

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of University Council
From: Amy Gutmann, President
Date: March 27, 2019
Subject: Report to the University Council

With our February meeting of University Council cancelled due to inclement weather, I have two months of activity to report.

I speak for all of us when I say just how exhilarating it is – how profoundly transformational – that PennDesign will now be known far and wide as the University of Pennsylvania Stuart Weitzman School of Design.

One of the world's premier entrepreneurs in design and a proud Wharton alum, Stuart Weitzman and his game-changing series of gifts will forever alter PennDesign's scope and its impact in the world. In a campaign that's all about building on Penn's extraordinary momentum, this milestone epitomizes everything we seek to achieve.

We also recently announced that Penn's 2019 Commencement Speaker will be Bryan Stevenson, founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative as well as a best-selling author, public-interest lawyer, and advocate. A champion of equal justice, he has dedicated his life to fighting poverty and challenging racial discrimination in the criminal justice system.

He will be joined by an eminent array of fellow honorary degree recipients: Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter and philanthropist Jon Bon Jovi; animal scientist, teacher, best-selling author, and American Association for the Advancement of Science fellow Temple Grandin; former U.S. Senator and president of the Lugar Center Richard Lugar; 2018 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Denis Mukwege; Penn Design practice professor emeritus of landscape architecture and renowned landscape architect Laurie Olin; former interim dean of Penn Nursing, founding director of our Center of Gerontologic Nursing Research and the Hartford Foundation Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence Neville Earl Strumpf; and groundbreaking astronomer and emeritus chair for SETI, or the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, and American Association for the Advancement of Science fellow Jill Tarter.

Penn students eagerly filled Irvine Hall on February 19 for a conversation with the 47th Vice President of the United States and Benjamin Franklin Presidential Practice Professor Joe Biden. Covering topics from foreign policy to civic engagement, the Penn community enjoyed yet another meaningful event with the Vice President. Experiences such as these with highly regarded global leaders not only bring great value to the Penn community but also stand as testament to the profoundly meaningful local, national, and global engagement of our University.

Last week, we were pleased to announce the appointment of Kevin Mahoney as Chief Executive Officer of the University of Pennsylvania Health System, effective July 1, 2019. A well-known and universally well-respected member of the Penn and Penn Medicine communities, Kevin currently serves as the Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer for UPHS, as well as the Executive Vice Dean for Integrative Services for the Perelman School of Medicine. Kevin has an unrivaled breadth of experience and depth of knowledge of health care in an integrated academic medical center, combined with a profound personal commitment to Penn's ambitious vision for the integrated academic medical center and health system of the future.

All of us are deeply grateful to our friend and colleague Ralph Muller, who serves with incredible commitment and distinction as the CEO of UPHS since 2003. Put simply, Penn Medicine would not be in the position we find ourselves in today without Ralph's leadership. We look forward to celebrating Ralph's many accomplishments in the coming months.

Our faculty and students continue to earn the highest academic distinctions. Among them, faculty members Jessica Anna and Davi Maximo, both in SAS, were named 2019 Sloan Fellows. Sloan Foundation fellowships are among the most prestigious awarded to early-career researchers.

I hope you all enjoyed a restful Spring Break, and I join you in looking forward to a wonderful spring season at Penn.

PROVOST'S STATUS REPORT

University Council - March 2019

I encourage all of you, as we near the end of the semester, to visit our world-class arts organizations, which not only enhance our intellectual and aesthetic lives but also exemplify our core missions of innovation, inclusion, and impact. The [Penn Museum](#), one of the great museums of archaeology and anthropology in the world, is currently embarking on a historic transformation. The new 6000-square-foot Middle East Galleries, which opened last year, are the first and most visible change; in a prime location adjacent to the Main Entrance Hall, they bring visitors into vivid contact with daily Mesopotamian life and the rise of the world's first cities. By the end of the year, visitors will experience not only a renovated and re-installed Gallery of Mexico and Central America but also an upgraded Harrison Auditorium and a new, light- and air-filled Main Entrance Hall, including the famous Sphinx.

The [Arthur Ross Gallery](#) just celebrated its landmark 35th anniversary with an exciting crowd-sourced exhibit of artwork from the University Art Collection. More than 600 people – across the campus, the city, and beyond – participated in selecting the work of 50 artists. The Gallery's next show, beginning April 6, highlights its strong commitment to global art and to showcasing the research of students and faculty. Developed by a curatorial seminar in art history, this exhibit of Cuban landscape painter Roger Toledo emerged in part from a visit by the class to Havana to meet with the artist, offering a great example of our campus-wide initiative to integrate global experiences directly into the work of ongoing Penn courses.

The [Institute of Contemporary Art](#) has long been a hub of both inclusion, opening its doors free for all, and groundbreaking contemporary art from around the world. This year's exhibits demonstrate its remarkable range: the first museum retrospective of 1960s avant-garde pioneer Tony Conrad; the first solo exhibit of Chilean multimedia artist Cecilia Vicuña; the first US show of Jamaican artist Deborah Anzinger, whose work synthesizes painting, sculpture, video, and installation art; and a three-part examination, staged across the year, of the legacy of slavery and colonialism, including a display of early 20th century artifacts in collaboration with the Penn Museum.

Our [Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts](#) showcases the arts to illuminate our shared histories and global connections. One of this year's most powerful shows brought together renowned Spanish musician Jordi Savall with two dozen international musicians with Penn history and music professors to examine the music of slaves beginning in the 15th century. Closer to home, the Center's new series, *The Philadelphians: Migrations That Made Our City*, traces the experience of African Americans through music from the colonial era to today. It features "junto" discussions, inspired by Benjamin Franklin's Junto Club, that discuss issues and politics. The next one will be on April 9, and I encourage all of you to participate.

Wendell Pritchett
Provost



Undergraduate Assembly

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Undergraduate Assembly Status Report

March 15, 2019

Organization Update:

1. UA and SCUE Community Conversation (Updated)
 - a. The Undergraduate Assembly partnered with the Student Committee on Undergraduate Education (SCUE) to hold a campus conversation on a variety of topics affecting undergraduate students. This conversation was originally scheduled for February 20, 2019, but was rescheduled for March 14 due to inclement weather.

Project Highlights:

1. Penn Community Wellness Guide by Simon Miller and Michael Krone
 - a. Over the last 2 months, Michael and Simon have worked with Penn Wellness to update the [Penn Community Wellness Guide](#). This included adding new resources, such as Project HEAL, that better apply to different communities on campus, as well as adding hours of operation for important Penn resources. Additionally, the guide now includes markings that denote which resources are completely confidential and the most updated website link for each organization.
2. Direct Links to SRFS Advisors on PennInTouch by Thomas Cosentino
 - a. Currently, students do not have direct access to their financial aid advisor via Penn InTouch despite having direct access to all their academic advisors. While students are directed to the overarching financial services email to ensure they receive the quickest response, this discrepancy confused many students. At Thomas's encouragement, Student Registration and Financial Services is drafting language that will explain to students why they are directed to the general office upon clicking the financial aid advisor link.



PPSA – Penn Professional Staff Assembly

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**Status Report- Penn Professional Staff Assembly
March 27, 2019**

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

- On January 28, 2019, PPSA hosted 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 hosted an event on mindfulness featuring guest speaker Mara Wei from Penn's Program for Mindfulness.
- On February 22, 2019, PPSA hosted our second PPSA Book Club meeting. We discussed The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane by Lisa See.
- On March 19, 2019, PPSA will host our second "Coffee & Bagels" 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 April 16, 2019, PPSA will host our third PPSA Book Club meeting. We will be discussing There There by Tommy Orange.
- On April 23, 2019, PPSA will host a professional development event focused on mentoring.
- In April 2019, PPSA will host an event on diversity and inclusion.
- 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