

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of University Council
From: Amy Gutmann, President
Date: December 3, 2014
Subject: Report to the University Council

Welcome back from Thanksgiving Break. I hope you all had an opportunity to attend our Innovation at Penn event on Halloween, where standing-room-only crowds enjoyed faculty presentations and our 2014 Silfen Forum with acclaimed author Walter Isaacson. The Penn community's enthusiasm and turnout were tremendous for the ceremonial groundbreaking of our new Pennovation Center.

A few weeks later, we officially launched the Penn Center for Innovation, or PCI—our new organizational model for identifying and supporting technology transfer opportunities across the University. Mayor Michael Nutter joined us for the launch event and spoke about Penn's essential role in expanding Philadelphia's entrepreneurial and technological ecosystem. With the leadership of Executive Director John Swartley, PCI is ushering in a new era of discovery and innovation at Penn.

As we boost Penn's innovation, we have also made great strides in Penn's sustainability. Since the launch of Penn's *Climate Action Plan* five years ago, we have decreased the University's overall carbon emissions by 18 percent, a significant collective achievement. We have six new LEED-certified buildings and beautiful new open spaces. Our students and faculty have worked together on an expanded catalogue of course offerings and research on sustainability, engaging with the urgent environmental and energy challenges of our time. In October, we launched the second phase of Penn's sustainability measures, called the *Climate Action Plan 2.0*. I encourage you to learn more about our successes to date and our plans for the future by visiting Penn's sustainability page: www.upenn.edu/sustainability/about-us/our-climate-action-plan. Together, I know we will achieve even more in the years ahead.

I want to conclude my report with well-deserved praise for our superb faculty. To cite just two recent examples: Dr. Robert Aronowitz, chair of the Department of History and Sociology of Science in SAS and professor in the Perelman School, has been elected to join the prestigious Institute of Medicine. In SEAS, Assistant Professor of Bioengineering Arjun Raj is the recipient of a National Science Foundation CAREER Award, the organization's highest honor for junior faculty who exemplify outstanding teaching and research.

As we conclude the semester and prepare for the holiday season, I want to thank you for your service to University Council. I wish you all great success in the last few weeks of classes and exams, and I hope you enjoy a pleasant and safe winter break.

PROVOST'S STATUS REPORT

University Council

December 2014

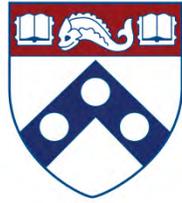
Our last Council meeting featured illuminating presentations on the outstanding work of the Penn Museum and the campus-wide Art and Culture Initiative. In the wake of those presentations, it is a pleasure to report that all of our great arts and culture organizations have been enjoying an exceptionally strong year. I encourage you to visit them – and to bring your friends and families to visit them with you – as we approach the holiday season. The Penn Museum will host its nineteenth annual free family celebration of holiday traditions around the world on Saturday, December 6. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring children and other family members to experience the Museum's extraordinary range of historic artifacts and exhibits. Along similar lines, the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts will offer family holiday shows featuring important international performing artists: first the renowned and innovative Irish acoustic music of Lúnasa on December 7, followed by the legendary Swiss Mummenschanz troupe from December 11 to 14.

These shows indicate the remarkable global reach of arts and culture on our campus, one of the numerous ways in which the arts help drive our key campus goals. Through January, the Arthur Ross Gallery is hosting a site-specific installation of Brazilian sculptor Henrique Oliveira – the first time his work has been seen in Philadelphia. Oliveira is known for large-scale public installations in cities around the world, which combine materials in innovative ways, including salvaged and recycled items such as foam, plastic, and metal sheets. Next semester, the Gallery will continue to expand its global scope with a show of photographs taken in Mexico in the 1930s by legendary photographer Paul Strand and an exhibit of modern Japanese prints, coordinated with an undergraduate curatorial seminar led by Prof. Julie Nelson Davis.

Like these groups, our Institute of Contemporary Art exemplifies the campus-wide missions of impact, inclusion, and innovation defined by the Penn Compact 2020. ICA has been celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year, concluding a retrospective that featured sixty artists across a wide range of media, in six months of short exhibitions featuring eighteen unique commissions. It is welcoming more visitors than ever before, including more than 500 participants in its recent Free for All, which featured exciting performances and interactive events aimed especially at Penn students. ICA continues to sustain its invaluable and distinctive mission of inclusion by drawing attention to often underrecognized living artists, including current and upcoming retrospectives of Moyra Davey and Barbara Kasten, who both create innovative new forms of art by crossing disciplines in dynamic and path-breaking ways.

I hope all of you enjoy a wonderful end of the semester and a joyous holiday season.

Vincent Price
Provost



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GRADUATE *and* PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSEMBLY
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA) Status Report

Below I have highlighted some of the important items that GAPSA has been involved with and working on:

1. **Purchasing of Lactation Equipment** - GAPSA's Vice Chair for Equity and Access Anthony Pratcher has allied with student governments in the schools of Design, Veterinary Science, Nursing, and Engineering to raise \$2500 for the purchase of lactation equipment for the graduate and professional student community. This continues a yearlong campaign to ensure that there is lactation space and equipment easily accessible by graduate and professional students on every end of campus.
2. **G12 Summit** – GAPSA Executive Board Members held a Leadership Summit on Saturday, October 11th at the Law School Conference Center for the graduate and professional student government leaders from Penn's 12 schools. The Student Leaders had an opportunity to learn more about GAPSA and to network with each other for potential future collaborations.
3. **Ivy+ Summit** – Five Executive Board Members attended the annual summit from November 7th-9th which was hosted at Yale this year. We led a presentation titled “Wellness and Inclusiveness on Campus” which highlighted the wide variety of programs that GAPSA has been providing to promote holistic wellness and a sense of belonging among the graduate and professional students. Some examples of what we highlighted included: GradFest, PennShape, Chillax – A Study Break, and funding opportunities through GAPSA for across school collaborations for social and academic events.
4. **Special Elections** – On the evening of Wednesday, November 19th, the General Assembly voted in a new Vice Chair for International Students, Kevin Wanxin Luan from the Dental School who will fill the position at the end of the year, as the current Vice Chair graduates in December.

Respectfully submitted,
Justine Sefcik, Chair of GAPSA
gapsa.chair@gmail.com