

## MEMORANDUM

**To: Members of University Council**  
**From: Amy Gutmann, President**  
**Date: February 22, 2017**  
**Subject: Report to the University Council**

---

We were pleased to announce that Vice President Joe Biden will join Penn as the Benjamin Franklin Presidential Professor of Practice. He will lead the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement, a new center based in Washington, D.C. and focused on international cooperation, foreign policy, and national security. With his lifelong commitment to public service, his experience as U.S. Senator and Vice President of the United States, and his strong family ties to Penn, Vice President Biden will dramatically enrich Penn's already dynamic global engagement efforts—including the work of Penn Global and Perry World House.

We are honored to welcome the Vice President, and the Penn community will have an excellent opportunity on February 28th to see him and a distinguished panel of experts at our 2017 David and Lyn Silfen University Forum, "A Formidable Foe: Cancer in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." Irvine Auditorium is sold out for the Forum, where we'll hear from Vice President Biden, Penn Medicine ambassador and patient Lori Alf, American Cancer Society Chief Medical Officer Otis Brawley, American Association for Cancer Research President Nancy Davidson, and Penn's own Dr. Carl June, who is director of the Translational Research Program at the Abramson Cancer Center. We will livestream the event on the Silfen Forum webpage, so if you weren't able to secure tickets, you can still enjoy the program. It will be an excellent discussion about the past, present, and, most importantly, the exciting future of cancer research and treatment.

Provost Price and I charged the newly formed Task Force on a Safe and Responsible Campus Community, which will address its work under the leadership of three co-chairs: Vice Provost for University Life Val Swain-Cade McCoullum, Vice President for Public Safety Maureen Rush, and Vice Provost for Education Beth Winkelstein. High-risk behaviors, especially coupled with the use of alcohol and other drugs, are persistent problems at institutions of higher education across the nation. On various wellness fronts, Penn has partnered with student groups to see how we're doing and what we need to do better. What is new about this Task Force is its emphasis on activities happening in unaffiliated and unsupervised student groups. I've asked the Task Force to conclude its work and report its recommendations by the end of the semester.

As we discussed at our last University Council meeting, I and Penn will continue advocating to the fullest of our abilities on behalf of all our community members affected by President Trump's Executive Order on immigration. I want to provide an update on what we're doing nationally in response to the ban. On February 2nd, Princeton President Christopher Eisgruber and I, joined by 46 other college and university presidents, published an open letter to the President protesting the order and highlighting the great damage it does not only to our students, faculty, and staff, but also to our highest values and aspirations as educational institutions and as a nation. On February 13th, Penn also joined our Ivy-Plus peers and other research universities in filing an amicus brief opposing the Executive Order. Here at home, Provost Price's office, and especially Penn Global, has spearheaded several initiatives aimed at providing support and counsel to affected Penn community members, and I want to thank everyone across campus who has stepped up and spoken out in support.

## PROVOST'S STATUS REPORT

University Council

February 22, 2017

These have been extraordinarily challenging weeks for our international students, faculty, staff, and scholars and for the members of our Muslim community. We must remain a beacon for those who seek to participate in the creation and exchange of knowledge from all corners of the world. President Gutmann and I emphasize in the strongest possible terms our support for and solidarity with our students at this difficult moment. Our campus thrives on its diversity and finds strength in its community.

In that light, we have been taking numerous steps to help students, faculty, staff, and scholars across the University. The Office of International Student and Scholar Services has been providing free legal consultations for all members of our community from the seven countries named in the Executive Order, as well as advising all international members of our community on travel plans. Penn Law is hosting information clinics open to all members of the Penn community who have concerns about their immigration status. Penn Global has created a webpage to provide updates as the situation evolves: <http://global.upenn.edu/immigration-policy-notice>. We have been holding a range of smaller and larger meetings across the University, addressing concerns in such areas as admissions, study abroad, and travel over spring or summer break. I encourage all of you to work with student government leaders, the Chaplain's Office, Penn Global, and the Office of the Vice Provost for University Life to let us know how the University can continue to stand with you and offer the most helpful resources and support.

This month, President Gutmann and I charged the Task Force on a Safe and Responsible Campus Community. Co-chaired by Vice Provost for University Life Valarie Swain-Cade McCoullum, Vice President for Public Safety Maureen Rush, and Vice Provost for Education Beth Winkelstein, it will consult widely across the University and then develop a set of recommendations, primarily in three areas: fostering a campus climate free of sexual harassment, sexual violence, alcohol and other substance abuse, and other forms of behavior that may violate the Code of Student Conduct; doing all we can to make students aware of their responsibilities under that Code; and ensuring that we are in turn holding students accountable for violations of the Code and other University policies. The initial Town Hall for the Task Force will be held on Thursday, February 23, at 5 pm in ARCH 208. We invite all members of the Penn community to attend, and you can also submit recommendations and comments to the Task Force at any time at: <http://provost.upenn.edu/initiatives/task-force>.

Vincent Price  
Provost



**Status Report – Undergraduate Assembly**  
February 22, 2017

**I. A Message to the Penn Community from the Undergraduate Assembly, the Assembly of International Students and the Muslim Students Association**

The Undergraduate Assembly, the Assembly of International Students, and the Muslim Students Association strongly condemn President Trump’s Executive Order on immigration passed on Friday, January 27th. The Executive Order blocks citizens from seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the U.S. for 90 days (Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Yemen). This group includes Penn international students who are nationals of these countries here on F-1 visas. In practice, this has affected anyone traveling from Muslim-majority nations. Additionally, the Executive Order directed diplomatic posts around the world to stop issuing visas for citizens of these seven countries, which affects incoming Penn students in the Class of 2021 and current students with expiring visas.

We recognize the breadth of issues faced by these students, including an inability to travel and see family, difficulties with finances and housing, issues with study abroad, and restrictions from participating in international Penn programs.

Our community will remain united in supporting affected Penn students, faculty, and staff and in advocating for freedom and civil liberties. International students and Muslim students provide important contributions to our community’s diversity, one of Penn’s greatest qualities. Penn is and will continue to be a safe place for all regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, religion, ability, or nationality. The Undergraduate Assembly, the Assembly of International Students, and the Muslim Students Association will continue to advocate for the safety, security and civil rights of affected students.

This is beyond partisan politics. These are our classmates, teachers, and friends that cannot visit home or return to Penn if they travel abroad. Should you wish to help, you can sign [this](#) Penn community statement, contact your government representatives, and reach out to your Muslim friends and international friends to offer your support.

Our organizations are currently working with the Offices of International Student and Scholar Services and the Vice Provost for University Life to ensure that those affected are given proper support. We will be keeping up with the situation and working with the administration to ensure the safety and well-being of all Penn students. Please feel free to reach out to [speaker@pennua.org](mailto:speaker@pennua.org), [president@aisupenn.org](mailto:president@aisupenn.org), or [president@upennmsa.org](mailto:president@upennmsa.org) if you have any suggestions or need support.

**Additional resources:**

[Global Support Services](#): 215-898-1640

[International Student and Scholar Services](#): 215-898-4661

[Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#): 215-898-7021 (nights and weekends, ask for CAPS counselor on call)

[University Chaplain/SPARC](#): 215-898-8456

Muslim Chaplain: [chaplain@upennmsa.org](mailto:chaplain@upennmsa.org)

In support,

Undergraduate Assembly

Assembly of International Students

Muslim Students Association

**II. Club Recruitment Reform**

The Undergraduate Assembly is working with the Students Activities Council to review the current club recruitment process for undergraduate students. We have received feedback from students who have commented on the rigorous process that may contribute to the competitive nature on campus. After meeting with the Students Activities Council, we have proposed a set of guidelines for undergraduate clubs to follow.

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 February 8, 2017**

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

- The January event was held on January 25, 2017 with David Hollenberg, titled *The Last Ten Years: Penn Transformed, and What's to Come*. He presented to a group of more than 100 staff members and took questions. Staff learned about the enhancements to campus and Penn's vision for the future. The event was held in Houston Hall.
- PPSA continued this year's *Chats with Jack*. Jack Heuer, Vice President of Human Resources hosted the small group discussion with four staff members to foster open dialogue around issues of staff concern. The next session will be held on February 20, 2017.
- The February Meeting - *Embracing the Trans Community at Work* will take place on February 15, 2017. The seminar will focus on the LGBT community here at Penn. We hope to increase knowledge and awareness that will encourage staff and community members to come together to promote inclusivity and community good practices.
- The March Meeting - *Your Next Interview at Penn* will help staff prepare for their next career opportunity at Penn. Expected attendance is 70+. Details to follow.
- The April Meeting –*Cultivating a Culture of Health at Work* will discuss ways to make healthier choices at work. Expected attendance 60+. The event will take place on April 3, 2017 in the Penn Bookstore conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Kuan R. Evans  
Chair, PPSA

Lucia DiNapoli  
Past Chair, PPSA

Heather J. Kelley – Thompson  
Chair Elect, PPSA