

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE
FOR UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
2014 - 2015**

Prepared by the Office of the University Secretary

This is the thirty-seventh annual report of the Steering Committee of the 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."

OCTOBER 1, 2014 MEETING

With the advice of Steering and consent of Council, President Gutmann appointed Dr. Phyllis Dennery as moderator (with Prof. Neville Strumpf as acting moderator for the October 1st and October 22nd meetings) and Lauren Steinfeld as parliamentarian for the 2014-2015 academic year.

Faculty Senate Chair Claire Finkelstein advised that Steering had drawn on discussions at the April 2014 Steering and Council meetings to finalize four focus issues for 2014-2015, as follows:

- A discussion of initiatives around active learning (December 3, 2014)
- Overview of the Pennovation Center and other activities at the South Bank (January 28, 2015)
- Findings and progress report from the Task Force on Student Psychological Health and Welfare (February 18, 2015)
- Update on Implementation of Recommendations of the Commission on Student Safety, Alcohol and Campus Life (March 25, 2015)

Council reviewed the 2014-2015 committee charges and Professor Finkelstein announced two Open Forum sessions, at the October 22nd and February 18th meetings.

Provost Price, Vice Provost for Education Andy Bins and David Fox, Director, NSO and Academic Initiatives, led discussion of the 2014-2015 Academic Theme Year: The Year of Health, with a variety of intellectual and cultural opportunities for students, faculty, and staff.

OCTOBER 22, 2014 MEETING

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

Introducing discussion on Penn's art and culture initiatives, President Gutmann noted the broad array of campus institutions and academic departments engaged with art and culture. Dr. Julian Siggers, the William's Director of the Penn Museum, spoke about the Museum's newest initiative, a center to teach archaeological science incorporating the humanities, social and natural sciences. He added that the Museum had developed an outreach program to the Philadelphia schools incorporating school visits, Museum field trip funding, teacher enrichment and online resources.

Professor Karen Beckman, Elliot and Roslyn Jaffe Professor of Cinema and Modern Media in the department of the History of Art, indicated goals for the art and culture initiative: heightening awareness, addressing infrastructural challenges, increasing diversity, and developing pedagogical

opportunities. She added that a brochure and website had been developed and that the initiative's steering committee participated in Dean Fluharty's SAS strategic planning.

Turning to a discussion of campus sexual assault and violence, President Gutmann noted Penn closely monitors legislative changes and guidance from the U.S. Department of Education and its Office of Civil Rights (OCR). She highlighted the work of the Penn Women's Center in prevention, education, and awareness and Public Safety's special services unit and strong relationships with the Philadelphia Police and District Attorney's Office. She stressed the central role of the VPUL's new sexual violence educator.

Senior Vice President and General Council Wendy White, Vice President for Institutional Affairs Joann Mitchell, and Vice Provost for Education Andy Binns discussed new steps and programmatic planning underway. Ms. White outlined the legal context for compliance efforts related to Title IX of the 1972 Higher Education Act, which prohibits gender discrimination in any K-12 and higher education institution receiving federal funding.

With broad University consultation, a disciplinary process system was developed on an investigative model consistent with that advocated by the White House and OCR. Penn's Title IX sexual assault investigator will work with a team on a case-by-case basis. Ms. White described the process from investigation through, if required, adjudication, with the goal of a consistent and unthreatening process encouraging victims to come forward.

Council held its first Open Forum and discussed the following issue:

- Concerns regarding the 2015-2016 theme year topic, the *Year of Discovery* and proposals for possible improvement.

DECEMBER 3, 2014 MEETING

Presenting on the focus issue of a discussion of initiatives around active learning, Vice Provost for Education Andy Binns spoke on implementing Structured Active In-class Learning (SAIL) at Penn. Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Dennis DeTurck; Beth Winkelstein, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education at the Engineering School, and Dr. Bruce Lenthall, Executive Director for the Center of Teaching and Learning discussed research and Penn's current and planned activities.

Dr. Lenthall spoke about creating active classroom opportunities for students to master concepts through group work, applying concepts, and making and testing predictions. Dean DeTurck led Council in an active learning exercise. Dr. Winkelstein outlined AAU grant support for SAIL implementation, which began in 2013 in physics, chemistry, math, and introduction to biomechanics in bioengineering. In 2015, SAIL classes will expand to economics and history.

Dr. Lenthall spoke about efforts to support faculty transitioning to this new form of learning, including course development grants for faculty, the opportunity to discuss their experiences and observe one another in class, and resources for evaluation, including student feedback and outcomes assessment. He noted that though the work to transition can be demanding, the initiative has fostered much faculty creativity and enthusiasm.

JANUARY 28, 2015 MEETING

Dr. Dawn Bonnell, Vice Provost for Research opened the discussion of the focus issue, a discussion of the Pennovation Center and other activities at Pennovation Works with Vice President for Facilities and Real Estate Services Anne Papageorge, Associate Vice Provost for Research and Director of PCI John Swartley, and UPS Foundation Professor and Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics Vijay Kumar participating.

Ms. Papageorge indicated that three years ago, Penn acquired a 23-acre parcel across the river from campus. Planning is in development for this addition, called Pennovation Works, with 200,000 square feet of cost-effective existing building space and room for growth. Design goals are for flexible support for entrepreneurship, creativity, innovation, and interdisciplinary collaborations for all of Penn's schools and centers. Pennovation Works already has five Penn schools and three centers as tenants. The first major building renovation for the site is the Pennovation Center where 52,000 square feet will house labs, offices, multi-purpose spaces, and a café. Interior demolition has begun with building completion set for May 2016.

Dr. Swartley spoke about PCI's mission to foster connections between two key client constituencies, the private sector and Penn faculty, students, and staff. He summarized how the Center for Technology Transfer transformed into PCI, a "one-stop shop" offering patenting and licensing tools and resources, and directly involved in helping to catalyze sponsored research activities, corporate alliances, and new-venture company formations.

Professor Kumar spoke about unprecedented opportunities for Penn students, faculty, and staff and Penn's work in next-generation robotics for medical applications, search and rescue, and more. Nearly a dozen startups are ready to "take off" with support of PCI and Pennovation Works.

Ms. Papageorge added that perimeter planning includes development of bike paths, sidewalks, lighting, fencing, and vegetation. There is an on-demand shuttle to the site, which could expand as needed. Provost Price noted that traffic patterns are being carefully studied, including possible pedestrian routes through the medical district and Penn Park.

FEBRUARY 18, 2015 MEETING

Co-Chairs Rebecca Bushnell and Anthony Rostain and Vice Chair Joann Mitchell presented on the focus issue, a discussion of the findings of the Task Force on Student Psychological Health and Welfare. Dr. Bushnell indicated that the Task Force's charge was to examine the challenges confronting students affecting their psychological health and wellbeing; review and assess Penn resources, and make recommendations to improve the quality and safety of student life. She added that two working groups had reviewed needs and examined processes and programs to identify students in distress and crisis, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) services and operations, treatment processes, and University leave policies.

Dr. Rostain stated that 10-15% of college students report impairment in academic performance from mental disorders or distress, and an increasing number of students arrive unprepared to handle the challenges of college. Dr. Bushnell stressed that the link between success and psychological health and wellbeing must be clearly communicated, particularly from student to student. Dr. Rostain

noted CAPS training for students, faculty, and staff to learn how to talk with those distressed and encourage them to seek help. Penn's new Helpline is 215-898-HELP (4357).

The Task Force's key recommendations include promoting the message that it is the responsibility of the entire Penn community to look after and support each other, and this must be communicated at every point of a student's experience. Immediate development of a centralized web portal is also recommended, as well as an electronic mental health education module building on the CAPS "I Care" program.

Dr. Rostain indicated that CAPS must continue to work to limit wait time for appointments, and that the additional resource of a case manager may be needed to ensure follow-through, particularly when specialty or long-term care is needed. He noted that resources within the Schools of Social Policy & Practice and Nursing might be brought to bear as well, and that an oversight group would ask going forward whether Penn is doing its best for its students and community.

Council held its second Open Forum and discussed the following issues:

- Concerns regarding student support systems in place at the Veterinary School.
- Concerns regarding mental health support at Penn and suggestions for improvement.
- Issue of access for LPS students.
- Concerns regarding University's policy on sponsorship for U.S. Permanent Resident Status for staff positions.
- Concerns regarding Penn's No Loan Policy, loan debt accumulation, and its effects on low income students.
- The University of Pennsylvania's commitment to financial aid and the No-Loan Policy.
- Concerns regarding funding for MUSC 056.
- Concerns regarding the condition of dining and food service facilities on this campus,
- Concerns regarding political discrimination on campus.
- Concerns regarding resources for international students.

Vice President and University Secretary Leslie Kruhly clarified that New Business offers Council members the opportunity to raise issues impacting the University community. Issues will be referred to Steering for consideration for inclusion in future Council discussion.

MARCH 25, 2015 MEETING

The Moderator indicated that Council bylaws call for reports each spring by the President, Provost and other administrators detailing budgets and plans for the next academic year.

Carton Rogers, Vice Provost and Director of Libraries, and Kim Eke, Director for Teaching, Research and Learning Services at the Penn Libraries, discussed advancements in teaching and learning resources there. Mr. Rogers noted that the Libraries work to empower teaching and research, enrich learning, enable innovation, and ensure the availability and preservation of information now and for future generations of scholars.

He noted that in 2013, the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books, and Manuscripts opened, generating great interest in utilizing rare materials for the classroom. The Libraries also played an integral role in the 2014 transition to Canvas courseware.

Dr. Eke reviewed the physical and virtual spaces supporting collaboration and partnerships, and events such as the annual Technology Symposium, the numerous workshops held each month on various topics of interest, and faculty seminars focusing on integrating technology to teaching.

Bonnie Gibson, Vice President of the Office of Budget and Management Analysis, presented the academic budget and student charges for 2015-2016, noting that this will be the seventh consecutive year with an increase under 4% and that over the past 10 years, Penn's increases have been at the average with its peers. She added that Ph.D. and research master's program tuition will increase 3.9% for the next year, while professional student tuition is set by each school.

Vice President for Public Safety Maureen Rush and Max King, Vice Provost for Health and Academic Services, presented an update on the implementation of recommendations of the Commission on Student Safety, Alcohol, and Campus Life. Commission recommendations stressed the need for additional education, particularly on policies and consequences, and for continued vigilance in communication, especially with those off-campus. More staff were needed, and Aman Goyal had been hired as a Program Coordinator for Alcohol and other Drugs Initiatives to work with Director Noelle Melartin.

Dr. King noted that some initiatives were implemented as they were identified by the Commission. He added that a new online module for New Student Orientation programming will be instituted this year, and noted the availability of student recovery resources, including Alcoholics Anonymous, recovery group support at CAPS, and the work of the student peer education group DAPA.

APRIL 22, 2015 MEETING

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

- Professor Steven Kimbrough, Chair of the Committee on Academic and Related Affairs
- Professor Rebecca Maynard, Chair of the Committee on Campus and Community Life
- Professor Joe Libonati, Chair of the Committee on Diversity and Equity
- Professor Eric Marsh, Chair of the Committee on Facilities
- Professor Reed Shuldiner, Chair of the Committee on Personnel Benefits

Provost Price and Dr. Gutmann thanked the chairs and the committee members for their dedication in exploring the charges assigned to their committees and making recommendations.

Faculty Senate Chair-Elect Professor Reed Pyeritz reported on the work of the Council Committee on Committees in 2014-2015, indicating that the committees operated well overall and suggesting refinements to the process. Faculty Senate Chair Professor Claire Finkelstein then led a discussion of potential focus issues for Council for the 2015-2016 academic year suggested by Steering, Council, and constituencies:

- A discussion of freedom of expression and the sponsoring of speakers at the University

- A presentation on Open Expression at the University
- Ways of educating students on how to report open expression issues
- Support for Africa studies at Penn
- A discussion of academic integrity at Penn
- Discussion of integration/available resources for international students
- Status of resources/support for low income students
- Discussion on how professional and graduate school tuitions are developed within the schools
- The results of the Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct and any actions/initiatives brought about from the survey results
- An update on the Mental Health Initiatives taken on campus and introduction to anything new that has developed (any partnerships, etc.)
- Diversity (staff, faculty, students)
- Religion as a form of diversity
- Performing arts spaces (financial accessibility)
- Penn Transit re-routing and outreach
- Networking and better connections to break down silos across 12 schools and various centers
- Tuition assistance for those who choose to take a course at another school
- FML for the care of a sick family member. Also, for those who become parents
- A discussion of Alumni Relations

Dr. Gutmann acknowledged the contributions of outgoing participants of Council, thanking them and all University Council members for their participation.