

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of University Council
From: Amy Gutmann, President
Date: February 17, 2016
Subject: Report to the University Council

Provost Price and I were delighted to announce that Aviv Nevo will be the University of Pennsylvania's seventeenth Penn Integrates Knowledge (PIK) Professor, effective July 1, 2016. As the George A. Weiss and Lydia Bravo Weiss University Professor, he will hold appointments in the Department of Economics in SAS and the Department of Marketing in Wharton.

Professor Nevo comes to Penn from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, where he is the Robert E. and Emily King Professor in Business Institutions in the Department of Economics and also Director of the Center for the Study of Industrial Organization. He is one of the world's leading scholars of industrial organization and econometrics, and he has contributed significantly to economics and marketing. With his scholarly achievements and important work in both business and government, Professor Nevo exemplifies Penn's commitment to leveraging multiple disciplines to address real-world questions. He will be an ideal addition to Penn's preeminent faculty, and we look forward to officially welcoming him this summer.

Four Penn professors were recently elected to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, one of the highest honors for distinguished scientific contributions. The new Penn AAAS members represent the School of Arts and Sciences and Penn Engineering across several critically important areas of research:

- Ted Abel, Brush Family Professor of Biology in SAS, co-director of the Biological Basis of Behavior Program, and director of the Training Program in Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience.
- Dennis Discher, Robert D. Bent Professor of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering in Penn Engineering.
- A.T. Charlie Johnson, professor of physics in SAS and director of Penn's Nano/Bio Interface Center.
- Mark Trodden, Fay R. and Eugene L. Langberg Professor of Physics, department chair for Physics & Astronomy in SAS, and co-director of the Penn Center for Particle Cosmology

Congratulations as well to Cynthia Connolly, associate professor of nursing in the Department of Family & Community Health at Penn Nursing, on receiving a prestigious National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship. Professor Connolly also holds a secondary appointment in the Department of History & Sociology of Science in SAS.

I also congratulate Penn's 2016 Gates Cambridge Scholars and Thouron Award winners. We couldn't be more proud of these outstanding students and recent graduates as they go on to pursue graduate study in the United Kingdom. Our Gates Cambridge Scholars are Lucia Calthorpe, a senior in the College and also a Thouron winner, and Morgan Seag, Class of 2008.

The Thouron Award winners are: Peter Bryan, Audrey Harnagel, Jade Huynh, Angela Perfetti, Becky Sokolow, Maanvi Singh, Elizabeth Thom, and Emily Zhang.

PROVOST'S STATUS REPORT

University Council

February 2016

The [Campaign for Community](#) has launched the semester with a series of important programs. On January 26, the Undergraduate Assembly sponsored a stimulating panel discussion about open expression, featuring faculty and students discussing their own experiences with this essential part of our campus life. On January 27, the Faculty Senate hosted an equally thought-provoking panel of faculty and students on the impact in the classroom of race, religion, and other key aspects of personal identity. The conversations at both events were oriented toward constructive solutions: finding the best ways in which we can all move forward to address such issues better in the future. This is exactly the kind of dialogue – both substantive and productive – that the Campaign was designed to foster, and I look forward to more such events in the semester ahead. This month's Campaign events include a Black Lives Matter Arts Showcase sponsored by BGAPSA at the Penn Museum on February 12 and a discussion of urban development in African-American neighborhoods on February 17, especially the historic "Black Bottom" area of West Philadelphia. We are indebted to Campaign Co-Chairs Val Cade, Claire Finkelstein, Beth Winkelstein and the Campaign Steering Committee for their great work, and I encourage all members of our community to continue to develop, propose, and participate in Campaign events. Funding is available for events this semester or next semester; you can find more information at: <http://provost.upenn.edu/initiatives/campaign/grants>.

The [Online Learning Initiative](#), as it approaches its fourth anniversary, is significantly expanding its initiatives in advancing teaching and learning around the world and on the Penn campus. While it still offers stand-alone online courses through partners Coursera and edX, it is developing both multi-course specializations in specific areas and digital content projects that enhance teaching and learning at Penn. This semester, for example, the pioneering GRASP Lab in SEAS is offering a new Robotics Specialization on Coursera. In five courses and a capstone project, it provides a self-contained introduction to this increasingly important field, which has implications and applications across a wide range of industries. The Wharton School has also been at the forefront of creating such specializations on Coursera, providing advanced skills in such critical business areas as financial modeling, entrepreneurship, and business foundations. At the same time, the Online Learning Initiative has been a dynamic partner in helping faculty members develop digital content that advances teaching and learning at Penn, such as video, simulations, and other forms of technology-enhanced education. The Initiative is now accepting proposals for such courses and digital learning projects, due by March 15. I encourage faculty members to learn more about these areas and propose your own online and digital learning projects at: <http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v62/n21/call-digital-learning.html>.

Vincent Price
Provost



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

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

- January 28th, Dr. Ira Harkavy presented *Helping to Change the Community and Penn for the Better: The Work of the Netter Center, Past, Present and Future*. There were over 125 staff members in attendance. It was an incredibly informative, engaging and inspiring presentation. Staff members learned the history of Penn's community engagement and how it connects strategically with our Penn Compact 2020.
- PPSA is partnering with Counseling and Psychological Services for the February 25, 2016 diversity workshop. The focus will be on difficult conversations around mental health in the workplace. Dr. Batsirai Bvunzawabay, Staff Therapist at CAPS will facilitate the session. Discussion topics will include mental health stigma and how to bring up this conversation in a nonthreatening, constructive manner.
- For March, PPSA will focus on leadership development. Wharton Professor Stewart Friedman has agreed to present on this topic. Specific date and location will follow.
- PPSA Spring events focus on physical health and community. A walking event will be co-sponsored with Central HR and a community cleanup day is planned for late spring.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucia DiNapoli
Chair, PPSA

Emma Grigore
Past Chair, PPSA

Kuan Evans
Chair Elect, PPSA



Weekly Paid Professional Staff Assembly

February 3, 2016

Weekly Paid Professional Staff Assembly (WPPSA)

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

Status Report for February 2016

- Our February, Board Member meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2016. Topic of discussion the “*State of the Organization*”.
- Our March 15, Speaker series titled “*Getting work done efficiently and effectively*” our invited speaker Holly Marrone Sr. Training and Development Consultant from the office of Learning & Education.
- WPPSA Elections will be held on May 10th, in IAST 3000, 12-2PM.

Submitted by,

Rosa M. Vargas
WPPSA Chair

Irene Tan
WPPSA Co-Chair