

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of University Council
From: Amy Gutmann, President
Date: October 1, 2014
Subject: Report to the University Council

Welcome to another exciting and edifying year at Penn, and welcome back to University Council. We ushered in the 275th year of the University of Pennsylvania with Convocation held outside, in front of College Hall, for the first time in four years. I officially welcomed the Class of 2018, the most selective and accomplished Class in Penn's history. They are a great testament to the efforts of Dean Furda and his team.

The new academic year also brings new members to Penn's leadership team. Provost Price and I are excited to welcome Geoffrey Garrett as dean of the Wharton School; John Jackson, Jr., as dean of Social Policy & Practice; Antonia Villarruel as dean of the School of Nursing; and M. Grace Calhoun as Penn's new director of recreation and intercollegiate athletics. In addition, Presidential Professor Wendell Pritchett has graciously agreed to serve as interim dean of the Law School.

Meanwhile, we have undertaken two new dean searches: one for our Law School and one for our School of Engineering and Applied Science. We have formed committees for each, charging them to consult widely to produce a diverse list of eminent candidates. The Law dean search committee is chaired by Annenberg School Dean Michael Delli Carpini, and the SEAS dean committee is chaired by SAS Dean Steven Fluharty.

In August, we announced the President's Engagement Prizes, awards that each year will highlight and support extraordinary efforts by graduating Penn seniors to better local, national, and global communities. Up to three Engagement Prizes will be competitively awarded to seniors to provide support during the first year after they graduate, and will include a generous living allowance and up to \$100,000 in project expenses. Nobody else we know of offers prizes of this magnitude for student projects focused exclusively on local, national, and global engagement. They are unique in scale and maximally ambitious by design. Applications for the inaugural prizes are due October 31, and the winners will be announced in March 2015. CURF is hosting information sessions throughout the month, and I encourage any senior with a compelling project idea to learn more. You can find additional information about the prizes and information session schedule here: <http://www.upenn.edu/curf/fellowships/presidents-engagement-prizes>

Mark your calendars for October 31, when I invite you to join the Penn community at our South Bank location for an exciting series of events celebrating innovation at Penn. The festivities will include a series of quick presentations by several of Penn's innovative faculty as well as a ceremonial groundbreaking for Penn's new Pennovation Center, wrapped around our 2014 David and Lyn Silfen University Forum with featured guest Water Isaacson, author of the forthcoming book, The Innovators: How a Group of Hackers, Geniuses, and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution. He's the ideal guest to help us explore the lineage of Pennovation, from Benjamin Franklin to ENIAC, to the countless creative discoveries that connect every member of the Penn community in productive ways to our society and world.

I want to conclude my report with well-deserved praise for our superb faculty, who continue to garner prestigious honors and awards. To cite just one prominent example: Danielle Bassett, the Skirkanich Assistant Professor of Innovation in SEAS' departments of Bioengineering and Electrical and Systems Engineering, has been named a 2014 MacArthur Fellow. The fellowship, often referred to as a "genius grant," is in support and recognition of Professor Bassett's work to reveal the nature of the complex connections that make us who we are. Bassett's scholarship integrates knowledge from fields as varied as neuroscience, mathematics, genetics, computer science, behavioral economics, and the fine arts to give us new insight into our brains and behavior. Her work epitomizes Penn's distinctive focus on integrating knowledge across disciplines for practical as well as theoretical purposes, and we are all the more proud that the MacArthur Foundation has recognized her path-breaking work in this way.

Thank you all for your service to University Council and to the Penn community. I join you in looking forward to a wonderful and productive year ahead.

PROVOST'S STATUS REPORT

University Council

October 1, 2014

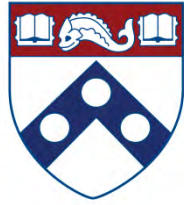
It is a pleasure to welcome everyone back to University Council. We begin the year with an infusion of new energy in Penn's senior leadership. I join President Gutmann in welcoming Deans Geoffrey Garrett at the Wharton School, John Jackson at the School of Social Policy and Practice, and Antonia Villarruel at the School of Nursing, all of whom took office this summer – along with Presidential Professor Wendell Pritchett, who has graciously agreed to serve this year as Interim Dean of Penn Law School. They are already bringing a wonderful dynamism and collegiality to campus and have received warm welcomes across their Schools and the Penn community. I trust that you will all come to know them well in the year ahead. In the Division of Recreation and Intercollegiate Athletics, Grace Calhoun has gotten off to an equally energetic start as the new Director, concluding the national search for a Head Coach of Wrestling and meeting with a wide range of students, coaches, and overseers to learn more about their perspectives on athletics and recreation at Penn.

We also begin the year with important enhancements across some major services for students. College Houses and Academic Services has created new leadership positions to address the needs of students in on-campus housing: one will concentrate specifically on first-year houses, one on four-year houses, and one on the high-rises. These new leaders, who begin their positions in October, will bring expertise and focus to these specific areas, learning more about the needs of our students at the differing stages of their Penn experience and helping to keep Penn ahead of best practices and national trends in on-campus housing. In the Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships, a new leadership position will now be dedicated exclusively to fellowships – including the Rhodes, Marshall, and Fulbright – helping to address the ever-growing interest of our students in these invaluable research opportunities.

Finally, we are pleased to begin the semester with the Chaplain's Office relocated to Houston Hall. This central campus location will help further the essential work of this office and the Spiritual and Religious Life Center. This space previously housed the Family Resource Center, which has in turn relocated to the Graduate Student Center, where it will continue to serve as a significant resource for our students with children, allowing them to care for their families on campus and create cross-campus networks of support with other families. The Graduate Student Center and Family Resource Center welcome all members of the Penn community to an Open House at this new location (3615 Locust Walk), on October 9 from 3-5 PM.

I look forward to working together in the year ahead.

Vincent Price
Provost



gapsa

GRADUATE *and* PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSEMBLY
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA) Status Report

The 2014-2015 GAPSA Executive Board members have been busy since the April elections transitioning into their new roles, working on maintaining several of GAPSA's traditions and initiatives, as well as exploring new enterprises. Below I have highlighted some of the important items that GAPSA has been working on:

1. **Travel Grants** – GAPSA administers 3 cycles of travel grants annually, through the professional and research student councils, to help graduate students defray the cost of attending and presenting research at conferences. Through an application process, summer travel grant award winners have been selected and funds distributed. GAPSA is currently accepting Fall Travel Grant applications until the November 15th 11:59pm deadline.
2. **GradFest**
 - a. This is an annual weeklong celebration for all graduate students at Penn. This year's GradFest featured a resource fair on College Green, a movie night on Shoemaker Green, a Carnival with food trucks at Penn Park, and a party at the World Café Live.
 - b. The GAPSA-Provost Award for Interdisciplinary Innovation Reception was also held the week of GradFest at the Graduate Student Center. Six graduate student research projects were selected through a competitive application process during the Spring 2014 semester. These proposed projects were funded over the summer and the project leaders present their end products at the reception.
3. **PennShape Fall 2014** – Now in its third year, PennShape has expanded and currently has 793 active graduate student participants. This 12-week intervention focuses on both positive physical and mental health and is comprised of 117 workshops on a variety of topics including fitness, nutrition, sexual health, and stress reduction.
4. **General Assembly Meeting** – On September 10th we held our first General Assembly (GA) meeting of the academic year. We have many returning and new members who are excited to kick off an amazing and memorable year.

Respectfully submitted,

Justine Sefcik, Chair of GAPSA



Undergraduate Assembly

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Constituency Update

1. Interfaith Center

On September 10, 2014, there was an opening celebration with the presence of University Chaplain, Chaz Howard and Associate Chaplain, Steve Kocher. We'd like to thank the administration, PRISM, and all other involved parties for working with us to make the interfaith center a reality. We look forward to partnering with the administration for future collaborations in this upcoming year.

2. New UA Student Representatives

We are happy to announce the election of 8 new student representatives in this last week. The overall voter turnout was around 70%. We'd like to welcome Michelle Xu, David Cahn, Jack Cahn, Justin Hopkins, Sola Park, Emily Hoeven, Rahima Jamal, and Nathaniel Rome. We are looking forward to working with them this upcoming year.

3. International Integration Discussion

Over the course of this past year, the UA has been working with the Assembly of International Students, International Student and Scholar Services, and various administrators to best figure out how to support international programs and international students. We'd like to welcome partnership with anyone who is interested in this initiative. It will be a focus point for us this upcoming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kim

UA President (president@pennua.org)

Joshua L. Chilcote

UA Vice-President(vp@pennua.org)



Status Report- Penn Professional Staff Assembly

- The theme year for the PPSA is “**Year of Engagement.**” As part of this theme year, the PPSA plans to hold events which enable to staff to engage at various levels, including professional development, networking, and engagement with the University and the Philadelphia community. Events will include a skill share event, steps to success at Penn, and a discussion about diversity.
- Our first PPSA event of the year was a **Gallery Hop** on September 3rd, which included a tour of the Arthur Ross Gallery, as well as a view of the exhibition at the Penn Museum titled “In the Artifact Lab: Conserving Egyptian Mummies.” The evening ended with the Museum’s Summer Nights concert.
- The Annual **Employee Resource Fair** (ERF) in collaboration with the Weekly Paid Staff Assembly will take place on Monday, October 13th in Bodek Lounge, Houston Hall from 12pm to 2pm. In conjunction with the ERF there will be a volunteer fair of numerous local organizations who are inviting Penn staff to become involved with their organizations. The volunteer fair will take place in the Reading Room of Houston Hall (adjacent to Bodek). All are welcome!
- Starting with the Academic Year until October 10th, the PPSA is holding a **membership drive**. During this campaign we reach out to new staff as well as existing staff who are not yet familiar with the PPSA and invite them to join by signing up online here: http://penn-ppsa.org/?page_id=53. We work with the HR departments from various schools and centers as well as through a grassroots effort to reach out to potential new members.

Respectfully submitted,

Emma Grigore
Chair, PPSA

Utsav Schurmans
Past Chair, PPSA

Lucia DiNapoli
Chair Elect, PPSA



<http://www.upenn.edu/wpsa/>

Weekly Paid Professional Staff Assembly
Status Report for University Council
Summary from March 2014 to October 2014
Date written: September 23, 2014

Past Speaker Series:

March 6, 2014
Penn Benefits Information Session

April 25, 2014
“Preparing for a Successful Appraisal Meeting”

May 2, 2014
“Generational Difference in the Workplace”

In May 2014, we re-elected and elected new members for positions on our Executive Board.

WPPSA has adopted the University’s theme, “The Year of Health”. We will present most of our speaker series under this format.

On September 9th, WPPSA held an Open House to discuss the history of the Assembly, introduce our current and newly elected members.

On October 10th, the WPPSA Outreach Team will meet to spread the word about WPPSA

On October 13th, the Penn Employee Resource Fair will be held in Bodek Lounge, Houston Hall. This annual event is organized by WPPSA and PPSA as well as partnered with the Division of Human Resources and the Office of the Executive Vice President.

On October 14th, we will have our first general membership meeting of the year.

Submitted by,

Marcia Dotson
WPPSA Chair

Rosa Vargas
Chair -elect