisition, and the deaccessioning of art pieces on a new website to make design more accessible to students.

There were two questions in response to the presentation. The first asked if the Campus Iconography Group consulted with the local indigenous Lenape community, which Ms. Mitchell answered they had. Then, a student asked about opportunities for student feedback and participation with the Campus Iconography Group, and Ms. Mitchell responded by clarifying that the work of the campus iconography group was completed with the issuance of the report, but she hopes that students will continue to engage with group members and especially their schools about further campus iconography.

Council held its second and final Open Forum of the year and the following issues were presented:

- COVID-19 Booster Mandate
- Establishing an Off-Ramp from COVID-19 Restrictions
- Fossil Fuel Divestment
- Next Steps in the Investigation of Amy Wax
- Computational Resources Available at Penn
- Threat of Eviction of Residents of the University City Townhomes
- Survivor and Sexual Misconduct Reporting Policy and Resource Centralization
- Broadband and Mobile Device Use on Campus
- Athletic Competitions as Excused Absence

MARCH 30, 2022 MEETING

Associate Vice President and University Council Secretary Lizann Boyle Rode provided an update on seven topics raised during Open Forum at the February 23, 2022, meeting. Associate Vice President and University Council Secretary Rode noted that for topics duplicative of those previously raised at New Business or Open Forum, Council members and the University community are referred to previous reporting on those topics.

Interim President Wendell Pritchett introduced Vice President of Budget Planning and Analysis Trevor Lewis to report on the University's FY22 budget. The presentation focused on major revenue and expense categories, including undergraduate and graduate total charges, and student aid.

For FY22, the following are strategic priorities and areas of investment: campus community wellness programs; PPE and social distancing; faculty hiring and retention; student support programs; new academic buildings; new systems for improving student experience; new technologies for teaching, research, and telework; and initiatives around climate sustainability and community.

The University has budgeted a \$92 million surplus for FY22, and \$3.8 billion in revenue broken down into seven categories, including net tuition, sponsored programs, and grants. The University has also budgeted approximately \$3.7 billion in expenses for FY22 broken into five categories including compensation which comprises approximately 60% of expenses. In FY22, undergraduate tuition increased by only 2.8%, and the financial aid budget increased to \$268 million. About 44% of students received financial aid. In FY22, almost all Ph.D. students are fully funded for four to five years.

In conclusion, Vice President Lewis remarked that the University is about three-quarters through the fiscal year, and positives from this year include a stronger financial performance than last year, the stability of enrollment, the steady grant and tech transfer growth, and fundraising momentum following the successful *Power of Penn* campaign. Challenges from this year include pandemic variance, labor market issues, inflation pressures, as well as political and global stability issues.

Interim Provost Winkelstein introduced Vice Provost for Faculty Laura Perna to speak to Penn's efforts to promote diversity amongst faculty.

Since 2011, there has been an increase in the percentage of female faculty and faculty of color at the University. Vice Provost Perna highlighted the 2011 Faculty Diversity Action Plan, the Fontaine fellows, the Provost Postdoctoral Fellows, the center for Learning's Inclusive Teaching Initiative, the Faculty Advancement Network, and an anti-bias training requirement for search committee members as instrumental in providing more support, more infrastructure, and more knowledge about hiring and retaining diverse faculty.

Dr. Perna then introduced Shaun Ossei-Owusu, Associate Professor at the Penn Carey Law School, Sarah J. Jackson, Associate Professor in the Annenberg School, and José A.

Bauermeister, the Albert M. Greenfield Professor of Human Relations in the School of Nursing to speak about their experience with Amy Gutmann's Presidential Professor Program. All three panelists praised the research support, mentorship, and symbolic capital provided by the program even after they finished their tenures.

The next presentation, *Penn's Impact on the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Economies*, was presented by Craig Carnaroli, Senior Executive Vice President, Larry Jameson, Executive Vice President of the University of Pennsylvania for the Health System and Dean of the Perelman School of Medicine, and Jeffrey Cooper, Vice President of Government and Community Affairs.

Senior Executive Vice President Carnaroli began by introducing the presentation's two topics: Penn's economic impact on the city, and Penn's commitment to economic inclusion.

The team gathered data on amounts that Penn spends including faculty and staff, goods and services, vendors they support, construction, and the spending the University generates, and in total, the University generates about \$42 million every day for the city. Penn is the biggest private employer in the city, which is especially impactful for Philadelphia, which relies on wage taxes to fund municipal operations and services. Penn's approach to economic inclusion falls into three categories: enhancing professional skills and job readiness; ensuring diversity in Penn's design and construction industry; and finally, procuring talent from across the city.

Mr. Carnaroli then introduced Dean Larry Jameson to speak about Penn Medicine's initiatives in the community including the vaccine rollout, Penn's partnership with the former Mercy Hospital, BioEYES, and the Puentes de Salud clinic. As well, Penn provided jobs and job training for construction workers during the construction of the Penn Medicine Pavilion, and many Penn medical and non-medical graduates have contributed to an influx of local biotech startups. Penn Medicine and Wharton plan to jointly invest \$5 million in Philadelphia startups interested in mitigating the social determinants of health.

Dr. Jameson turned the presentation over to Jeffrey Cooper, Vice President for Government and Community Affairs who remarked on Penn's essential and critical investment in the wellbeing of the city, youth, and schools. Not only is the University's Graduate School of Education (GSE) ranked number one in the country, Penn also sponsors Academically Based Community Service courses (ABCS), the West Philadelphia Tutoring Program, and the Penn Senior Summer Academy program which are all popular opportunities for Penn students to get involved with the local community. Moreover, research conducted by GSE has contributed to the development of programs to support local schools and the Penn Museum launched the "Unpacking the Past" program to provide electronic resources to parents, students, and teachers.

Penn Alexander is now the top-performing K-8 school in the city, and recently Penn has agreed to support to the Henry C. Lea School at 48th and Locust. Finally, Penn has

committed to provide \$100 million over the next ten years to the school district of Philadelphia to address serious environmental issues in many of its schools.

During New Business, Rebecca Nadler, Co-President of the Transfer Student Organization stated that there is a lack of transparency regarding financial aid for transfer students.

APRIL 27, 2022 MEETING

Associate Vice President and University Council Secretary Lizann Boyle Rode provided an update on the topics raised during New Business at the March 30, 2022 meeting.

The chairs of the five standing Council committees provided overviews of their final reports:

- Assistant Professor Sara Jacoby, Chair, Committee on Campus and Community Life
- Associate Professor Ed Brockenbrough, Chair, Committee on Diversity and Equity
- Associate Professor Michael McGarvey, Chair, Committee on Facilities
- Professor Markus Blatz, Chair, Committee on Personnel Benefits
- Professor Nancy Hirschmann, Chair, Committee on Academic and Related Affairs

Faculty Senate Chair William Braham noted that suggestions for Focus Issues for the upcoming academic year had been circulated to Council in advance of the meeting. He added that Council members were welcome to make additional suggestions that are of general interest to the University community, and that Steering will finalize the list of Focus Issues over the summer. Council members were also invited to make suggestions during the meeting, and Patrick Walsh, Penn Professional Staff Assembly offered three focus issue ideas.

Interim President Pritchett commended the members of University Council and noted that the Council's efforts and advice are invaluable. He expressed his gratitude to Moderator Amalia Dache and Parliamentarian Scott Shafer; to the Faculty Senate Tri-Chairs, Kathleen Hall Jamieson, William Braham, and Vivian Gadsden; graduating UA President, Tori Borlase; graduating UA Vice President Janice Owusu; and Joe Rummaneethorn who finished his term as President of GAPSA. Dr. Pritchett also extended a welcome to incoming UA leaders President Carson Sheumaker, Vice President Alex Eapen, and Speaker Xavier Shankle. Dr. Pritchett wished everyone a great summer.