

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of University Council
From: Amy Gutmann, President
Date: April 20, 2016
Subject: Report to the University Council

Last week, the Penn community mourned a terrible loss. Provost Price and I asked the Task Force on Student Psychological Health and Welfare to reconvene immediately to determine what further steps Penn can take to ensure the health and wellbeing of our students. The Task Force chairs, Anthony Rostain and Rebecca Bushnell, have agreed to lead the effort in evaluating the effect of previously implemented Task Force recommendations, as well as determining if and how our effectiveness may be improved. In the meantime, we have extended hours at CAPS on evenings and the weekends, and we are reaching out to mental health experts on campus to gather their ideas for action. We welcome and appreciate suggestions from our students and other members of the Penn community.

I am heartened by the ongoing efforts of student groups and individuals across Penn to address issues of mental health, and proud of all the ways our community comes together in the wake of tragic news and adversity. As we move forward, we must continue to look out for each other and to make it clear that everybody should feel supported in reaching out for help and receiving it. We will work assiduously to support our students and all members of our Penn community.

Penn people are making a tremendous difference here and around the world. Just one measure is the many achievements of our superb faculty and students. I join the Provost in congratulating a small sample, including this year's Guggenheim and Sloan Fellows:

Guggenheim Fellows

- Diana Mutz, Samuel A. Stouffer Professor of Political Science and Communication, Director of the Institute for the Study of Citizens and Politics
- Timothy Rommen, Professor of Music and Africana Studies, Undergraduate Chair of the Department of Music
- Joseph Subotnik, Associate Professor of Chemistry

And Sloan Research Fellows

- Matthew Kayser, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Neuroscience
- Zongming Ma, Assistant Professor of Statistics
- Golnaz Vahedi, Assistant Professor of Genetics, Member of the Penn Institute for Immunology

We also congratulate 2016 Presidential Early-Career Award recipient, Kiran Musunuru, Associate Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Genetics. The Presidential Early-Career Award is the highest honor bestowed by the US government on outstanding young scientists and engineers.

Warm congratulations as well to Penn's 2016 Fulbright Scholars. I do not have the space here to recognize all of them individually, but we are so very proud of what they have achieved.

We also recently learned that Penn can boast three Goldwater Scholars this year, as well as another Penn student who made honorable mention. The first Penn Goldwater Scholars since 2013, they are Engineering junior Elyse Chase, College junior Kevin Chen, and College sophomore Jordan Doman. This prestigious scholarship is awarded to students with outstanding potential who intend to earn a PhD and pursue research careers in mathematics, the natural sciences, or engineering. Well done to all our student scholars!

Finally, as we celebrate the President's Engagement Prize and inaugural President's Innovation Prize winners in the coming weeks, I encourage juniors to begin thinking about next year's competitions. With a generous living stipend and up to \$100,000 in funding for socially uplifting projects, these prestigious Prizes offer an unparalleled opportunity to bring your outstanding engagement or innovation ideas to life. Summer break is a great time to begin building a plan. Details on fall information sessions will be available from CURF later this year.

As the academic year nears a close and Commencement approaches, I want to thank you all for your exemplary Council service. I hope your final weeks of the semester are productive, and you have my best wishes for a good summer.

PROVOST'S STATUS REPORT

University Council

April 2016

As we approach Commencement, it is a great pleasure to honor not only our wonderful Penn students but also the outstanding faculty members who make Penn such a dynamic place to learn. At this time of year, we celebrate the winners of our university-wide teaching awards, who represent the inspiring work that goes on every day in Penn's classrooms. This year, the Lindback Awards for Distinguished Teaching are awarded to Profs. Karen Detlefsen (SAS), Joshua Klein (SAS), Emily Steiner (SAS), and Daniel Swingley (SAS) in the Non-Health Schools, and Profs. Lee Fleisher (PSOM), Ellen Kim (PSOM), Robert Ricciardi (SDM), and Billy Smith (SVM) in the Health Schools. Profs. Dianne Chambless (SAS) and Daniel Richter (SAS) will receive the Provost's Awards for Distinguished PhD Teaching and Mentoring, and Profs. Marcia Ferguson (SAS) and James Treat (PSOM) will receive this year's Provost's Awards for Teaching Excellence by Non-Standing Faculty. Please join me in honoring these extraordinary teachers on Tuesday, April 19, at 5 PM in the Hall of Flags. We also congratulate those faculty members who have recently received some of the highest national honors: Guggenheim Fellows Diana Mutz (ASC), Timothy Rommen (SAS), and Joseph Subotnik (SAS); Sloan Fellows Matthew Kayser (PSOM), Zongming Ma (Wharton), and Golnaz Vahedi (PSOM); and Presidential Early Career Awardees Rahul Mangharam (SEAS) and Aaron Roth (SEAS).

Our Penn faculty are also leaders in the newer arena of teaching online. Four years ago, Penn was a founding university partner in Coursera, the online learning platform that now has courses from almost 150 universities around the world. We have continued to be at the forefront of Coursera, offering 87 courses, representing all 12 of our Schools, with almost 5 million enrollments. Most important, our faculty members are changing the future of online learning while using those lessons to advance teaching and learning here on campus. Last month, Coursera gave its very first Transformation Award, for online teaching that has transformed people's lives. I am very proud that it was awarded to Penn's own Al Filreis, Kelly Professor of English, Faculty Director of the Kelly Writers House, and Director of the Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing. As one of the earliest and most imaginative participants in Coursera, Al Filreis was determined to bring to his online course on Modern and Contemporary Poetry the most profound educational values of close analysis and small-group discussion. His success at creating this kind of instruction in an online format, with thousands of disparate students, shapes not only his students' lives – and the appreciation of poetry around the world – but also our understanding of how much can be done in online teaching and learning.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the many joyful events of the weeks ahead.

Vincent Price
Provost



Undergraduate Assembly

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

University Council Status Report

1/27/16

1. **Undergraduate Assembly Elections:** We are proud to announce the 2016-17 Undergraduate Assembly Executive Board:

Kat McKay - President (president@pennua.org)

Sola Park - Vice-President (vp@pennua.org)

Travis Shingledecker - Speaker (speaker@pennua.org)

Michelle Xu - Treasurer (treasurer@pennua.org)

Jay Shah - Secretary (secretary@pennua.org)

Respectfully Submitted:

Jane Meyer

UA President (president@pennua.org)

Ray Clark

UA Vice President (vp@pennua.org)



**Status Report- Penn Professional Staff Assembly
April 6, 2016**

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

- On March 29, 2016, PPSA hosted **Stew Friedman, Wharton Professor**, who presented on work/life integration. Due to an overwhelming response, the event grew to over 140 attendees. The presentation was inspiring followed by an informative question and answer session. Due to the response, PPSA will work with Central HR to explore how to continue to provide similar programming.
- On April 27, 2016, HR Learning Education and PPSA are collaborating on a small, personalized **professional development** session for 40 participants titled: *Professional Development: What Do You Need to Step Up Your Game?* It will consist of short presentations on resume tips, networking, coaching and STAR responses (behavioral interviewing) followed by a personalized consultation with each participant. This program design will be considered by both groups for future programming.
- **PPSA Chats with Jack.** Jack Heuer, Vice President of Human Resources and PPSA officially launched the program on March 31st with registration open to the PPSA general membership. The lunch discussions will remain small group forums covering issues and concerns in the workplace. Chats will run September through May.
- PPSA is collaborating with Central HR to engage with staff as soon as they join the University. **Orientation materials** are now made available at the University-wide New Employee Orientation sessions. Shortly, the HR Council will consider sharing these materials at school and center-level orientation sessions.
- **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.
- **PPSA in partnership with Central HR is sponsoring a walk on June 1st.** More details to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucia DiNapoli
Chair, PPSA

Emma Grigore
Past Chair, PPSA

Kuan Evans
Chair Elect, PPSA