

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of University Council
From: Amy Gutmann, President
Date: February 21, 2018
Subject: Report to the University Council

In bringing the world to Penn and Penn to the world, the reach of our University engagement has never been greater. Three tremendously successful events this month underscore the myriad benefits such engagement brings to Penn students, faculty, staff, and friends, as well as to our communities, nation, and the world.

Philadelphia and many Penn people took to the streets on February 8th to celebrate our hometown Super Bowl Champions. Penn leaders and honored guests also gathered in Washington, D.C., to celebrate the official opening of the new Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement. The central event was a broad-ranging discussion between Trustee Emerita and this year's Commencement Speaker, Andrea Mitchell, and former U.S. Vice President and Benjamin Franklin Practice Professor, Joe Biden. Afterward, our guests gathered for a reception where Penn Trustees Chair David Cohen, Vice President Biden, and I cut the ceremonial ribbon to officially usher in the Penn Biden Center and a new era of Penn-inspired policy solutions that improve the world.

The following week, Penn Law had the honor of hosting U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, who shared her thoughts and experiences with students and faculty and fielded questions from the audience. Later that evening, Justice Ginsberg delivered Penn Law's Owen J. Roberts Memorial Lecture at the National Constitution Center, reflecting on justice, equality before the law, and her optimism for the future.

We concluded the week with this year's David and Lyn Silfen University Forum, "People and Policy Adrift: A 21st Century Framework for Asylum Seekers, Refugees, and Immigration Policy." Students, faculty, staff, and guests packed Irvine Auditorium to watch as our distinguished panelists shared their fascinating experiences and ideas on this incredibly important issue for our country and for the Penn community. We had the honor of welcoming and hearing from Vice President Biden, the Honorable Jeb Bush, Professor Michael Doyle, College alum Dau Jok, and former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Anne Richard. I hope you all had an opportunity to attend or to watch online.

It is a testament to the profoundly meaningful work of our University that so many world leaders and key thinkers come to Penn to share ideas and to join with our unsurpassed students, faculty, and staff in pursuing a better world. We will continue to build Penn's engagement and to ensure that whenever and wherever people talk about ideas and actions that matter, our University comes foremost to mind.

PROVOST'S STATUS REPORT

University Council

February 2018

I am grateful to all of you who have developed and participated in this year's exciting events in the [Campaign for Community](#). This Campaign began three years ago to strengthen our Penn community by finding new ways to collectively discuss the critical issues that may appear to be the most intractable or difficult to speak about. The Campaign has sponsored dozens of valuable events across campus, including the [Campus Conversation](#) last October that launched our ongoing [Wellness at Penn](#) initiative. I am especially pleased that this semester's Campaign events encompass the full diversity of voices and backgrounds on our Penn campus – for example, a symposium on Men and Masculinities co-sponsored by ten different campus organizations, an Own It UPenn summit meeting designed to help young women learn more about leadership from successful female mentors, a celebration of W.E.B. DuBois' 150th birthday at the W.E.B. DuBois House, a panel discussion at the [Center for Teaching and Learning](#) on best practices for talking and listening to those with differing backgrounds and viewpoints, and the fourth annual meeting of the [IvyG conference](#), the largest gathering in the world for first-generation, low-income students. These events reflect the great scope and energy of our Penn community, and I encourage all of you to continue to develop and propose such events; you can submit a proposal, or learn more about guidelines for Campaign grants, at: <https://provost.upenn.edu/initiatives/campaign/grants>.

I want to continue to encourage all students and faculty to take advantage of the [Take Your Professor/Mentor/TA to Lunch](#) program, which we have just expanded and streamlined to make it as easy as possible for both students and faculty to use. The close mentoring relationships between students and their professors, mentors, and TAs are one of the most vital ways in which we can all care for each other and forge stronger ties across the Penn community. The program offers a range of options for free meals at a dining hall or the University Club, and professors/TAs can also be reimbursed to host their current classes for meals at their homes.

I hope that all of you are enjoying a stimulating and rewarding spring semester.

Wendell Pritchett
Provost



Undergraduate Assembly

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Status Report – Undergraduate Assembly

February 21th, 2018

1. Budget Meetings
 - a. The UA meetings on February 11th, February 18th, and February 25th will be our annual budget meetings where we will be allocating to \$2.5 million to the other branches of student government as well as other entities. This budget allocation funds a significant amount of the undergraduate student organizations on campus.
2. Mental Health Survey
 - a. The UA has been working with CAPS to develop a survey to gauge interest in the possibility of having CAPS satellite offices. Additionally, we are looking to get information about the general awareness and utilization of Penn's peer and professional mental health resources. We will be sending the survey out through an all school email.
3. Center for Teaching and Learning Advisory Board
 - a. The purpose of this advisory board is to provide insight into the experiences and perspectives of undergraduate students at the University of Pennsylvania. Members of this group will represent the four undergraduate schools and a range of different students. The group will connect CTL to Penn's undergraduate student body, while CTL will use the ideas of this group when appropriate as it works with faculty and other instructors to improve teaching at Penn. All the representatives have been selected and will consist of the following: Two current undergraduate TAs selected by CTL, one international student, one student athlete and one student from 5B, one representative from the UA, and one representative from SCUE.



**Status Report- Penn Professional Staff Assembly
February 6, 2018**

The theme year for the PPSA is Year of Growth

- On January 30th, we hosted approximately 100 staff members for an open membership meeting which featured a conversation with Provost Pritchett. Staff members asked questions on a broad range of topics, including impact on DACA students, mental health services on campus, support for sexual abuse victims and much more.
- Our spring semester “Chats with Jack” have been scheduled and we are encouraging PPSA members to sign up for slots.
- Our diversity event will feature Domenic Vitiello, PhD, MCP, a senior fellow in the Penn Center for Public Health Initiatives, and will likely be held on February 28. The event will promote understanding around issues related to diversity in a broad context with a focus on immigration.
- Our nominations committee is working on the call for nominations. Candidates will be presented during our May open membership meeting. The speakers for that event will be James Pawelski, PhD, from the Penn Positive Psychology Center and his wife (and co-author), Suzann Pileggi Pawelski, MAPP.
- March event: “Developing a Culture of Health on a University Campus,” will be held Wednesday, March 21, 2018 from 1pm-2:30pm as part of the Penn Teach-In and will be co-sponsored with WPPSA. The event will feature a panel with three speakers (two health researchers from the Penn community and one human resources professional to provide tips and resources). The speakers are:
 - Jasmine Blanks Jones, a PhD student in Education and African Studies at Penn and a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Research Scholar.
 - Terri Lipman, PhD, CRNP, FAAN, Miriam Stirl Endowed Term Professor of Nutrition, Professor of Nursing of Children, Assistant Dean for Community Engagement, Interim Program Director, Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program, Penn Nursing.
 - Ashlee Halbritter, Director of Campus Health, Student Health Service.

This event will be appropriate for staff, students, and faculty and will include lunch and 10 “be in the know” points for faculty and staff. Participants will leave encouraged that self-care and wellness are important (as demonstrated by research) and will also leave with some tips about ways to embrace a culture of health.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather J. Kelley – Thompson
Chair, PPSA

Kuan R. Evans
Past Chair, PPSA

Stephanie S. Yee
Chair Elect, PPSA



February 15, 2018

Weekly Paid Professional Staff Assembly (WPPSA)
<http://www.upenn.edu/wpsa/>
Status Report for February 2018

I. Recent Business:

- a. WPPSA has finished the revision of our bylaws. They have been disseminated to our listserv, and those who are on this mailing list have until Friday, Feb. 16 to send in any comments, feedbacks, or objections. We will send the bylaws to the Almanac likely at the end of this month to make the revisions official.
- b. Provost Wendell Pritchett attended our monthly meeting, which was well-attended. We discussed various topics including the current and near-future direction of Penn, the online education available for support staff under the Online Learning Initiative (OLI), and diversity in the workplace. Marcus will continue to talk to Rebecca Stein (Executive Director of OLI) about how support staff can best leverage the platforms within the OLI.
- c. Marcus recently met with Jack Heuer from Human Resources and had a conversation about the educational benefits for staff and the strategic use of online courses (such as those offered by Lynda.com) for professional development. Marcus mentioned the idea of starting an “Education Expenses Reimbursement” fund using WPPSA funds to reimburse staff for education expenses (such as the cost of books) from courses taken outside of Penn. There will be more conversations down the line regarding these topics and ideas.
- d. Denise Fitzpatrick from Penn Athletics (Assistant Athletic Director/Marketing and Fan Engagement) will be working on confirming some dates in the 2018-19 athletics schedule where there are afternoon sporting events. This is in anticipation of a “WPPSA Appreciation Day” where support staff will be able to (hopefully) take a break from the work day and attend the afternoon event to support the student athletes. We are hoping to confirm a date by the end of this academic term.

II. Next Steps:

- a. Prepare for the organizational turnover for next academic year; including selecting candidates for the Chair position and querying all members sitting on University Council committees on whether they’d like to continue in their seats.
- b. Reach out to PPSA to begin preliminary planning for the Employee Resource Fair (ERF).
- c. Follow up regarding starting an “Education Expenses Reimbursement” fund.
- d. Follow up on all online-education/learning related matters recently brought up to Jack Heuer and Provost Pritchett.
- e. Order WPPSA banners and paraphernalia with a simple logo; a runner for a table (for events like ERF), drawstring bags, etc.

Humbly submitted,

Marcus T. Wright
Chair, WPPSA

Rhonda D. Kirlew
Co-Chair, WPPSA