

To: Members of University Council
From: President Liz Magill
Date: November 30, 2022
Subject: Report to the University Council

To everyone on campus who was eligible to vote and did so on November 8th, thank you. I had the opportunity to cast my vote at Houston Hall, where I was excited to meet some of the student leaders and staff involved with Penn Leads the Vote. All year, every year, Penn people contribute to society through our learning, teaching, research, clinical care, and service. In election season, it is especially important that eligible Penn voters exercise their right and responsibility to make their voices heard. So once again, my deepest thanks to all who voted and especially to our students and staff who devoted their time and efforts to getting out the vote.

It's fitting that, two days after the election, Penn hosted the Nobel Prize-winning journalist and author Maria Ressa, who delivered the annual Annenberg Lecture. A brilliant and courageous voice for a free press and democracy, she spoke with authority about extremist political views and violence moving into the mainstream with the powerful help of social media. She argued for the central importance of facts, truth, and trust to the health and future of any democracy. I was pleased to join Dean John L. Jackson, Jr., and Dr. Kathleen Hall Jamieson in welcoming our distinguished guest lecturer.

The following morning, on Friday, November 11th, I was honored to join students, faculty, and staff in thanking our veterans at Penn's annual Veterans Day flag raising ceremony. The ceremony was made all the more poignant by student performances and a presentation by the Penn NROTC Color Guard.

Also that Friday, we welcomed parents and families to campus for Penn's annual Family Weekend. I hosted an afternoon event in Irvine Auditorium called Inside View, where I had the opportunity to sit down with four amazing faculty members to talk about the undergraduate experience and the endless range of opportunities for students at Penn. It was a full house. Thanks to our phenomenal panel of undergraduate teachers and scholars, parents and families enjoyed a unique perspective on their students' lives on campus and in the classroom.

As we head into the end of the semester and finals, I want to thank Council members for your time, participation, and, most importantly, your leadership. I also continue to encourage everybody at Penn to share their thoughts with the Red and Blue Advisory Committee as part of our ongoing Tomorrow, Together effort, which is charged with making recommendations for potential areas of strategic priority for Penn.

Finally, three cheers for Penn men's soccer on their thrilling Ivy League championship win over Princeton earlier this month. Their victory clinched the team's first Ivy League title in nine years. Well done, Quakers.

PROVOST'S STATUS REPORT

University Council – November 2022

I am delighted to let everyone know that the University is raising the minimum stipend for doctoral students to \$38,000. This one-time increase, substantially higher than rises in the past, is designed to recognize the unique pressures currently faced by PhD students, especially in the wake of delays to research and hiring related to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will also help to ensure that Penn continues to attract the most outstanding and diverse doctoral students and support them while they are here. I am grateful for the partnership of Vice Provost for Education Karen Detlefsen and our nine Schools with PhD programs in making this important change. Each School determines its own stipend for doctoral students at or above the minimum level established by the University, and they will communicate – or have already communicated – to their students directly about it. You can learn more about all of our important initiatives for graduate students on the University's [Valuing Graduate Students](#) website.

I encourage you to consider submitting a nomination for our 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.

I hope that everyone, as head toward the end of the semester and the holiday season, will have an opportunity to visit the new [Eastern Mediterranean Gallery](#) at the Penn Museum, opening on November 19. This exciting space emphasizes this area of the Middle East – now home to Israel, the Palestinian Territories, Jordan, Syria, and Cyprus – as a historic crossroads of diverse cultures and cultural exchange, including more than 400 artifacts and a recreated 14th-century BCE cargo hold. The interactive, 2000-square-foot gallery forms part of an ongoing, large-scale reimagining of the Penn Museum that includes the relocation of the Sphinx, improved public spaces and way-finding, and vital new galleries across the histories of Africa, Asia, Egypt, Mexico, and Central America.

I hope that everyone will have a great end of the semester and a meaningful and restful holiday break.

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 – November 30, 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.

PPSA Board Members met with the Red and Blue Committee to discuss President Magill's *Tomorrow, Together* initiative. The Committee collected PPSA's thoughts and ideas as it relates to the initiative's mission.

PPSA is collaborating with the WPPSA to help reestablish the organization for weekly-paid employees. All staff are invited to become involved in this effort by writing to the address above.

A selection of recent and upcoming events offered by the PPSA:

- **Estate Planning (November 17, 2022)**
- **In Partnership with DRIA, PPSA and Penn Walk2Wellness**, Penn Rec will offer a walking tour of Franklin Field & the Palestra **(December 6, 2022)**
- **PPSA Book Club, Next Book: *Here for It: Or, How to Save Your Soul in America; Essays* by R. Eric Thomas (November 30, 2022)**

Respectfully submitted,

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Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSEMBLY (GAPSA) STATUS REPORT

University Council Committee

November 2022

Advocacy Updates

Building upon the success of the previous Ph.D. Student Townhall in collaboration with our Research Council in September, the Advocacy Division hosted the Graduate Student Wellness Townhall on October 20, 2022. We were grateful that many officers from Penn Wellness leadership joined us in conversations regarding insurance, food insecurity, mental health, programming & recreation, and post-pandemic transition. Besides discussing potential partnerships to better support student wellness and address existing concerns, we exchanged ideas to further disseminate wellness information and highlight available resources to graduate & professional students at Penn. Our next Advocacy Townhall, focusing on International Student Issues, will take place on November 29.

GAPSA has also been meeting with different University offices and partners to address concerns on topics such as graduate student housing and transportation. On November 7, GAPSA leadership met with Penn Business Services regarding the current state and outlook for on-campus housing, in light of Penn's decision to grant Greystar a 75-year lease agreement to renovate and manage Sansom Place East. We hope to maintain regular conversations regarding this topic to ensure that the need of graduate students for on-campus housing is met. Regarding transportation, we are thrilled to hear about the launch of the new Penn Transit Mobile app. GAPSA is looking forward to engaging in dialogues with University partners to explore more affordable and accessible transportation options for our constituents.

Minimum Ph.D. Stipend Increase

Recently, the Office of the Vice Provost for Education announced that the University minimum Ph.D. stipend is being increased to \$ 38,000, beginning in the coming 2023-2024 academic year. GAPSA Research Council and Advocacy Division greatly appreciate the partnership with the Office of Provost, particularly the Office of the Vice Provost for Education, and were thrilled by the announcement. We believe that this is a significant step to demonstrate the University's commitment to supporting graduate students. We are looking forward to more partnerships and continuing efforts from the University to provide graduate students with competitive stipends and annual raises to alleviate their financial challenges.

Fall Research Student Travel Grants

Fall 2022 Research Student Travel Grants Application was closed, and the evaluation is underway. Over 100 applications were received across all 9 schools with nearly \$ 75,000 requested. As an effort to advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion, GAPSA Research Council is committed to sponsoring Travel Grants, a *terminal funding resource* to assist research students attending conferences and symposiums. Nevertheless, the enormous demands highlight the need to address the issue of lack of travel funding for research students.

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

Hoang Anh Phan
*Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
Vice President of Advocacy*

Robert Blake Watson
*Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
President*



Undergraduate Assembly

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Status Report for University Council

November 2022

Collection of Information Regarding Work Over Breaks and Religious Holidays

The Undergraduate Assembly is currently engaging students to investigate violations of the [Policy on Secular and Religious Holidays](#). If you had an exam or work due over Election Day (November 8th) or Yom Kippur (October 5th) please [fill out this form](#). Additionally, the UA is exploring how frequently students have work due over breaks. If you had an exam or work due over Thanksgiving break, please [fill out this form](#) as well.

Airport Shuttles

On November 22nd from 10 am to 7 pm and November 23rd from 7 am to 7 pm, the Undergraduate Assembly, in collaboration with Penn Transit, hosted shuttles to the airport for a \$3 per person cost. This service, being a cheap alternative to both regional rail and ride hailing services, has been extremely popular in the past few years. The Undergraduate Assembly is grateful to work with Penn Transit, and hopes to do so in the coming years. With continued support and increased data to address logistical issues, the UA hopes to be able to one day provide returning airport shuttles as well. Our next Airport Shuttles service will be during Spring Break.

Undergraduate Assembly Email List

For those interested in receiving Undergraduate Assembly weekly GBM agendas, please sign up for our email list by [filling out this form](#). All UA GBMs are open to the public, so please feel free to circulate our schedule and attend. We have an open forum at the beginning of every meeting for members of the public to voice their concerns. [Please find our schedule here](#).

Undergraduate Assembly Suggestion Box

The Undergraduate Assembly has a [suggestion box](#) ready to receive ideas from the community. Please feel free to fill out the box with suggestions regarding how we can direct our advocacy work.

Respectfully submitted,

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