

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of University Council
From: Amy Gutmann, President
Date: September 5, 2018
Subject: Report to the University Council

Welcome to the 279th 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 2022 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 celebrate the arrival of dynamic new leaders and eminent faculty, including two new deans. The new Gilbert S. Kahn Dean of Penn Vet is Andrew Hoffman. Andy's career exemplifies the enormous potential of an integrated One Health approach to biomedicine: uniting clinicians and scientists from multiple professions and perspectives to increase knowledge and drive improvements in global public health, human and animal wellbeing, and environmental sustainability and resilience.

The new Morton Amsterdam Dean of Penn Dental is Mark Wolff. Mark is a celebrated teacher, globally engaged scholar, and deeply experience clinician. He hails from NYU, where he served as Professor and Chair of Cariology and Comprehensive Care at the College of Dentistry and as the College's senior associate dean for development and alumni relations. I hope everyone will join us in giving these two stellar leaders a very warm Penn welcome.

I also join with Provost Pritchett in congratulating and welcoming Penn's first-ever Chief Wellness Officer, Dr. Benoit Dubé, as well as the new H. Carton Rogers, III Vice Provost and Director of Penn Libraries, Constantia Constantinou. Benoit is a longtime member of the Penn community and an acclaimed physician. Constantia has a distinguished track record as a transformative libraries leader. We're thrilled to officially welcome both to their new roles.

We recently announced Penn's new Second Year Experience Program, which will strengthen the sense of community that our first-year and sophomore students experience from the time they arrive at Penn, as well as promote student achievement and wellbeing. In the near future, keep an eye out for more information and mark your calendars for Sophomore Day on September 14th.

Congratulations to our own David and Lyn Silfen University Professor Jonathan Moreno on receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities. One of our preeminent Penn Integrates Knowledge University Professors, Jonathan's expertise spans several disciplines, from medicine to history and philosophy. The American Journal of Bioethics has called him "the quietly most interesting bioethicist of our time." We here at Penn call him an exemplar of our signature interdisciplinary approach to asking – and answering – the greatest questions of our time. Congratulations Jonathan!

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.

You can visit the Prizes' websites to learn more about previous winners and to find information sessions 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 - September 2018

It is a pleasure to welcome everyone back for another wonderful year at Penn. I join President Gutmann in extending a warm welcome to our new Deans, Andrew Hoffman in the School of Veterinary Medicine and Marc Wolff in the School of Dental Medicine, who began their tenures this summer with great vision and vigor for the year ahead. In July, Lisa Lewis also began her appointment as Faculty Director of College Houses. Prof. Lewis is a longtime leader of our college houses who has lived in them for more than ten years and currently serves as Faculty Director of Gregory College House. She is equally well-known to many of you for her important work as a professor and Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusivity in the School of Nursing.

On August 1, we welcomed Constantia Constantinou as the university's new Vice Provost and H. Carton Rogers III Director of Libraries. Most recently Dean of University Libraries and SUNY Distinguished Librarian at Stony Brook University, she is a global leader in developing digital, multimedia, and technology initiatives in large university library systems and advancing partnerships among libraries, museums, and universities. I am certain that she will bring tremendous energy and insight to build on the extraordinary legacy of Carton Rogers, in whose name the Library Overseers have now endowed her position. As we end the month, we welcome back to Penn Meredith Wooten as Director of the Graduate Student Center. Meredith earned her PhD in Political Science here, serving as a fellow of the Center for her entire career at Penn, before becoming most recently Director of the Pennoni Honors College Center for Scholar Development at Drexel University.

I am especially pleased that we are building the leadership of two of our most important campus-wide initiatives, Wellness at Penn and Penn First Plus. Benoit Dubé has begun his work as the university's first Chief Wellness Officer. In this role, he will lead wellness initiatives across the University and oversee an integrated new division of Student Wellness Services that includes the Offices of Alcohol and Other Drug Program Initiatives, Campus Health, Counseling and Psychological Services, Penn Violence Prevention, and the Student Health Service. Dr. Dubé is a highly experienced leader who is Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, Director of Wellness Initiatives, and Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion at the Perelman School of Medicine. With his leadership, we also expect to conclude this semester our national search for a new Executive Director of Counseling and Psychological Services. CAPS has already begun the year with an important new initiative that makes it easier for students to schedule appointments, walk in to CAPS, or talk to a clinician on the phone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Our new Office of Penn First Plus Students begins the semester under the leadership of its inaugural Faculty Co-Directors, Camille Charles and Robert Ghrist. As many of you know, they are two of our foremost campus leaders in advancing the academic and personal development of our students. They will be invaluable partners as we begin the work of this office to provide a central hub of resources, expanded programs, and financial support for our low-income and first-generation undergraduate students. They will work closely with me, Vice Provost for University Life Val Cade, and Vice Provost for Education Beth Winkelstein this semester to launch this essential work and to complete a national search for the program's inaugural Executive Director.

Wendell Pritchett
Provost



**Status Report- Penn Professional Staff Assembly
August 29, 2018**

*The theme year for the PPSA is **Connect @ Penn.***

- PPSA held its annual elections in May. We have a new Chair-Elect, Nadir Sharif. Five new board members were elected, and seventeen representatives have been appointed to sit on the University Council Committees.
- PPSA met on July 25, 2018 to hold our 2018-2019 planning retreat. We discussed plans for the year and met the new board members and committee representatives.
- PPSA together with Jack Heuer, Vice President of Human Resources, will continue the small group discussions platform on a monthly basis beginning this fall known as “Chat with Jack.” 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.
- This year marks the fourth year of the PPSA Connection program, a free networking program that provides monthly random matching for staff members to connect with colleagues across campus. This is one of our most popular programs as there is continued demand by Penn employees to connect across schools and centers.
- In September, we are hosting an event titled "Parenting Down and Parenting Up" – Resources and Benefits for Caretakers. Sue Sproat, Executive Director for Benefits, and Karen Kille, Senior Work-life Consultant, will join us from Penn HR to discuss the benefits and resources that Penn provides to its employees as they relate to new and existing parents of minor children and resources for those of us who provide regular care for our aging parents and loved ones. Topics to be covered include the Paid Parental Leave policy (effective as of September 1, 2018), best practices for proposing Flexible Work Options, and Penn's "Health Advocate" service.
- On October 2, 2018, PPSA will co-host the Annual Employment Resource Fair with the WPPSA. The fair will host external and internal vendors. We anticipate 1,000 employees to attend the fair.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie S. Yee
Chair, PPSA

Heather J. Kelley – Thompson
Past Chair, PPSA

Nadir Sharif
Chair Elect, PPSA