

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of University Council
From: Amy Gutmann, President
Date: January 30, 2019
Subject: Report to the University Council

Provost Pritchett and I were delighted to announce that Duncan Watts will be the University of Pennsylvania's twenty-third Penn Integrates Knowledge University Professor, effective July 1, 2019. As the Stevens University Professor, he will hold joint faculty appointments in the Department of Computer and Information Science in the School of Engineering and Applied Science, the Annenberg School for Communication, and the Department of Operations, Information, and Decisions in the Wharton School, where he will also be the inaugural Rowan Fellow. His cutting-edge scholarship—joining communications, the social sciences, and engineering to address important mind-boggling puzzles about human behavior—makes him a true visionary, and we welcome him to Penn.

The Provost and I also welcomed two deans as they officially begin their tenures. John Jackson, Penn's inaugural PIK Professor and former dean of the School of Social Policy and Practice, now leads the Annenberg School. Sally Bachman is our new dean of SP2. Sally is passionately committed to integrating the perspectives and tools of multiple disciplines and professions in research, community partnerships, policy development and education, and training activities to strengthen and advance social work, social policy, social change and social justice.

In March, Dr. Greg Ells will become Penn's new Executive Director of Counseling and Psychological Services. Working alongside Penn's Chief Wellness Officer, Dr. Benoit Dubé, Dr. Ells will continue to grow our all-out and all-in efforts to enhance Penn's wellness resources. And in June, Jane Morris will join the Penn community as Executive Director of the Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships. She is phenomenally well-suited to partner with Penn's world-class students in securing competitive research resources and prestigious fellowship opportunities. We look forward to welcoming both these leaders in the coming months.

Congratulations to Penn Professor Charles Bernstein, who has been named the winner of the 2019 Bollingen Prize for American Poetry. Awarded by Yale, the Bollingen Prize is among the most prestigious and highly-esteemed prizes for American poets. A member of Penn's faculty since 2003, Charles is the Donald T. Regan Professor of English and Comparative Literature. He now joins a select group of just 50 other winners named since the Prize was established in 1949, including the likes of W.H. Auden and Robert Frost. This is just the latest example of how the arts at Penn are a powerfully innovative and imaginative force not only within our community, but around the world.

I join all the members of Council in applauding and thanking Caryn Lerman, Vice Dean for Strategic Initiatives for Penn Medicine and the John H. Glick Professor for Cancer Research, for her wonderful service as our moderator. This is her last University Council meeting as moderator, and I couldn't be more grateful for all she's done. She is an academic and clinical powerhouse and an exemplary University citizen and leader. Thank you, Caryn.

PROVOST'S STATUS REPORT

University Council

January 2019

We begin the new semester welcoming several new leaders in important roles across the University. Sally Bachman, Dean of the School of Social Policy and Practice; Tamara King, Associate Vice Provost of University Life; and Marc Lo, Executive Director of Penn First Plus, all joined the Penn community and began their important work earlier this month. In March, we will welcome Greg Eells as our new Executive Director of Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS). Dr. Eells is a national leader in university counseling services who has been Director of Counseling and Psychological Services at Cornell University for more than fifteen years. He has been President of the Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors – and recently won its Award for Excellence in Counseling Center Scholarship – as well as Chair of the Mental Health Section of the American College Health Association.

He will work closely with Dr. Benoit Dubé, our inaugural Chief Wellness Officer, to enhance mental health services across campus. These advancements, as we have noted in earlier messages, aim to increase capacity; decrease the time between a first consultation and a first counseling appointment; better distinguish short-term care, long-term care, and other kinds of wellness care; and expand the availability of phone, video, texting, and app-based technologies that can be accessed anywhere, at any time, to support students in crisis. We have already started implementing these changes, making 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.

Finally, in June, we will welcome Jane Coyle Morris as Executive Director of the Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships (CURF). Ms. Morris is currently Executive Director of the Office of Undergraduate Scholars and Fellows at Duke University and, before Duke, led the Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships at Villanova University for 14 years. She has served as President, Vice President, and Secretary of the National Association of Fellowship Advisers and on numerous competitive scholarship selection committees and professional leadership organizations. In 2011, she co-founded the Women's Academic Leadership Group, a group of senior women university leaders that supports women in the academy and promotes best practices and scholarship opportunities, especially at schools historically underrepresented in nationally competitive scholarships.

In the months ahead, I expect that many of you will have an opportunity to meet and work closely with these outstanding new leaders, who will be great catalysts for the creative and collaborative work that goes on every day across campus. I hope that everyone had a wonderful break and is looking forward to a stimulating and rewarding spring semester.

Wendell Pritchett
Provost



Undergraduate Assembly

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Undergraduate Assembly Status Report

January 18, 2019

Organization Update:

1. Mid-Session Report
 - a. In an annual tradition, the Undergraduate Assembly (UA) completed a Mid-Session Report of projects, initiatives, and collaborations from the fall semester. This report was emailed to all members of the undergraduate student body in December.
2. UA Open Forum Meeting
 - a. The Undergraduate Assembly will be holding an Open Forum Meeting on January 27 to promote direct engagement with our constituents. The meeting will occur in addition to the regularly scheduled ten minutes of Open Forum at the beginning of each general body meeting.

Project Highlights:

1. Outdoor Lighting Project by Kevin Arther
 - a. Observing that some areas of campus are less well-lit than others, Kevin began an initiative to increase the amount of outdoor lighting on campus for vision and safety reasons. Kevin completed a digital recording of “dark spots” on campus and has partnered with FRES and Public Safety to implement supplemental lighting.



PPSA – Penn Professional Staff Assembly

<http://www.upenn.edu/ppsa>
ppsa@pobox.upenn.edu

**Status Report- Penn Professional Staff Assembly
January 30, 2019**

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

- On January 11, 2019, PPSA hosted our annual clothing drive, benefiting local Philadelphia non-profits. Clothing collection boxes were set up in 10+ buildings across Penn's campus for a two week collection period. On January 11, PPSA members sorted donations in Houston Hall followed by donation pickup by the non-profits.
- On January 11, 2019, PPSA hosted our first PPSA Book Club meeting. PPSA members voted to read the novel All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr. The next book club meeting will be held in February 2019.
- 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.
- On February 21, 2019, PPSA will host an event on mindfulness featuring guest speaker Mara Wei from Penn's Program for Mindfulness.
- In February 2019, PPSA will host our second "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.
- In March 2019, PPSA will host an event on diversity.
- In April 2019, PPSA will host an event on professional development.
- On May 15, 2019, PPSA will host our annual elections meeting and speaker series featuring guest speaker Dr. Benoit Dubé, Penn's Chief Wellness Officer.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie S. Yee
Chair, PPSA

Heather J. Kelley – Thompson
Past Chair, PPSA

Nadir Sharif
Chair Elect, PPSA