

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Members of University Council  
**From:** Amy Gutmann, President  
**Date:** October 5, 2016  
**Subject:** Report to the University Council

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Welcome to the 277th year of the University of Pennsylvania, and a very warm welcome back to University Council. We officially began with Convocation for the great Class of 2020 and transfers out on College Green. The Provost and I were thrilled to officially welcome Penn's newest students, and hats off to Dean Eric Furda and his Admissions team for yet another fantastic Class.

We also officially welcomed a slate of dynamic new leaders and eminent faculty, including our new School of Design dean, Fritz Steiner, our 10<sup>th</sup> Presidential Professor, José Bauermeister, and our 18<sup>th</sup> Penn Integrates Knowledge Professor, Beth Simmons, who holds the Andrea Mitchell University Professorship in Law and Political Science. Diverse and accomplished, these academic stars will further enliven our campus, and I encourage everyone to give them a warm Penn welcome.

They arrive just as we celebrate three grand openings: that of Penn's New College House, the new Perry World House, and, later this month, the opening of the Pennovation Center. I joined the very first residents of the New College House on September 13<sup>th</sup> to celebrate this gorgeous addition to Penn's campus. If you have not yet visited the New College House at the corner of 34<sup>th</sup> and Chestnut Streets, I encourage you to stop by. It beautifully exemplifies the Penn College House model of blending student and academic life to make our dynamic residential experience second to none.

On Locust Walk across from 1920 Commons, we also celebrated Penn's newly opened global hub with a star-studded lineup of esteemed guests from around the world. I am grateful for the efforts and leadership of Perry World House Director Bill Burke-White and his team in making the event such a success. I join Provost Price in inviting everyone at Penn to visit Perry World House and to keep up to date on all the exciting global initiatives, speakers, and opportunities to come.

I encourage everyone to save the date for our grand Pennovation Center Opening Celebration on October 28<sup>th</sup>. The new home of Penn-fostered entrepreneurial ingenuity, the Center opening event will showcase innovators, free food and entertainment, robotics demonstrations, tours, and much more. Our festivities culminate in a discussion with Wharton alums Neil Blumenthal and David Gilboa, co-founders of the smash business success, Warby Parker. I hope you will all join us.

Finally, I call on all seniors to consider competing for this year's President's Engagement Prize and President's Innovation Prize. Unmatched in size and scope anywhere in higher education, these Prizes provide a graduating Penn senior or team of graduating seniors with up to \$100,000 and a generous living stipend to undertake transformative projects that make a real difference in the world. Past Prize-winners are boosting the productivity of farmers in India, developing wearable devices that help those with Parkinson's disease, partnering with the Free Library of Philadelphia to bridge gaps in local health care education, and much more. Imagine what great good you could accomplish as a 2017 Prize winner. You can visit the Prizes' websites to learn more and to find an information session to attend this fall.

All of these wonderful milestones and more promise yet another outstanding year for the University of Pennsylvania. I look forward to all we will accomplish together.

**PROVOST'S STATUS REPORT**  
University Council - October 5, 2016

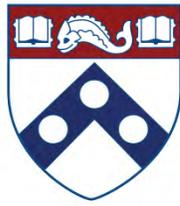
It is a pleasure to welcome everyone back for the new year. The year begins with two significant openings. Perry World House welcomed the Penn community to its opening programs on September 19 and 20, which included an illuminating conversation with President Gutmann, former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, and panel of distinguished global experts. I hope that all members of the Penn community will visit this vibrant new space and help us to make it a dynamic hub of global initiatives in the years ahead. On October 28, as part of Homecoming Weekend, we will celebrate the dedication of the Pennovation Center. This exciting building – the anchor of the new Pennovation Works development on Grays Ferry Avenue – is designed to spur innovation by bringing together researchers and entrepreneurs in one space dedicated to creative collaboration. All members of the Penn community are invited on the afternoon of October 28 for an open house and other interactive events, including a conversation between President Gutmann and the co-founders (and Wharton graduates) of online innovator Warby Parker. You can learn more at: <https://www.pennovation.upenn.edu/grand-opening>.

On October 6 and 7, Penn will host the third national Learning with MOOCs Conference, on the theme *Being and Learning in the Digital Age*. This conference will assess how online learning fits into a wider transition to a digital and data-driven world. We are very proud of Penn's leadership in online learning and would like to invite the Penn community to two keynote lectures, both held in the G06 Auditorium on the ground floor of Huntsman Hall. On Thursday, October 6, from 9-10:15, we will hear from Reshma Saujani, founder and CEO of Girls Who Code and author of *Women Who Don't Wait in Line: Break the Mold, Lead the Way*. On Friday, October 7, from 9-10:15, the keynote will be given by our own Angela Duckworth, Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor of Psychology and author of the current *New York Times* bestseller *Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance*. Please join us for what I expect will be stimulating and provocative considerations of our collective lives online. Registration is not required, but RSVPs are requested to [provrsvp@upenn.edu](mailto:provrsvp@upenn.edu).

I also encourage all members of the Penn community to develop and propose events for the Campaign for Community. The Campaign began last year, with the goal of sponsoring campus events that encourage open discussions of difficult or controversial issues. It supported a wide range of important events last year and hopes to broaden its scope even further in its second year. In particular, the Steering Committee has shortened deadlines to encourage events that address timely issues – an especially valuable initiative as we near a presidential election and inauguration. You can learn more about the Campaign and how to submit a proposal at: <https://provost.upenn.edu/initiatives/campaign/grants>.

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

## STATUS REPORT: SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

### I. 2016-2017 Executive Board

President:	Gaurav Shukla   <a href="mailto:gapsa.president@gmail.com">gapsa.president@gmail.com</a>
Vice President:	Fan Alex Yang   <a href="mailto:gapsa.vp@gmail.com">gapsa.vp@gmail.com</a>
Chair of Communications:	Monica Hanza   <a href="mailto:gapsa.pr@gmail.com">gapsa.pr@gmail.com</a>
Chair of Equity & Access:	Ben Turchin   <a href="mailto:gapsa.eachair@gmail.com">gapsa.eachair@gmail.com</a>
Chair of Finance:	Paul Welfer   <a href="mailto:gapsa.finance@gmail.com">gapsa.finance@gmail.com</a>
Chair of International Affairs:	Divya Karunanithi   <a href="mailto:gapsa.ia@gmail.com">gapsa.ia@gmail.com</a>
Chair of Operations:	Miles Owen   <a href="mailto:gapsa.operations@gmail.com">gapsa.operations@gmail.com</a>
Chair of Professional Students:	Casey McMahon   <a href="mailto:gapsa.prof@gmail.com">gapsa.prof@gmail.com</a>
Chair of Research Students:	Raj Patel   <a href="mailto:gapsa.research@gmail.com">gapsa.research@gmail.com</a>
Chair of Social Activities:	DeShaun Bennett   <a href="mailto:gapsa.sa@gmail.com">gapsa.sa@gmail.com</a>
Chair of Student Life:	Rosario Jaime-Lara   <a href="mailto:gapsa.sl@gmail.com">gapsa.sl@gmail.com</a>
Chair of Student Programs:	Daming Shi   <a href="mailto:gapsa.sp@gmail.com">gapsa.sp@gmail.com</a>

### II. Constitutional amendments

GAPSA recently decided to rename its executive board positions, rename Select Committee to Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access and Leadership (IDEAL) Committee, use gender neutral language, institutionalize IDEAL Committee and its budget, and impose stricter rules on meeting attendance.

### III. GradFest

Over 1600 students participated in the 10<sup>th</sup> annual GradFest (9/9-9/16) and enjoyed a broad range of academic and social events.

### IV. G12+ Summit

The Presidents' Advisory Council (PAC) & Finance Advisory Board (FAB) representatives from all 15 individual graduate school student governments met on August 23. As a reflection of their commitment to collaboration with each other and GAPSA, they unanimously opted-in to the GAPSA-G12+ Accountability Program and its associated financial mechanisms.

### V. Funding opportunities

The Fall cycle for student group funding and travel grants are now open.

Respectfully submitted,

Gaurav Shukla

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



**Status Report- Penn Professional Staff Assembly  
September 14, 2016**

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

- PPSA held its annual elections this past May. We have a new Chair-Elect, Ms. Heather J. Kelley – Thompson. As well, four new Board Members were elected and seven Representatives have been appointed to sit on University Council Committees.
- PPSA together with the Jack Heuer, Vice President of Human Resources, will continue the small group discussions platform on a monthly basis beginning September, 2016. Three to four staff members are invited to meet with the Vice President to create lines of communication and foster open dialogue around issues of staff concern.
- Our September event – PPSA will relaunch annually with a speed-round of networking. PPSA members are invited to learn about the networking platform and join. Monthly random matching occurs and leads to members enjoying a safe networking experience here at Penn. It has been one of our most successful programs. There is continued demand by Penn employees to connect across schools and centers.
- October is also the month for the Annual Employment Resource Fair. The fair is sure to be a success. The fair will host external and internal vendors. We anticipate nearly 1,000 employees to attend the fair.

Respectfully submitted,

Kuan R. Evans  
Chair, PPSA

Lucia DiNapoli  
Past Chair, PPSA

Heather J. Kelley – Thompson  
Chair Elect, PPSA