

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of University Council

From: Amy Gutmann, President

Date: March 25, 2015

Subject: Report to the University Council

Provost Price and I are delighted that Vijay Kumar—the UPS Foundation Professor in Penn Engineering and an internationally respected pioneer in robotics—will begin his tenure as SEAS dean on July 1, 2015. Vijay has been a Penn faculty member for nearly 30 years. His superb academic judgment, compelling vision for the future of engineering and applied science, and proven track record as a leader and administrator make him the perfect choice to lead Penn Engineering. Vijay knows Penn, loves Penn, and is deeply committed to our students and faculty.

We also join together in applauding Dean Eduardo Glandt for his extraordinary 17-year tenure leading Penn Engineering. With Eduardo's great vision, energy, and intellect, SEAS has become more eminent and innovative. We are deeply grateful and will take ample opportunity this spring to celebrate Eduardo's lasting contributions to Penn.

As Provost Price reports, Penn will join 28 fellow AAU institutions on April 2 in launching a sophisticated campus climate survey on sexual violence. The participating universities represent more than 800,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, so we expect the survey to be among the largest ever on sexual violence in higher education. Developed with extensive input from experts in the field of campus sexual violence, the survey will assess campus climate in a way that facilitates comparison of data within and across institutions while protecting the confidentiality of respondents.

I join the Provost in urging all Penn students to participate. Every thorough and thoughtful survey response will contribute to our mutual mission of safeguarding student safety and wellbeing.

I am delighted to report that three Penn professors are among this year's recipients of the prestigious Sloan Research Fellowship. Awarded to the most promising early-career scientists and scholars, Sloan Fellowships are a mark of distinction for pioneering research and discovery. Hearty congratulations to:

- Dr. Zahra Fakhraai, assistant professor of chemistry in SAS.
- Dr. Jennifer Phillips-Cremens, assistant professor of bioengineering in SEAS.
- Dr. Aaron Roth, the Raj and Neera Singh Assistant Professor of Computer and Information Science in SEAS.

I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable Spring Break. Welcome back!

PROVOST'S STATUS REPORT

University Council, March 2015

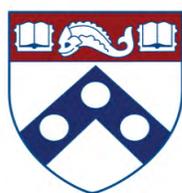
It is a great pleasure to join President Gutmann in congratulating Penn's two newly appointed deans, Prof. Vijay Kumar in the School of Engineering and Applied Science and Prof. Ted Ruger in the Law School, who both begin their terms on July 1. Many of you have already worked with them and share our confidence that they will continue to be dynamic and substantive leaders of the Penn community in the years ahead. It is a tribute to Penn's eminence that both searches attracted so many outstanding candidates from around the world – and that, in the end, we named two remarkable leaders already here at Penn. We are most grateful to Prof. Eduardo Glandt for his extraordinary 17-year tenure as Dean of SEAS and to Prof. Wendell Pritchett for his exemplary service this year as Interim Dean of the Law School. We will have numerous opportunities to thank and honor them before the end of the semester.

Over spring break, I led a delegation, including eight deans and dozens of distinguished faculty members, to launch the Penn Wharton China Center in Beijing's Central Business District. The launch was a tremendous success, engaging hundreds of Penn alumni and leaders of business and higher education in China in two days of stimulating discussions and research presentations. The Center will now host several months of events, featuring all twelve Penn Schools, followed by a visit in September by President Gutmann, who will host a gala opening celebration on the theme "Knowledge for a Global Future." It was inspiring to see the high level of interest and excitement in Beijing about this long-term partnership with Penn. The Center will provide a vibrant hub for the exchange of knowledge with China, including new opportunities here on campus which I hope will engage many of you in the years ahead.

Next month, Penn will participate in the highly important campus climate survey about sexual misconduct sponsored by the Association of American Universities. This survey is designed to provide data across a wide range of universities on the frequency and characteristics of campus sexual assault and sexual harassment. On April 2, all students will receive an email with a unique link to an anonymous survey, which will be open until April 23. Participation by all our students – both graduate and undergraduate – is critically important, and we strongly encourage all students not only to participate but also to encourage all your friends and constituents to participate. Aggregate results will be reported in September and will help us learn more about the campus climate and best practices at peer universities and shape our future policies in this significant area.

I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful break and is looking forward to a productive and stimulating second half of the semester.

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. GAPSA's Co-Sponsored Community Workshop Scheduled for April 7th –**
In an effort to reach out to student advocates and activists following the #blacklivesmatter movement, we have co-sponsored a community workshop Tuesday, April 7th from 5-7pm at Houston Hall titled, "Not Another Race Discussion: Research, Practice, and Action for Racial Justice". This event is being held with the Fontaine Society and Students Confronting Racism and White Privilege at Penn to amplify the voices of student advocates and activists. Please write to AntiRacismUPenn@gmail.com for more information.
- 2. Accepting Applications for the Spring President Gutmann Leadership Award –**
This honorary award provides funding for graduate and professional student travel. The award is given to students presenting at either an international conference, or a conference within the United States that would normally be out of their budget even with an individual travel grant through GAPSA's Research or Professional Student Councils. More information can be found at <http://gapsa.upenn.edu/honorary-awards>.
- 3. Accepting Applications for Spring Research Student Travel Grants –**
GAPSA's Research Council administers travel grants to help eligible research students defray the cost of traveling to conferences which they have been accepted as a presenter. For more information and to fill out an application please visit: <http://gapsa.upenn.edu/academic-funding/>.
- 4. 2015-2016 GAPSA Executive Board Elections – Wednesday, March 18th at 6pm –**
Further information about the incoming Executive Board members can be found on our website.

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



Undergraduate Assembly

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Constituency Update

1. Budget Season Overview 2015-2016

The UA just finished up budget season and passed the budget on March 1, 2015. We'd like to give our utmost thanks to our Treasurer, Amanda Acosta Ruiz and budget committee members, Alex George and Jacob Henner, for devoting over 60 hours since last November to figure out how to best allocate over \$2.2 million to the student body. For a breakdown of the budget of the 2015-2016 year, you can find a breakdown of the budget here: <http://pennua.org/committees/budget/>

2. UA Wellness Guide + One-Pager

The UA is excited to announce the completion of the Wellness Guide. The UA in partnership with the Penn Undergraduate Health Coalition has created a comprehensive survey of great centers and organizations on campus devoted to the overall wellness of Penn. This guide also contains testimonials of students who use these resources. Additionally, there is a one-pager that provides a quick summary. We'd like to give special thanks to the UA Secretary, Andrew Gegios, for designing and formatting this guide and Max Levy from the Student Health Services Advisory Board for designing the one-pager. The guide and the one-pager can be found here: <http://pennua.org/resources/wellness/>.

3. Fossil Fuel Divestment Referendum

From 12:00 AM on Monday, February 23 to 5:00 PM on Friday, February 27, 33% of the full-time undergraduate population voted on the following referendum:

"We, the undergraduates at the University of Pennsylvania, call upon the Undergraduate Assembly to recommend formally that the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania:

- 1. Stop new investments in the fossil fuel industry;*
- 2. Remove direct and commingled holdings in the top 200 fossil fuel companies within 5 years;*
- 3. Reinvest a portion of the extricated funds into clean energy assets."*

There were 2,866 votes for the referendum and 397 votes against.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kim
UA President (president@pennua.org)

Joshua L. Chilcote
UA Vice-President (vp@pennua.org)



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

*Weekly Paid Professional Staff Assembly (WPPSA)
Status Report for March 2015 to the University Council
Date written: March 13, 2015*

On Tuesday, March 10, 2015, WPPSA sponsored their speaker series titled: Your Next Step in Education with Graduate School of Education and The College of Liberal and Professional Studies.

In May 2015, WPPSA will hold elections to fill the open seats of our Assembly. Members are invited to submit a short bio of interest to Linda Satchell, lsatchel@pobox.upenn.edu no later than May 5, 2015. There will be upcoming announcements.

Submitted by,

*Marcia Dotson
WPPSA Chair*

*Rosa Vargas
Chair -elect*