

To: Members of University Council
From: President Liz Magill
Date: February 22, 2023
Subject: Report to the University Council

I want to begin by offering a brief update on the work of the Red and Blue Advisory Committee and the Tomorrow, Together strategic planning process. To date, the Committee has hosted more than 30 consultative meetings with various faculty, student, and staff groups. These have been uniformly well-received and interactive. The Committee also recently hosted 3 open forums, one each for faculty, students, and staff. The Tomorrow, Together webpage has generated around 300 comments so far. The Committee has also sent out more than 40 surveys to the Schools and Centers.

The Committee is carefully reviewing all of this data and information with the goal of providing recommendations to me about our future strategic priorities. This important work remains ongoing, and I will share updates with Council as the process continues. I also encourage anyone who has not yet shared their ideas with the Committee in person or through the webpage to do so.

Earlier this month, I joined Penn Trustee Emeritus Roy Vagelos, Deans Fluharty and Kumar, Dr. Karen Goldberg, VIPER students, faculty, and staff for a topping off ceremony for Penn's new Vagelos Laboratory for Energy Science and Technology. The construction of this advanced facility is yet another sign of Penn's rise as a global leader for energy science. Humanity stands at the threshold of profound changes in how we create and consume energy. But we aren't there yet. What's needed now are interdisciplinary expertise, inventive spirit, and urgent drive—distinctive Penn strengths that the Vagelos Laboratory will help amplify. We are deeply grateful for Diana and Roy Vagelos's generosity and their decades-long commitment to our University.

Last month, we announced that our Vice President for University Communications, Steve MacCarthy, will retire at the end of June after 12 years at Penn. Steve's decision to retire is an ideal occasion to recognize his many accomplishments. Since arriving on campus in 2011, Steve has been a transformative Penn leader, an invaluable advisor to my predecessors and to me, and an extraordinary colleague and friend to people across campus and beyond. During the worst of the pandemic, Steve provided deft, strategic, and compassionate counsel for keeping the University community informed, safe, and operative across all our academic missions. He leaves some very big shoes to fill. To help fill them, we've retained the services of Korn Ferry and have launched a global search for Penn's next VP for University Communications.

I'll close by noting one batch of recent faculty honors among many—far too many to list here. Hat's off to Penn's newest fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science—eight faculty in all representing SAS, Engineering, Perelman, and Penn Vet. Congratulations to William Beltran, Brian Gregory, Insup Lee, Guo-li Ming, Eric Schelter, Theodore Schurr, Warren Seider, and Karen Winey.

PROVOST'S STATUS REPORT

University Council - February 22, 2023

It was a great pleasure to welcome Sarath Pillai as the first representative of postdocs to Council at our meeting on February 1. I am very pleased to confirm that we are opening a dedicated Office of Postdoctoral Affairs this semester. The official opening will be next month, and we will have much more information about it as the date gets closer. This new office, under the leadership of the Senior Vice Provost for Research, will provide targeted support, resources, and community-building for the more than 1300 postdoctoral trainees at Penn. It will serve as a hub for postdocs across all twelve Schools, advancing advocacy, best practices, and equitable experiences for postdocs in the wide range of different academic areas at Penn. The office will encompass new resources, programs, and communications; oversee the highly successful Provost's [Postdoctoral Fellowships for Academic Diversity](#); and provide ongoing support for the [Penn Postdoctoral Association](#), the [Biomedical Postdoctoral Council](#), and the [Du Bois Postdoctoral Circle](#).

I encourage all faculty members to consider applying for a grant from the [Excellence Through Diversity Fund](#), which is now accepting applications through April 15. The Fund provides resources for innovative projects by Penn faculty members (Assistant, Associate, or Full Professors in any track) that advance faculty diversity, equity, and inclusion, especially proposals that seek to improve the recruitment, retention, promotion, and leadership development of faculty members from underrepresented groups and/or improve mentorship and other support for junior and mid-career faculty members from underrepresented groups. In particular, the Fund seeks proposals that promote collaborations across disciplines, departments, and/or Schools and foster new understandings of the structures, policies, and programs that can best advance our shared mission to further faculty diversity, equity, and inclusion at Penn. You can learn more in the full [Call for Proposals](#) and address any questions to [Connie Chang](#), Executive Director of Faculty Affairs in the Office of the Provost.

I hope that everyone will have an opportunity to visit the new exhibit at the [Arthur Ross Gallery](#), which spotlights a landmark 1864 painting by Gustave Courbet discovered in 2016 in storage at the School of Dental Medicine, then restored and authenticated through our Penn Art Collection. The Arthur Ross Gallery, like the [Institute of Contemporary Art](#), always offers free admission for all members of our Penn and Philadelphia communities. This truly cross-campus show – co-curated by Lynn Marsden-Atlass, University Curator and Executive Director of the Gallery, and André Dombrowski, Frances Shapiro-Weitzenhoffer Associate Professor of Art History – includes a major [scholarly catalogue](#) published by Penn Press with essays by leading global Courbet scholars, as well as public programs and events that include a [podcast](#) and a conversation with Jennifer Thompson, Head of the European Painting and Sculpture Department at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Beth A. Winkelstein
Interim Provost

PPSA – Penn Professional Staff Assembly



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

CONTACT US: ppsa@lists.upenn.edu

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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 mid-Winter events offered by the PPSA:

- **Penn Safety Series:**
 - **Part 1** - Department of Public Safety with Kathleen Shields Anderson, Paige Wigginton and Chief of Police Gary Williams
 - **Part 2** – Septa Safety Initiatives
 - **Part 3** - Bicycle Safety workshop
- **Walking Tour**
- **PPSA Book Club:** *Busted: A Tale of Corruption and Betrayal in the City of Brotherly Love* by Wendy Ruderman and Barbara Laker

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



Undergraduate Assembly

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Status Report for University Council

February 22, 2023

Annual Budget Allocation Process

The Undergraduate Assembly (UA) is in the final stages of completing its annual budget allocation process. Every year the UA has engages in a substantial review of the budgets and expenditures of the entities it funds to allocate funds in an equitable. More information can be found on the [UA website](#).

Wellness during Club Recruitment

The UA wants to emphasize that all individuals joining student organizations should feel safe, respected, unpressured, and supported. Those who have different experiences should [report](#) or [explore concerns](#) about hazing, discrimination, or other problematic behaviors with University resources. The UA acknowledges that students have a role in supporting the health and well-being of our community and wants to remind students that reporting is not limited to those experiencing problematic behavior. Anyone, *including concerned friends or bystanders*, can [fill out a report](#).

Support Regarding the Earthquake in Turkey and Syria

The UA wants to highlight a [letter from the members of the International Student Table for Advocacy & Relations \(ISTAR\)](#). These students have published information for those affected by the series of earthquakes that struck Turkey and Northern Syria on the morning of 6th February 2023. The [letter](#) contains resources for affected students and several charities/donation drives that help with the rescue efforts.

UA 50th Session Mid-Session Report

During the first half of the 50th Session of the UA, the Executive Board focused on improving internal funding and continued to advocate for our long-term projects. You can find a [copy of the report here](#).

Conclusion

The 50th Session of the UA is far from complete. We hope to add to all of our achievements, and we encourage you to reach out to us at exec@pennua.org or through our Suggestions box on our website. We remain committed to hearing the concerns of all individuals at Penn, and we look forward to finishing our term with the same dedication and passion with which we began.

Respectfully submitted,

Carson Sheumaker
Undergraduate Assembly President
president@pennua.org

Alex Eapen
Undergraduate Assembly Vice President
vp@pennua.org

Xavier Shankle
Undergraduate Assembly Speaker
speaker@pennua.org