

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of University Council

From: Amy Gutmann, President

Date: January 28, 2015

Subject: Report to the University Council

Happy New Year and welcome back to University Council. I am pleased to report that applications for the Class of 2019 have broken all previous Penn records with a 4 percent increase over last year. In all, Penn has received over 37,200 applications, and the quality and competitiveness among these applicants is extremely high. Thanks to the superb efforts of Dean Eric Furda and the Admissions team, Penn is well on its way to welcoming an extraordinary Class of 2019.

Last month, Penn celebrated the “topping off” ceremony for our new Neural and Behavioral Sciences Building. This signified the completion of the structural phase of this new home for psychology, biology, and behavioral sciences. When completed, the beautiful \$68.6 million, six-story structure will house advanced teaching facilities, cutting edge laboratories, and study space. With an eye for Penn’s sustainability goals, we are also aiming for a LEED Silver rating or higher for the new NBS building. Penn’s Neural and Behavioral Sciences Building will be a signature addition to the nation’s most innovative, beautiful, and sustainable urban campus, as well as an invaluable resource for our students and faculty.

The Penn community has some very special anniversaries to celebrate as well. The Perelman School of Medicine marks its 250th Anniversary this year, and the Graduate School of Education celebrates its Centennial. Throughout the spring, both the Perelman School and GSE will be showcasing how centuries of Penn teaching and discovery have transformed care for the body and cultivation for the mind. I encourage everyone to participate in these historic anniversaries and learn more about these two landmark Penn Schools.

With GSE’s Centennial celebration underway, there really couldn’t be a more fitting time to welcome our new Graduate School of Education Dean, Pam Grossman, who began her term this month. She is an internationally respected expert on some of the most important issues confronting primary and secondary education today, and she is passionate about great teaching. Pam’s proven track record of collaborative leadership makes her a perfect match for GSE’s exceptional students, faculty, alumni, and staff. I invite everyone in the Penn community to join me in giving Pam a very warm welcome.

Four Penn professors were recently elected to the prestigious American Association for the Advancement of Science. The new Penn AAAS members represent SAS and the Perelman School across several critically important areas of research:

- Dr. Rexford Ahima, professor of medicine at the Perelman School.
- Dr. Marisa Bartolomei, professor of cell and developmental biology at the Perelman School.
- Dr. Charles Epstein, Thomas A. Scott Professor of Mathematics and professor of radiology in mathematics in SAS.
- Dr. Robert Kalb, professor of neurology at the Perelman School.

I am also proud to report Penn's newest Rhodes Scholar is Rutendo Chigora, whose work in creating economic opportunities for vulnerable communities garnered a win at the 2014 Clinton Global Initiatives University Conference. On behalf of Penn, I wish Ruti the very best as she finishes her senior year and prepares for graduate study at Oxford University.

Finally, Provost Price, EVP Carnaroli, and I announced the launch of the HELP Line last month. It is a 24-hour phone service for any member of the Penn community who is seeking time-sensitive help in navigating Penn's resources for health and wellness. The HELP Line is open all day and night, seven days a week, and is run by professionals trained in mental health referrals by staff from CAPS. This resource is one in a series of steps Penn continues to take to expand mental health support for students and all members of our community. The number is 215-898-HELP. I encourage all University Council members to share this important update with your constituents and to use it yourselves whenever you need guidance on how best to offer support and assistance to those in distress.

We have a productive and rewarding semester ahead of us, and I look forward to working with you. Thank you for your service to University Council.

PROVOST'S STATUS REPORT

University Council

January 2015

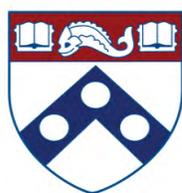
It is a great pleasure to welcome everyone back for the spring semester. At this time of year, I encourage all members of the Penn community to take advantage of the numerous funding opportunities available through the Provost's Office for projects in the coming summer and fall. For example, the Penn Undergraduate Mentoring Program offers paid summer opportunities for Penn students to work directly with faculty members on their research projects. Students and faculty can find more information at: <http://www.upenn.edu/curf/research/grants/penn-undergraduate-research-mentoring-program>. The Global Engagement Fund, seeking proposals by February 2, sponsors initiatives that enhance Penn's global engagement and further our cross-disciplinary global initiatives: <https://global.upenn.edu/gef>. And the Provost's Interdisciplinary Arts Fund, seeking proposals by February 28, supports projects that advance arts & culture on campus, especially projects that directly engage students or bring together arts & culture organizations with academic departments and centers: <http://provost.upenn.edu/initiatives/arts/about/provost-s-interdisciplinary-arts-fund>.

Prof. Andy Binns, as many of you know, will complete his extraordinary nine-year service as Vice Provost for Education at the end of June. This is a highly significant educational leadership position at Penn that includes oversight of both undergraduate and graduate education. I have appointed a consultative committee of faculty and students, chaired by Prof. Dwight Jaggard of SEAS, to advise me on the selection of his successor. The committee actively seeks nominations of and applications from senior faculty members, which can be addressed by February 6 to Dwight Jaggard (jaggard@seas.upenn.edu) or Assistant Provost Lynne Hunter (lynneh@upenn.edu). You will find more information about the committee and the search at: <http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v61/n16/vice-provost-search.html>.

Finally, please join me in congratulating our eight new Penn Fellows. This invaluable program provides leadership development to a small group of Penn faculty members in mid-career, offering them opportunities to build alliances across Schools, meet with Penn's senior administrators and other academic leaders, and think strategically about universities and university governance. This year's eight Fellows come to us from five Penn schools: Professors Marija Drndic and Emily Steiner from SAS; Chao Guo from the School of Social Policy and Practice; Lisa Lewis from Nursing; Joshua Plotkin, Alejandro Ribeiro, and Kevin Turner from SEAS; and Nancy Rothbard from Wharton. They all demonstrate the kind of innovative, interdisciplinary work that characterizes our outstanding Penn faculty and is making a tangible impact on peoples' lives around the world.

I look forward to working together in the semester ahead.

Vincent Price
Provost



gapsa

GRADUATE *and* PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSEMBLY
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA) Status Report

Below I have highlighted some important announcements from GAPSA:

1. **Special Elections for Vice Chair for Social Activities** – On the evening of Wednesday, **February 4th** at 7pm GAPSA will hold elections for the position of Vice Chair for Social Activities. The term of service will be until May 1st, 2015. Any current graduate/professional student at Penn may make a nomination or be nominated. To learn more about the position, contact David Sun (gapsa.sa@gmail.com) with subject line "Candidate Inquiry." All nominations and/or questions about elections should be sent via e-mail to Vice Chair for Equity and Access, Anthony Pratcher II (gapsa.vcpluralism@gmail.com) by Monday, February 2 at noon.
2. **Travel Grant Cycle Opening** – GAPSA administers travel grants through the professional and research student councils to help eligible professional/graduate students defray the cost of traveling to conferences. The Spring Travel Grant cycle will be opening on **February 1st**. For more information and to fill out an application please visit: <http://gapsa.upenn.edu/academic-funding/>
3. **PennSHAPE Spring 2015**– Registration for the Spring 2015 edition of PennSHAPE for graduate students is now open. The program has changed from the Fall 2014 semester. Please visit the website for more details and to register: <http://gapsasl.wix.com/pennshape2015spring>
4. **Lactation Space Beautification Campaign** - GAPSA's Committee for Equity and Access is currently surveying the lactation spaces across campus to assess which spaces are in need of renovations. If you have any suggestions, or are aware of any of the schools that do not having lactation space available to graduate students please contact Anthony Pratcher II at gapsa.vcpluralism@gmail.com

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



Undergraduate Assembly

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Constituency Update

1. Student Financial Services Advisory Board (SFSAB) Constitution Resolution

On December 7, 2014, the UA passed a resolution that enacted the following clauses:

The Undergraduate Assembly:

1. Confirms and supports the establishment of a sustainable Student Financial Services Advisory Board, as per Article 7, Section I of the submitted constitution;
2. Commits the UA to the allocation of members to the Student Financial Services Advisory Board, in coordination with the Nominations and Elections Committee, as outlined in the board's constitution;
3. Strongly urges the herein established Student Financial Services Advisory Board to take all measures within its scope and power to accomplish its mission statement;
4. Commends members of the 5 Boards (Asian Pacific Student Coalition, Lambda Alliance, Latin@ Coalition, United Minorities Council, and UMOJA) for their initiative and input in creating and advocating for this new advisory board; and
5. Commends Student Financial Services, particularly University Director of Financial Aid, Joel Carstens, and Associate Vice President for Student Services, Michelle Brown-Nevers, as well as all relevant administrators for engaging actively with the students and for recognizing this board as a vital source for diverse student input.

2. UA Annual Report

The UA is producing its first annual report since 2011. This report will include an overview of all the projects it has been working on in the 2014-2015 year. This report will be distributed next week.

3. Wellness Guide

The UA partnered with the Penn Undergraduate Health Coalition to produce "The Wellness Guide". It is a survey of various resources at Penn that can aid with your mental wellness. In addition to CAPS, all of the places listed in this guide have communities and staff members who can support you in times of mental stress. Some of the centers also feature a list of student groups whose primary work involves mental wellness. The guide also has testimonials of students who utilize the different resource centers for their own mental wellness. We plan to distribute this later this week.

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.
- In December we hosted two events to give back to the community. On December 18th, PPSA partnered with the Red Cross and held a blood drive in Houston Hall and collected 32 blood donations. Throughout the month of December, PPSA members held collections for used clothing that benefited three organizations: Dress for Success (women’s clothing), Bethesda Project (men and women’s clothing), and Cradles to Crayons (children’s clothing and equipment). Overall, we were able to contribute over 2,000lbs of donated items to these organizations.
- Every January, PPSA hosts a senior leadership speaker event for staff. This year we’re pleased and honored to host Executive Vice President Craig Carnaroli on January 30th for a noontime presentation on change management at the University.
- In line with our theme year, we will be hosting our second diversity workshop on February 24, 2015 led by former GSE professor Ann Tiao. The workshop focuses on identity, unconscious biases and prejudices, and microaggressions. Registered participants will be asked to complete a confidential survey ahead of time and discuss the significance of the results during the workshop.

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 December 2014 to January 2015
Date written: January 20, 2015

On Tuesday, December 9, 2014, WPPSA held their general membership meeting for non-exempt, non-union staff members.

On Tuesday, December 16, 2014, WPPSA held their annual holiday and adopt a family celebration

On Friday, December 19, 2014, WPPSA hosted a gift wrapping gathering for unwrapped items received for our adopt a family.

On Monday, December 22, 2014 delivered donations to our adopt a family.

On Tuesday, January 13, 2015, WPPSA presented the Next Generation Student System (NGSS) – What Does it Mean to You?

Submitted by,

Marcia Dotson
WPPSA Chair

Rosa Vargas
Chair -elect