

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of University Council
From: Amy Gutmann, President
Date: January 27, 2016
Subject: Report to the University Council

Welcome back to campus and to University Council. I hope you all enjoyed a very pleasant winter break. The spring semester is off to a great start with a record-breaking number of applications for admission to the Class of 2020. With more than 38,700 applications, this year marks a 113 percent increase in applicants since 2004. Such remarkable growth serves as a testament to Penn's reputation, to the passion of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni, and to the hard work of Dean Eric Furda and Penn Admissions.

As we build the Class of 2020, we also welcome Penn's new Vice President for Finance and Treasurer, MaryFrances McCourt, and our new Sexual Violence Investigative Officer, Deborah Harley. MaryFrances comes to Penn after 10 years at Indiana University, where she made affordability one of her highest priorities and oversaw a multi-billion dollar budget. She brings great fiscal acumen and a wealth of experiences to her new role at Penn, and I am confident that she will further strengthen our institution's financial health.

Before coming to Penn, Deborah was an attorney specializing in family, civil, and criminal law, with a depth of experience in investigating campus sexual misconduct. She also served in the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office for more than two decades. With her superb background and expertise, Deborah will build on the strong progress we have made to address instances of sexual violence on our campus.

We also recently announced Penn's 2016 Commencement Speaker and honorary degree recipients. Our speaker will be Lin-Manuel Miranda, who is the Grammy, Tony, and MacArthur award-winning creator of the hit Broadway show, *Hamilton*. A composer, writer, and performing artist, Lin-Manuel is among the most widely lauded young talents working in the arts today. We will be honored to host him and his fellow honorary degree recipients: Human rights activist and physician, Hawa Abdi; business economics and public policy scholar, Elizabeth Bailey; author and political commentator, David Brooks; opera and classical performing artist, Renée Fleming; physicist Sylvester James Gates, Jr.; human rights activist and lawyer, Asma Jahangir; and neuroscientist Eric Kandel.

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

PROVOST'S STATUS REPORT

University Council

January 2016

It is a 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 funding opportunities available through the Provost's Office for projects in the coming year. 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 Provost's Interdisciplinary Arts Fund, seeking proposals by February 26, supports projects that advance arts & culture at Penn, especially by directly engaging students and bringing together arts & culture organizations with academic departments: <http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v62/n19/interdisciplinary-arts-fund.html>. And later this term, Penn Global will offer two grant programs: the new [China Research and Engagement Fund](#), for projects in China and connected to the Penn Wharton China Center, and the [Global Engagement Fund](#), for projects in the wide range of other countries in which Penn students and faculty are working around the world.

I am sure that you will join me this semester in congratulating Michael Rose, who will retire at the end of June as Managing Director of the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, a position that he has held for a remarkable eighteen years. I have now appointed a consultative committee, chaired by Vice Provost Anita Allen, to advise me on the selection of his successor. This committee, working closely with the executive search firm Spencer Stuart, seeks input from across the Penn community, which can be sent directly to Spencer Stuart by February 26 at: acpa@spencerstuart.com. You will find more information about the committee and the search at: <http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v62/n19/consultative-committee-annenberg-center.html>.

Finally, please join me in congratulating our new Penn Fellows. This important program provides leadership development to a select group of Penn faculty members in mid-career, offering opportunities to build alliances across Schools, meet with senior administrators and academic leaders, and think strategically about universities and university governance. This year's seven Fellows come from five Penn schools, demonstrating the kind of innovative interdisciplinary research that distinguishes our Penn faculty: Professors Angela DeMichele and Jason Moore from the Perelman School of Medicine; Hanming Fang and Michael Horowitz from the School of Arts and Sciences; Hyun (Michel) Koo from the School of Dental Medicine; Sophia Lee from the Law School; and Christian Terweisch from the Wharton School.

I look forward to working together in the semester ahead.

Vincent Price
Provost



Undergraduate Assembly

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

University Council Status Report

1/27/16

1. **Penn Wellness Partners:** Last semester, the UA was approached by VPUL and asked to collaborate on an exciting new initiative - Penn Wellness Partners. This program publicly designates faculty and staff who are knowledgeable of various campus resources and are willing to help students connect with the help they may need. We are excited to see the appearance of Wellness Partner stickers across campus and to hear about the positive response to this program.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jane Meyer

UA President (president@pennua.org)

Ray Clark

UA Vice President (vp@pennua.org)



**Status Report- Penn Professional Staff Assembly
January 2016**

*The theme year for the PPSA is **Impact@Work***

- Annual Clothing Drive. PPSA partnered with the Bethesda Project (benefiting homeless men), Dress for Success (benefiting women with business attire) and Cradles to Crayons (benefiting children and families). The drive ran for 17 days in December with 10 locations across campus and collected 2100 pounds of clothing. Well over last year's total.
- Sexual Violence Prevention Program. PPSA and WPPSA collaborated and worked with the EVP's Office and the Division of Human Resources. The event was held on December 10th, 2015, titled "Recognizing and Responding to Interpersonal Violence on Campus." Vice Provost Beth Winkelstein opened the program and joined speakers Jessica Mertz, Director of Sexual Violence Prevention and Patricia Brennan, Director of Special Services at DPS. They presented to the group of over 100 staff members and opened up for questions. An interactive response system through participants' cell phones was used so survey results to questions posed by the speakers could be seen in real time on the screen and informed the direction of the dialogue. Many staffers walked away with better information and empowered to assist members of the community should this issue arise.
- PPSA Chats with Jack. Jack Heuer, Vice President of Human Resources and PPSA Chair, Lucia DiNapoli met with a small group of staff over lunch to discuss issues and concerns in the workplace. It was so successful with action items coming from the conversation that the program is being continued in 2016. January's Chat occurred yesterday, January 12th and results were just as positive.
- Gearing up for our January Speaker event on January 28, 2016 with Dr. Ira Harkavy presenting a talk on "Helping to Change the Community and Penn for the Better: The Work of the Netter Center, Past, Present and Future." The event will be held in Houston Hall.
- Spring events (just a mention a few) will include a program on Mental Health in the workplace, often a difficult topic to discuss, a walking event co-sponsored with Central HR and a community cleanup day for staff to get out, get healthy and engage with the community. Details to follow.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucia DiNapoli
Chair, PPSA

Emma Grigore
Past Chair, PPSA

Kuan Evans
Chair Elect, PPSA



Weekly Paid Professional Staff Assembly

January 14, 2016

Weekly Paid Professional Staff Assembly (WPPSA)

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

Status Report for January 2016

- On December 10, 2015 WPPSA and PPSA, hosted a Special Staff Workshop titled *“Recognizing and Responding to Interpersonal Violence on Campus.”* Our invited speakers were Jessica Mertz, Director of Sexual Violence Prevention and Patricia Brennan, Director of Special Services at DPS. Vice Provost Beth Winkelstein, gave the opening remarks.
- Our January 12, 2016 Speaker Series titled *“Your Financial Resolution Towards Retirement and Debt Management.”* Our invited speaker was Conchita Dixon, TIAA-CREF Financial Consultant. Members present took advantage of a one on one meet afterwards for Q&A.
- Our February general member meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 16, in which we will discuss the state of the organization.

Submitted by,

Rosa M. Vargas
WPPSA Chair

Irene Tan
WPPSA Co-Chair