

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Members of University Council  
**From:** Amy Gutmann, President  
**Date:** November 9, 2016  
**Subject:** Report to the University Council

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Our grand Pennovation Center Opening Celebration on October 28<sup>th</sup> was a wonderful success, with a full house of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and special guests in attendance. In a glowing architectural review of the newly renovated building, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* declared that “Pennovation announces the future.” That future was on vivid display at the grand opening. Guests enjoyed tours, demonstrations of working dogs and robotics, and heard from a selection of the 20 companies and more than 100 individuals currently at work in this dynamic incubation space.

The festivities culminated in a fascinating discussion with Warby Parker co-founders and Wharton alums Neil Blumenthal and David Gilboa, followed by a special robotic presentation of the 3-D printed scissors we used to cut the ceremonial ribbon. I am delighted so many members of the Penn community could be there for this landmark celebration of our new innovation ecosystem.

The future has also come to the arts University-wide. Fabulous Penn alums Kathy and Keith Sachs made an historic \$15 million gift to the arts at Penn. The new Sachs Program for Arts Innovation will transform how we understand, teach, and break new ground in the arts. We are most grateful for this latest act of generosity from Kathy and Keith, who have long exemplified a spirit of passionate dedication and leadership on behalf of Penn and the arts.

We are so very proud that Vice Provost for Faculty Anita Allen, the Henry R. Silverman Professor of Law and professor of philosophy, and Martha Curley, the Ellen and Robert Kapito Professor of Nursing Science, have been elected to the prestigious National Academy of Medicine (formerly the Institute of Medicine). Both have been selected for their commitment and contributions to the advancement of medical knowledge and public health and wellbeing. Congratulations to them both!

Finally, I want to commend and thank the many Penn student volunteers – led by Penn Leads the Vote – who pitched in to register voters, disseminate voting information, and staff polling places during this presidential election. Our democracy thrives on such passionate engagement, and the importance of volunteering and getting involved in civic life cannot be overstated. Thank you.

## PROVOST'S STATUS REPORT

University Council - November 9, 2016

Last month, President Gutmann and I announced the largest gift ever made across the arts at Penn: a \$15 million commitment from Penn graduates Keith and Katherine Sachs to create the Sachs Program for Arts Innovation. This exciting new program will visibly energize the arts on campus while reinforcing the centrality of the arts to innovation, one of our most vital campus-wide goals in the Penn Compact 2020. Working collaboratively with faculty, students, arts leaders, and the Provost's Arts Advisory Council, the Program will integrate research, teaching, and practice and create a new Arts Innovation Hub in the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. At the same time, it will work to expand sustainable curricular innovation in the arts, including grants to develop courses, workshops, and master classes; encourage hands-on artistic production and public art spaces; foster cross-campus collaborations, especially between arts centers and academic programs; appoint artists in residence and other new faculty members; and build community and new audiences for the arts at Penn.

This generous and visionary gift arrives at an auspicious time, when our arts institutions are already building an extraordinarily high level of activity. The Penn Museum – while continuing its invaluable exhibitions and educational programs – is at the outset of an exciting renovation project that will transform its galleries and significantly enhance its ability to showcase its world-leading collections for an ever wider range of audiences. The Institute of Contemporary Art is embarking on a landmark, year-long exploration called *The Freedom Principle: Experiments in Art and Music, 1965 to Now*, which traces the ongoing influence on contemporary art of the experimental music of the late 1960s, especially the jazz movements that arose from the African-American arts scene in Chicago.

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is welcoming a dynamic new Executive and Artistic Director, Christopher Gruits, who comes to us from highly successful work in arts education and programming at the Interlochen Center for the Arts and Carnegie Hall, among others. The Arthur Ross Gallery is featuring, through December 11, a show of particular meaning to the Penn community, showcasing the legacy of the late Terry Adkins, the former chair of Fine Arts in Penn Design, in the work of exciting younger artists whose work he influenced, inspired, and mentored, almost all of whom were his students at Penn. And the Kelly Writers House has announced an especially diverse and exciting group of Fellows, who will make public appearances at the House in the spring semester: comic writer and performer Maria Bamford, jazz-inspired poet Nathaniel Mackey, and pioneering short story writer and translator Lydia Davis.

These are just a small number of the exciting arts activities in which I encourage all of you to participate – and which will become ever more central to campus life as the Sachs Program and the Sachs Arts Innovation Hub move forward in the years ahead.

Vincent Price, Provost



# Undergraduate Assembly

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

## Status Report – Undergraduate Assembly

November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016

### I. 2016-2017 Executive Board

President: Kat McKay (president@pennua.org)

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

Speaker: Riad Hamade (speaker@pennua.org)

Treasurer: Michelle Xu (treasurer@pennua.org)

Secretary: Jay Shah (secretary@pennua.org)

### II. Course Costs for Undergraduate Students

The Undergraduate Assembly has been working to investigate different ways to lower course-related costs and increase transparency for Undergraduate students. The UA is currently working with the Student Committee on Undergraduate Education and PennFirst to create course cost-related recommendations for the Council of Undergraduate Deans.

### III. Fan Fest

Penn Athletics held its first Fan Fest of the year on October 15<sup>th</sup> prior to the first Penn Football game against Columbia. The Undergraduate Assembly helped with the marketing of the event and received positive feedback from the undergraduate population.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sola Park, UA Vice President

## *PPSA – Penn Professional Staff Assembly*

<http://www.upenn.edu/ppsa>  
[ppsa@pobox.upenn.edu](mailto:ppsa@pobox.upenn.edu)



### **Status Report - Penn Professional Staff Assembly October 19, 2016**

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

- Our September event – *PPSA Connection* was set in motion last month. It has been one of our most successful programs. There is continued demand by Penn employees to connect across schools and centers.
- PPSA, together with WPPSA, Division of Human Resources and the Office of the Executive Vice President hosted the 2016 Employee Resource Fair on Wednesday, October 5. The fair was held in Hall of Flags in Houston Hall with nearly 1,000 employees in attendance. The fair presented 42 vendors and 11 volunteer organizations. We will aim once again for next year's Employment Resource Fair to be held on a day during fall break in order to keep attendance high.
- PPSA continued this year's *Chats with Jack* holding the first session on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Jack Heuer, Vice President of Human Resources hosted the small group discussions with three staff members to foster open dialogue around issues of staff concern.
- Our November event – *What does it take? Furthering Your Education@ Penn* will be a panel of University staff and alumni sharing easy to understand facts about using tuition benefits at Penn. We anticipate 70 staff members to attend. Panelists include staff from College of Liberal and Professional Studies, the School of Engineering, Human Resources Tuition Benefits, Penn AHEAD and alumni from the Masters in Public Health and Masters in Applied Geosciences.
- December will again be a time to share our good fortune. PPSA will work together with a group of local agencies to collect clothing and other items for the homeless and women and children in need. Drop off locations will be situated around campus. More details will follow. We hope to better the 1500 pounds collected last year.

Respectfully submitted,

Kuan R. Evans  
Chair, PPSA

Lucia DiNapoli  
Past Chair, PPSA

Heather J. Kelley – Thompson  
Chair Elect, PPSA