

## MEMORANDUM

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

---

As we accelerate progress on Penn's highest priorities, Penn people are earning some of the highest distinctions in the nation. For example: Susan Domchek, Rachel Werner, Daniel Polsky, and Marie Simon were recently elected to the prestigious National Academy of Medicine, one of the most illustrious honors in biomedicine.

Two pathbreaking Penn physicists – Charles Kane and Eugene Mele – have been named winners of the 2019 Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics. They will share the prestigious \$3 million award for their pioneering discoveries.

Among the countless honors earned by Penn students this year, two Penn seniors have been selected as Rhodes Scholars. Anea Moore is a FGLE student hailing from Philadelphia. A Truman Scholar as well, she is a Sociology and Urban Studies major with a concentration in law and a minor in African Studies. A prominent advocate for the Penn First Plus community, her leadership roles across campus and beyond are too numerous to mention. Adamseged Abebe is from Gondar, Ethiopia, and majors in Health and Societies. A Penn World Scholar, Adam is also a Perry World House Student Fellow, a Lipman Prize Fellow, and a stellar campus leader as well. All of us at Penn couldn't be more proud of our latest Rhodes Scholars.

As we celebrate these achievements, we were also very proud to announce yet another groundbreaking FDA approval for a Penn-developed therapy for leukemia. Research from the Abramson Cancer Center has led to another source of hope for patients and families. Congratulations to D. Alexander Perl and to all our unsurpassed researchers and clinicians at the Abramson Cancer Center and Penn Medicine.

Last month, we opened the Ronald O. Perelman Center for Political Science and Economics with festivities attended by Vicki Kennedy and Cindy McCain, who spoke about their husbands' legacies of bipartisanship, and later featured a riveting conversation between Emerita Trustee Andrea Mitchell and former Florida Governor and Penn Professor of Practice Jeb Bush. In one beautiful location, the Perelman Center integrates the great work of Penn faculty and students in two of the largest departments in the School of Arts and Sciences, which are also among our most popular undergraduate majors. The Perelman Center underscores our deep dedication to cross-disciplinary learning and research.

Finally, I join Provost Pritchett in warmly welcoming Penn's inaugural Executive Director of the Office of Penn First Plus Students, Marc Lo, and our new Associate Vice Provost for Student Affairs, Tamara Greenfield King.

Thank you all for your service to University Council. I wish everyone a great end of semester and a happy, restful winter break.

## PROVOST'S STATUS REPORT

University Council

December 2018

It is a great pleasure, as we approach the end of the semester, to welcome two new leaders who will join us in January. Marc Lo starts next month as the inaugural Executive Director of the Office of Penn First Plus Students. This office, as many of you know, will provide a dedicated hub of resources, support, and community for undergraduate students from first-generation and/or low-income backgrounds. Marc is a highly experienced authority in undergraduate student learning and development, currently at the Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning of Brown University, who was himself a first-generation, low-income undergraduate student at Northeastern University. He will work closely with our outstanding students, our many partners across campus, and the program's Faculty Co-Directors Camille Charles and Robert Ghrist to implement new programs, sustain and connect existing programs and services, and build strong connections to faculty and alumni for the benefit of our students.

Tamara Greenfield King joins us next month as Associate Vice Provost for Student Affairs, overseeing Student Affairs, Career Services, Civic House, NROTC, Fraternity and Sorority Life, and Platt Student Performing Arts House. Tamara is returning to her home state – where she attended Penn State as an undergraduate and later became the first African-American Assistant District Attorney in Northampton County – from Washington University in Saint Louis, where she is currently Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Support and Wellness. Her experience there overseeing the Health and Wellness Center and the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center will make her an especially valuable partner in advancing these core priorities of student life. Along those lines, I am also delighted to welcome Erika Gross as the Chief Operating Officer for Wellness Services. She will work closely with Dr. Benoit Dubé, our inaugural Chief Wellness Officer, to establish the new Division of Student Wellness Services, which will integrate all of our student wellness services to create faster access to care, for more students, across a wider range of options. Erika is a Penn graduate whose immediate experience as Director of Finance, Administration, and Risk Management in the Student Health Service, along with her wide experience in risk management across the university, will make her an ideal partner in achieving a world-class division of integrated Student Wellness Services.

We heard an exciting presentation, at our last Council meeting, about new initiatives in global education spearheaded by Vice Provost Zeke Emanuel and his team in Penn Global. This great progress in global initiatives has now been confirmed by the annual Open Doors Report published by the Institute of International Education and the US Department of State. We have the most students studying abroad of any Ivy League university, jumping to 14th from 21st in the overall rankings of national universities. Here on campus, we have the second-highest number of international students in the Ivy League (after Columbia). We are strongly committed to this mission of making Penn a truly global university, providing every Penn student with a meaningful global experience and encouraging all Penn students to engage with a wide range of global people, cultures, and ideas.

I hope all of you enjoy a stimulating end to the semester and a wonderful winter break.

Wendell Pritchett  
Provost



# Undergraduate Assembly

## UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

### Undergraduate Assembly Status Report

November 21, 2018

#### Organization Update:

1. Thanksgiving Break Airport Shuttles
  - a. In an annual tradition, the Undergraduate Assembly (UA) partnered with Penn Transit to offer low-cost airport shuttles to Penn community members who were traveling for Thanksgiving break. A record number of passengers were able to use this service.
2. UA UpdAtes and Tabling
  - a. The UA launched a video series to provide messages to the student body with information on projects. The first video was released in November.
  - b. The UA also began a weekly tabling series on Locust Walk to garner suggestions from students and promote transparency.

#### Resolutions Submitted:

1. Resolution Concerning Accelerated On-Campus Recruiting Timeline

*The UA hereby resolves to:*

  - a. Strongly urge the University of Pennsylvania Career Services and undergraduate school deans to:
    - i. Require that recruiting events explicitly marketed toward internships for the summer following the junior year take place no earlier than the end of the student's sophomore year, specifically in financial services and management consulting. This includes, but is not limited to: information sessions, coffee chats/networking sessions, and interviews (whether on campus or via digital interviewing services).
    - ii. Work collectively with peer institutions to communicate with firms in the aforementioned industries regarding the implications that their recruitment processes have on the wellbeing of students.

#### Project Highlights:

1. Kite and Key Virtual Tours by Kayla Prezelski
  - a. Kayla is working with the Kite and Key Society and Penn Admissions to create a virtual tour experience as Kite and Key designs a new tour. International students, transfer students, and FGLI students are key populations that often miss out on the tour experience, and Kayla hopes a virtual tour will increase access to information about Penn for all prospective students.



## *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 December 5, 2018**

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

- PPSA hosted the second “Chats with Jack” of this academic year on November 16, 2018. PPSA together with Jack Heuer, Vice President of Human Resources, will continue the small group discussions platform on a monthly basis. 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.
- On November 29, 2018, PPSA hosted an event titled “Discovering Penn’s Financial Wellness Resources” featuring a high-level review of Penn’s financial wellness resources, including reviewing available benefits, discounts, and educational opportunities.
- On December 4, 2018, PPSA hosted our first “Coffee & Cookies” networking event. This event series expands on 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.
- On January 11, 2019, PPSA will host our annual clothing drive, benefiting local Philadelphia non-profits. Clothing collection boxes will be set up in 10+ buildings across Penn’s campus for a two week collection period. On January 11, PPSA members will sort donations in Houston Hall followed by donation pickup by the non-profits.
- On January 28, 2019, PPSA will host our annual January speaker series event featuring Steven O. Kimbrough, Professor of Operations, Information and Decisions at the Wharton School.
- In January 2019, PPSA will host our first PPSA Book Club meeting. PPSA members voted to read the novel All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr.
- In February 2019, PPSA will host an event focused on mental health wellness.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie S. Yee  
Chair, PPSA

Heather J. Kelley – Thompson  
Past Chair, PPSA

Nadir Sharif  
Chair Elect, PPSA