

## MEMORANDUM

**To: Members of University Council**  
**From: Amy Gutmann, President**  
**Date: October 7, 2015**  
**Subject: Report to the University Council**

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I'm pleased to welcome you back to University Council. We kicked off the 276th year of the University of Pennsylvania with Convocation held in front of College Hall. Provost Price and I officially welcomed the Class of 2019 and transfers by encouraging them to discover the vast array of resources and opportunities at Penn. Penn's latest Class is wonderfully diverse, accomplished, and motivated, and I salute Dean Furda and his team at Penn Admissions for another job well done.

The new academic year also brings new members to Penn's leadership team. Provost Price and I are pleased to welcome Vijay Kumar as dean of Penn Engineering and Ted Ruger as dean of Penn Law. Meanwhile, we have undertaken a search for the new dean of the School of Design, and the search committee is chaired by Annenberg School Dean Michael Delli Carpini.

In September, I and many of our deans traveled to Beijing for a gala celebration in honor of Penn's longstanding relationships in China and for the dedication of the Penn Wharton China Center. We enjoyed fantastic turnout, wonderful discussion and cultural exchange, and, on September 10th, a historic Silfen University Forum on U.S./China relations. Our guests had the opportunity to hear a timely and entertaining discussion among panelists Minister Li Zhaoxing, General Colin Powell, Zhang Xin, and emeritus Penn Trustee Howard Marks. After the Forum, U.S. Ambassador Max Baucus joined us for our celebration of Penn in China. From start to finish, the celebration and Forum were wonderful milestones for Penn's global engagement.

Yesterday, we enjoyed yet another global engagement milestone with German President Joachim Gauck, who visited campus to deliver a fantastic public lecture on shared values between Germany and the United States. President Gauck is an internationally respected advocate of democratic principles and liberty, and given the political challenges currently unfolding in Europe, his talk was as timely as it was insightful. He honored the University of Pennsylvania by visiting here during his state trip to Washington, D.C. to mark the 25th anniversary of German unification. I am grateful to Perry World House and its director, Richard Perry Professor Bill Burke-White, for helping make this historic event possible for the Penn community.

History was also made by Penn's football team, which carried the Quakers to our first victory over the Villanova Wildcats in over a century. Congratulations to our student-athletes on this "upset of the century," and I look forward to many more Penn victories!

Thank you all for your service to University Council and to the Penn community. We have a wonderful and productive year ahead.

## PROVOST'S STATUS REPORT

University Council

October 7, 2015

It is a pleasure to welcome everyone back for a new year. This year, as many of you know, we are proud to launch the Campaign for Community, which aims to strengthen our shared Penn community by helping us discuss those core issues that may appear to be the most challenging and intractable. In particular, the Campaign seeks to advance three goals:

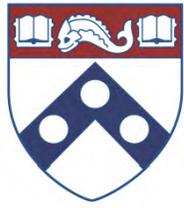
- To promote understanding of and respect for multiple points of view on important topics related to the University community;
- To encourage dialogue and discussion among members of the community about issues with the potential for difference and disagreement;
- To create opportunities for all members of the University's community to participate in conversations about important topics.

In pursuit of these goals, the Campaign Steering Committee will offer a program of grants for Campaign events. Up to twenty such grants will be awarded each year. You can find more information at: <http://provost.upenn.edu/initiatives/campaign/grants> or by emailing the Steering Committee directly at [c4c@exchange.upenn.edu](mailto:c4c@exchange.upenn.edu). The Committee is co-chaired by the Vice Provost for Education, the Vice Provost for University Life, and the Past Chair of the Faculty Senate and includes representatives from every part of campus, including students, faculty, and staff. It will also sponsor and help promote events that do not need additional funding yet will advance Campaign goals. More information about such partnerships can be found at: <http://provost.upenn.edu/initiatives/campaign/partnerships>. True to its name, the Campaign for Community belongs to all of us, as one community. I am heartened by the responses that we have gotten to it thus far, and I look forward to the many creative and illuminating activities that I know our community will contribute to it moving forward.

At the outset of this year, I am pleased to welcome Stanton Wortham, Judy and Howard Berkowitz Professor in the Graduate School of Education, as the new Faculty Director of the Online Learning Initiative. As Penn's online learning efforts expand and mature, he brings to them a great depth of expertise in educational practice and especially in the power of education to provide opportunities to new generations of students and help shape their social and cultural identities. This year, Penn will be working not only with Coursera, our online learning partner since 2012, but also edX, the leading nonprofit online learning platform whose open source platform will be of particular value in helping us continue to innovate new methods of online and classroom learning.

I look forward to working with all of you in the year ahead.

Vincent Price  
Provost



# gapsa

GRADUATE *and* PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSEMBLY  
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

## **Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA) Status Report: October 7, 2015**

### **I. The 2015-2016 GAPSA Executive Board:**

Vice Chair: Kelsey Van Gelder | [gapsa.vicechair@gmail.com](mailto:gapsa.vicechair@gmail.com)  
Vice Chair for Communications: Miriam Archibong | [gapsa.pr@gmail.com](mailto:gapsa.pr@gmail.com)  
Vice Chair for Equity & Access: Justine Sefcik | [gapsa.vcpluralism@gmail.com](mailto:gapsa.vcpluralism@gmail.com)  
Vice Chair for Finance: Paul Welfer | [gapsa.finance@gmail.com](mailto:gapsa.finance@gmail.com)  
Vice Chair for International Affairs: Sangya Agarwal | [gapsa.ia@gmail.com](mailto:gapsa.ia@gmail.com)  
Vice Chair for Operations: Max Goodman | [gapsa.operations@gmail.com](mailto:gapsa.operations@gmail.com)  
Vice Chair for Professional Students: Taylor Knoche | [gapsa.prof@gmail.com](mailto:gapsa.prof@gmail.com)  
Vice Chair for Research Students: Laura Bryant | [gapsa.research@gmail.com](mailto:gapsa.research@gmail.com)  
Vice Chair for Social Activities: Erica Shim | [gapsa.sa@gmail.com](mailto:gapsa.sa@gmail.com)  
Vice Chair for Student Life: Kristian Taketomo | [gapsa.sl@gmail.com](mailto:gapsa.sl@gmail.com)  
Vice Chair for Student Programs: Ruiyuan Ma | [gapsa.sp@gmail.com](mailto:gapsa.sp@gmail.com)

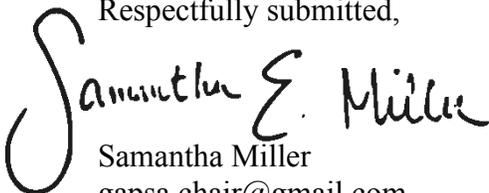
### **II. Professional Student and Research Student Travel Grants open November 1**

Interested students should visit <http://gapsa.upenn.edu/academic-funding/> for more information regarding the guidelines and to access the application.

### **III. President's Advisory Council and Financial Advisory Board**

In an effort to institutionalize collaborative efforts between GAPSA and the G12 student governments, GAPSA has established a President's Advisory Council—consisting of the GAPSA and G12 student government presidents—and a Financial Advisory Board—consisting of the GAPSA and G12 student government treasurers. The bodies plan on meeting twice a semester, with continuous access to ongoing electronic communication. Our first joint meeting was held on Saturday, September 19. Please direct questions about either body to [gapsa.chair@gmail.com](mailto:gapsa.chair@gmail.com)

Respectfully submitted,

  
Samantha Miller  
[gapsa.chair@gmail.com](mailto:gapsa.chair@gmail.com)



# Undergraduate Assembly

## UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

### Constituency Update

#### 1. Sexual Assault Report Resolution

The Undergraduate Assembly:

1. *Commends* the University for releasing the results of the campus climate survey in full and promptly sharing them with the student body.
2. *Echoes* the University's commitment to redoubling efforts to find substantive and effective solutions to the pervasive problem of sexual violence.
3. *Looks forward* to working with the administration on addressing the problem of sexual violence on campus.

#### 2. Drop Date Extension Resolution

The Undergraduate Assembly:

1. *Commends* the undergraduate deans, members of the Office of the Provost, and all those involved in this decision to extend the deadline.
2. *Supports* more class time before making decisions such as drop or pass/fail.
3. *Looks forward* to working with administrators to further enable students to make informed decisions regarding their courses.

#### 3. Off Campus Recycling Guide

Members of the UA compiled the Off Campus Recycling Guide in order to better inform students who do not live in university housing how and where they can recycle. The intent of this guide is to promote sustainable living and to decrease the environmental footprint of the broader Penn community. The Guide is available online at

[http://pennua.org/media/cms\\_page\\_media/77/UA%20Recycling%20Guide.pdf](http://pennua.org/media/cms_page_media/77/UA%20Recycling%20Guide.pdf).

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Jane Meyer**

UA President (president@pennua.org)

**Ray Clark**

UA Vice President (vp@pennua.org)



**Status Report- Penn Professional Staff Assembly  
September 16, 2015**

- The theme year for the PPSA is “**Impact@Work.**” As part of this theme year, the PPSA plans to hold events which enable to staff to engage at various levels, including networking, web matching and engagement with the University and the Philadelphia community. Events will include a mindfulness session, personal branding workshop, community service opportunities and a discussion about inclusion.
- Our first PPSA event of the year will be held on September 30<sup>th</sup>, which includes an introduction to **PPSA Connection**, a web-based platform that enables greater networking by “matching” PPSA members to one another on a monthly basis and a live-networking session.
- The Annual **Employee Resource Fair** (ERF) in collaboration with the Weekly Paid Staff Assembly will take place on Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup> 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 provide Penn staff with service opportunities locally. The volunteer fair will take place in the Reading Room of Houston Hall (adjacent to Bodek). All are welcome!
- For the month of September, 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 our listserv. We are coordinating with Central HR and the 12 Schools’ HR departments to reach out to potential new members and offer greater engagement with the Penn community through our programs and volunteer positions.
- As the academic year gets busier and busier, PPSA has reached out to **Dr. Ira Harkavy** to be the keynote speaker at our mid-year General Membership meeting in January. He has accepted the invitation. We will work to make the program engaging focusing on the Netter Center, its accomplishments and challenges and what the future holds for community engagement at Penn.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucia DiNapoli  
Chair, PPSA

Emma Grigore  
Past Chair, PPSA

Kuan Evans  
Chair Elect, PPSA



## Weekly Paid Professional Staff Assembly

September 23, 2015

Weekly Paid Professional Staff Assembly (WPPSA)

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

Status Report for October 2015

- Tuesday, September 8, 2015, WPPSA held our annual Open House and announced the 2015-2016, theme year for WPPSA. This year's theme is "**Discover a New You At Penn**". As part of this theme, WPPSA plans to hold workshops and seminars that will help our members discover ways to become engaged throughout the University community.
- Tuesday, September 15, 2015, members of WPPSA and PPSA met to discuss the planning of the upcoming Employee Resource Fair held at Houston Hall, Reading Room and Bodek Lounge on October 8, 2015.
- On Tuesday, October 6, 2015 WPPSA will hold its first general membership meeting.

Submitted by,

*Rosa M. Vargas*  
WPPSA Chair

*Irene Tan*  
WPPSA Co-Chair