

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of University Council
From: Amy Gutmann, President
Date: March 23, 2016
Subject: Report to the University Council

Following a comprehensive global search, Provost Price and I were delighted to announce that Fritz Steiner will become PennDesign's new dean, effective July 1, 2016. An alumnus of the School, Fritz will return to Penn after having served 15 years as dean of the School of Architecture at the University of Texas at Austin. A distinguished scholar, a talented teacher, and a proven academic leader, Fritz will be an excellent advocate for PennDesign's students and faculty. As we celebrate Fritz Steiner's appointment, we will also formally celebrate and thank Dean Marilyn Jordan Taylor for her many achievements on behalf of the School.

We were also pleased to announce the appointment of Penn's ninth Presidential Professor, Dr. Ramon Diaz-Arrastia. Dr. Diaz-Arrastia is currently professor of neurology at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, and he serves as director of Clinical Research at the Center for Neuroscience and Regenerative Medicine. He previously taught at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, where he founded one of the most productive traumatic brain injury clinical centers in the world. As the Presidential Professor of Neurology in the Perelman School, this world-leading expert in traumatic brain injury will be a superb addition to our preeminent faculty.

As we welcome accomplished new leaders and faculty, Penn has also unveiled the largest undergraduate financial aid budget in University history. The Board of Trustees recently approved a \$214 million undergraduate financial aid budget for 2016-17. Bolstering financial aid is one of the most important ways we increase access for the most talented students. This year, more than half of traditional Penn undergraduates received need-based aid, with an average grant of nearly \$45,000. Next year, we will do even more. Access to a high-quality higher education is the single greatest gateway to opportunity, and so building financial aid will always be an evergreen priority for Penn.

Alongside news of the largest undergraduate financial aid budget in University history, we also released Penn's latest Economic Impact Report, which details the tremendous effect our university has on the development and prosperity of our city, region, and state. In FY2015 alone, Penn contributed \$14.3 billion to the state economy, with \$10.8 billion of that total concentrated in Philadelphia. The largest private employer in Philadelphia, Penn accounts for 1 out of every 9 jobs in the city. As we pursue our core missions of preeminent education, research, and clinical care, our University and Health System also promote vibrant growth and opportunity for our community and the Commonwealth.

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

PROVOST'S STATUS REPORT

University Council

March 2016

It is a great pleasure to join President Gutmann in welcoming Fritz Steiner back to Penn as the newly appointed Dean of the School of Design, beginning July 1. Fritz has three graduate degrees from Penn – a PhD and MA in City and Regional Planning, along with a Master of Regional Planning – and is a longtime scholar of and collaborator with the legendary Ian McHarg, who founded the School's Department of Landscape Architecture. In addition to his remarkable scholarship, he has led major schools of architecture at both the University of Texas and Arizona State University. As Dean at UT-Austin for the past fifteen years, he has led the School of Architecture to global eminence, adding new programs in sustainable development, landscape architecture, and interior design, while significantly expanding both facilities and endowment. We are indeed fortunate to bring him back to Penn, where I am certain that his wise and creative leadership will benefit our entire community in the years ahead.

We are equally delighted to welcome our ninth Presidential Professor, Ramon Diaz-Arrastia, a global leader in the treatment of traumatic brain injuries. Currently Professor of Neurology at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, he has led pioneering research and treatment at both the Center for Neuroscience and Regenerative Medicine, a partnership of the USUHS and the National Institutes of Health to promote research on traumatic brain injuries, and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, where he created one of the largest and most active clinical centers devoted to traumatic brain injuries. Presidential Professorships, as many of you know, are awarded to distinguished scholars who help advance our campus-wide mission of faculty eminence through diversity. They are a key component of the Action Plan for Faculty Diversity and Excellence that President Gutmann and I first published in 2011.

The Action Plan also launched an Excellence Through Diversity Fund in support of these goals, which is now accepting proposals until April 25. The Fund provide resources for faculty members to develop initiatives that may foster and support diversity on campus, implement School-wide diversity plans, or pursue scholarly research on equity, inclusion, and diversity in higher education. Last year, for example, the Fund supported the Penn Honors Diversity Symposium and Revisit Weekend for Diversity Scholars, which help us attract promising doctoral students from historically underrepresented minority groups, and national conferences on Women in Business Academia and Women in the Early Modern Philosophy of Education. I encourage all faculty members to learn more about the Fund and the Call for Proposals at: <http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v62/n26/excellence-diversity-fund.html>.

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

Vincent Price
Provost



**Status Report- Penn Professional Staff Assembly
March 2, 2016**

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

- **PPSA hosted a mental health workshop on February 25** facilitated by Dr. Batsirai Bvunzawabay, Staff Therapist in the Counseling and Psychological Services. Topics covered included mental wellness, stigma and best practices on how to approach and begin a dialogue with coworkers. Approximately 40 staff members participated, sharing workplace experiences and learning how to handle difficult situations.
- On March 29, 2016, PPSA will host **Stewart Friedman, Wharton Professor**, who will present on work/life integration. Registration will open shortly. We look forward to a great event.
- **PPSA Chats with Jack.** Jack Heuer, Vice President of Human Resources and PPSA have completed two pilot sessions and agreed to launch this program, open to the PPSA general membership beginning in March. The lunch discussions will remain small group forums covering issues and concerns in the workplace.
- **PPSA Annual May Election meeting** will be held on Wednesday, May 18, 2016. As we reported, Professor Marybeth Gasman, Director of the Penn Center for Minority-Serving Institutions will be our keynote speaker. Voting will begin electronically following the meeting. Newly revised Bylaws instituted March 1st, have improved the nominations process and clarified Board member and Tri-chair roles.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucia DiNapoli
Chair, PPSA

Emma Grigore
Past Chair, PPSA

Kuan Evans
Chair Elect, PPSA



Weekly Paid Professional Staff Assembly

March 8, 2016

Weekly Paid Professional Staff Assembly (WPPSA)

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

Status Report for March 2016

- Our General member meeting will be held on April 19th. Our invited guest speaker Erin Cross Ph.D. ,SR Assoc Director LGBT Center, will open a discussion on sexual orientation and gender identity
- 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