

PROVOST'S STATUS REPORT

University Council

October 22, 2014

The Provost's State of the University Report this year focuses on the vibrant state of arts and culture at Penn. With an extraordinary array of outstanding academic departments across several Schools and an unmatched collection of vibrant arts and culture centers, Penn is ideally positioned to advance, through the arts, our core University goals of increasing access, integrating knowledge, and engaging locally and globally. In the five years since the Arts and the City Year, our programs, performances, and arts organizations have become an ever-more central part of campus and city life. Moreover, they have become valuable partners in launching new teaching and research programs, while also advancing our essential goals of engaging our global and local communities.

At Council, we will learn more about initiatives at the Penn Museum, especially the new Center for the Analysis of Archaeological Materials, and about the Art and Culture Initiative co-sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the School of Arts and Sciences. These two presentations will stand in for the outstanding work done all year by our great arts and culture organizations. The Institute of Contemporary Art has been celebrating its fiftieth anniversary with an extraordinary range of publications and public programs, including an important mid-career retrospective of American painter Nicole Eisenman and the annual Free for All, which this year drew more than 400 students for an evening of punk rock and interactive art. The Kelly Writers House, in addition to its hundreds of invaluable programs on campus, has become a key part of our open learning initiatives. The yearly Modern Poetry course taught by Al Filreis has attracted a wide new audience in all corners of the country and the world.

The Arthur Ross Gallery has become a major venue for bringing together perspectives across cultures and disciplines. This year alone, it showcases the sculpture of Brazilian installation artist Henrique Oliveira, the photographs of Mexico in the 1930s by legendary modernist photographer Paul Strand, and modern Japanese prints linked to a curatorial seminar in Art History. And the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts continues to bring to the campus and city some of the most exciting performers from around the world, including dancers and musicians from Israel, New Zealand, Puerto Rico, South Africa, and Spain and, most recently, the acclaimed production of *King Lear* from the Shakespeare's Old Globe Theatre Company.

On Friday, October 31, as part of Homecoming Weekend, I hope that you will join me, President Gutmann, and Board of Trustees Chair David Cohen for an afternoon of "Celebrating Innovation at Penn," at the new South Bank at 34th Street and Grays Ferry Avenue. The event will include the Silfen Forum, hosted by President Gutmann on the topic *From Idea to Innovation*; talks by leading Penn faculty; and tours of this exciting new addition to campus. You will find more information at: <http://www.upenn.edu/innovation>. I look forward to seeing you there.

Vincent Price
Provost



Undergraduate Assembly

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Constituency Update

1. Dining Advisory Board Constitution Resolution

On September 21, 2014, the UA passed a resolution that enacted the following clauses:

The Undergraduate Assembly:

1. Supports the establishment of a more sustainable Dining Advisory Board as outlined in Appendix I;
2. Commits to the allocation of members to the Dining Advisory Board in coordination with the NEC as outlined in the board's constitution;
3. Strongly urges the herein established Dining Advisory Board to take all measures within its scope and power to accomplish its mission; and
4. Commends Penn Business Services, Penn Dining, and any relevant external dining providers for engaging actively with the Dining Advisory Board, and for recognizing it as a vital source of diverse student input

2. International Student Integration

Following the last status report, the UA met with Dr. Rudie Altamirano, Director of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) to discuss strategic initiatives on how to better integrate international students.

Examples of such initiatives include:

- "Beyond Immigration"- a centralized portal of resources that international students can go to that addresses social and cultural adjustment to Penn (<http://global.upenn.edu/iss/beyond-immigration>)
- Program Coordinator- ISSS hired Ryan Villanueva this past summer to serve as an advisor for international students regarding programming
- Individualized Advising- ISSS is implementing an individualized advising system for international students.

Respectfully submitted,

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