

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of University Council
From: Amy Gutmann, President
Date: April 24, 2019
Subject: Report to the University Council

Attendees of our 2019 Lyn and David Silfen University Forum “Is There an Antidote for the Opioid Epidemic?” filled Irvine Hall to capacity. To discuss the epidemic, we convened a blue-ribbon panel of experts, including the 47th Vice President of the U.S. Joe Biden, former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney, Harvard professor of psychobiology Dr. Bertha Madras, and Perelman School of Medicine professor of emergency medicine and director of medical toxicology Jeanmarie Perrone. Insightful, substantive, and at times eye-opening, the conversation helped define the stakes of this crisis and offered meaningful steps toward answering it through both policy and personal action. This year’s Silfen Forum is a prime example of how Penn puts our very best knowledge to work every day to meet the great challenges of our time.

Another excellent example are the 2019 winners of the President’s Engagement Prize and President’s Innovation Prize. Six seniors won the President’s Engagement Prize. They are Princess Aghayere, Summer Kollie, and Oladunni Alomaja, for Rebound Liberia; José Á. Maciel and Antonio E. Renteria, for Cultivando Juntos (Cultivating Together); and Brendan Taliaferro, for Host Homes for LGBTQ Youth in Philadelphia. Three seniors received the President’s Innovation Prize: Malika Shukurova and Katherine Sizov, for Strella Biotechnology, and Michael Wong, for InstaHub.

Each of the Prize recipients has demonstrated a purpose-driven desire to get out and make a difference—in their community, across the country, and around the world. From our backyard in Philadelphia to the basketball court in Liberia, Rebound Liberia, Cultivando Juntos, Host Homes for LGBTQ Youth in Philadelphia, Strella Biotechnology, and InstaHub represent a most remarkable range of Penn-educated talent, determination, and public-spirited enterprise.

Across our Penn community, faculty and distinguished fellows continue to earn the highest honors as well. Notable recent examples include the three latest Penn people to be elected to the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences. They are Vice Provost for Faculty and Henry R. Silverman Professor of Law and Professor of Philosophy Anita Allen; the Seymour Gray Professor of Molecular Medicine Daniel Rader, who is also chair of the Department of Genetics as well as chief of the Division of Translational Medicine and Human Genetics; and Perry World House Distinguished Global Leader in Residence Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein, who is also former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

This is not only our final Council meeting of the academic year, but also the final meeting where we will enjoy the great company, unsurpassed service, and consummate caring of Vice President and University Secretary Leslie Kruhly. It is a bittersweet moment. She has been Vice President and Secretary of the University throughout my presidency, shaping both the mission and the superb outreach and engagement of the office. She has left an indelible mark for the better on our Board of Trustees and our other volunteer leadership boards. She of course has guided the work of University Council all these many years. In a million ways, she’s made Penn a better place. We’ll more formally celebrate her remarkable tenure at Penn soon. But for now, on behalf of all of us, we are grateful for everything she has done for Penn.

PROVOST'S STATUS REPORT

University Council

April 2019

It is a pleasure to join President Gutmann in congratulating the winners of this year's President's Innovation and Engagement Prizes. These five projects exemplify the wide-ranging interests and deep commitments to innovation and social equity that characterize our Penn students. This is also the time of year at which we honor the exceptional faculty members who make Penn such a dynamic place to learn. This year, the Lindback Awards for Distinguished Teaching are awarded to Profs. Jennifer Blouin (Wharton), Andreas Haeberlen (SEAS), Justin Khoury (SAS), and Sheila Murnaghan (SAS) in the Non-Health Schools, and Profs. Stephen Gluckman (PSOM), Rebecka Hess (SVM), Daniel Kessler (PSOM), and Lisa Lewis (SON) in the Health Schools. Profs. Linda Aiken (SON) and Nancy Steinhardt (SAS) will receive the Provost's Awards for Distinguished PhD Teaching and Mentoring, and Profs. Christian Murphy (SEAS) and Jeanine Ronan (PSOM) will receive this year's Provost's Awards for Teaching Excellence by Non-Standing Faculty. Please join me in celebrating these extraordinary teachers on Monday, April 29, at 5 PM in 200 College Hall.

I am also pleased to congratulate the outstanding Penn faculty members who have recently received some of the highest national honors: new Sloan Fellows Jessica Anna (Chemistry, SAS) and Davi Maximo (Math, SAS) and new Guggenheim Fellows Jed Esty (English, SAS), Michelle Lopez (Fine Arts, WSD), Carmen Maria Machado (Writer-in-Residence, SAS), and Adriana Petryna (Anthropology, SAS). These awards notably reaffirm the wide range of creative and scholarly work that characterizes our campus, from fiction and multimedia art to solar energy and climate change.

As we look ahead to the fall, I hope everyone saw the exciting announcement of a pilot program that will significantly advance our strong commitments to both wellness and civic engagement. The Paideia Program, launching this fall with a generous gift from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, draws on the Greek ideal of *paideia*: educating a whole person who is prepared to be an informed and productive citizen of the world. The program will be a hub of courses, public events, and cocurricular experiences focused on citizenship, service, and wellness, built around a core of new interdisciplinary courses taught by faculty members from across our twelve Schools. This initiative will help encourage our outstanding Penn students to be the active and engaged world citizens who shape the future, at a time when this goal is more central than ever to our University and to global society as a whole.

I look forward to seeing you at the many wonderful events at which we will mark the end of another great year of teaching and learning at Penn.

Wendell Pritchett
Provost



Undergraduate Assembly

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Undergraduate Assembly Status Report

April 12, 2019

Organization Update:

1. UA Spring Elections
 - a. The Undergraduate Assembly will have its transition meeting for the 46th Session on Sunday, April 14, 2019, following the Spring 2019 elections. The newly elected UA President is Natasha Menon C'20 and the newly elected UA Vice President is Brian Goldstein C'20. Natasha and Brian formerly served on the UA during the 45th Session as Treasurer and Speaker, respectively.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Krone
UA President, 45th Session

Jordan Andrews
UA Vice President, 45th Session



PPSA – Penn Professional Staff Assembly

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Status Report- Penn Professional Staff Assembly April 24, 2019

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

- PPSA is currently taking nominations for the PPSA Executive Board and University Council Committees. All monthly-paid, full-time University staff members are encouraged to self-nominate or nominate colleagues for consideration by no later than April 26, 2019. The 2019-2020 election for officers will occur following PPSA's annual meeting, to be held on May 15, 2019.
- On March 19, 2019, PPSA hosted 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 hosted our third PPSA Book Club meeting. We discussed There There by Tommy Orange.
- On April 23, 2019, PPSA will host a professional development event titled "Mentoring at Work" featuring guest speaker Tom Sontag, Executive Director of HR Learning & Education. The event will focus on how to find a mentor, maximizing the mentor/mentee relationship, and creating objectives and goals for the relationship.
- On May 2, 2019, PPSA will host an event on diversity and inclusion featuring guest speakers Joann Mitchell, Senior Vice President for Institutional Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer, and Lisa Lewis, Associate Professor of Nursing and Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusivity at Penn Nursing.
- 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.
- In June 2019, PPSA will host our annual "Tree Event" walking tour on Penn's campus.
- On July 17, 2019, PPSA will host our 2nd Annual Penn Libraries Event. Librarians and program leaders across all of Penn Libraries will feature resources and opportunities available to Penn staff.
- On September 20, 2019, PPSA will host an event in Fisher Fine Arts Library to tour the library, the rare books room, and Arthur Ross Gallery.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie S. Yee
Chair, PPSA

Heather J. Kelley – Thompson
Past Chair, PPSA

Nadir Sharif
Chair Elect, PPSA