

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE
FOR UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
2016 - 2017**

Prepared by the Office of the University Secretary

This is the thirty-ninth annual report of the Steering Committee of the University Council, prepared in accordance with Council Bylaws that the Steering Committee publish an annual report to the University community that reviews the previous year's Council deliberations and highlights "both significant discussions and the formal votes taken on matters of substance."

OCTOBER 5, 2016 MEETING

With the advice of Steering and consent of Council, President Gutmann appointed Dr. Therese Richmond as moderator and Lauren Steinfeld as parliamentarian for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Faculty Senate Chair Laura Perna advised that Steering had drawn on discussions at the April 2016 Steering and Council meetings to finalize four focus issues for 2016-2017, as follows:

- Increasing opportunities for student/faculty innovation/entrepreneurship: Pennovation Center and other campus resources, including PCI, Wharton, Penn Design, Weiss Tech, Penn Medicine Center for Health Care Innovation, etc. (November 30, 2016)
- A discussion of academic and personal integrity at Penn (February 1, 2017)
- A discussion of online learning initiatives (February 22, 2017)
- Five-year update on Penn's Action Plan for Faculty Diversity and Excellence (March 22, 2017)

Council reviewed the 2016-2017 committee charges and Professor Perna announced two Open Forum sessions, for the November 30th and February 22nd meetings.

Provost Price, and David Fox, Director, NSO and Academic Initiatives, led discussion of the 2016-2017 Academic Theme Year: The Year of Media, to include intellectual and cultural opportunities for students, faculty, and staff.

During the New Business portion of the meeting, a member offered a statement on the increased national spotlight on issues of police brutality and anti-black racism.

NOVEMBER 9, 2016 MEETING

President Gutmann open the meeting with a statement on the recent presidential election. This was followed by a number of student representatives raising concerns about the national environment and its impact on students.

In accordance with the Bylaws, President Gutmann and Provost Price presented State of the University reports.

President Gutmann began by introducing Dean of Admissions Eric Furda, and Admissions directors Kathryn Bezella, Marketing and Communications Outreach; Lou Metzger, Information and Management Systems, and Yvonne Romera DaSilva, Strategic Planning. They spoke about the Penn Admissions Strategy Project, which began in 2013 with careful study of the status of Penn Admissions and the competitive landscape, a global market analysis of students and schools to aid in identifying potential applicants, and a needs assessment of the four undergraduate schools and other programs, such as coordinated dual degrees.

Provost Price then introduced CAPS Director William Alexander, Director of Outreach Meeta Kumar and Ben Bolnick, Student Wellness Coordinator, to provide an update on efforts accomplished and continuing since the Task Force on Student Psychological Health and Welfare was convened. Dr. Alexander spoke about innovative programs and services offered, including a Mandarin-speaking support group offered in conjunction with International Programs, and a discussion group called “Tell Us Your Story.”

Beth Winkelstein, Vice Provost for Education, spoke about a pilot program of Wellness Ambassadors begun last year, which trains faculty to serve as liaisons to their peer faculty in the undergraduate schools. Wellness Ambassadors and School of Engineering faculty members Russell Composto and Paulo Arratia then spoke about how issues of wellness are addressed at SEAS, and how faculty members are learning how to address issues and knowing when to reach out for help from care professionals.

NOVEMBER 30, 2016 MEETING

The meeting opened with President Gutmann drawing attention to a statement sent to the University community that day from herself, Provost Vince Price and Executive Vice President Craig Carnaroli. The statement underscored the University’s resolute commitment to its undocumented and DACA students, and to doing everything possible to ensure their continued safety and success at the University.

Provost Price introduced the first focus issue of the year on the opportunities and resources for student and faculty innovation and entrepreneurship, including the Pennovation Center for Innovation, the Wharton School and Penn Design, Weiss Tech, and the Penn Medicine Center for Health Care Innovation. Noting the recent grand opening of Pennovation Works, he introduced Vice Provost for Research Dawn Bonnell, who provided an overview of centrally developed activities. Resources and support include over 15 student-initiated clubs, a number of incubators and accelerators, and curricular activities which work both separately and cooperatively. Professor Bonnell outlined several tools for supporting innovation across Penn’s many constituencies.

David Hsu, Associate Faculty Director of the Weiss Tech House, spoke about the House as a primarily student-run organization based in Penn Engineering and serving the entire University. It operates as a workspace, a student-initiated accelerator, and a place for focused-learning activities.

David Asch, Professor of Medicine, Professor of Medical Ethics and Health Policy, Professor of Health Care Management, Professor of Operations, Information and Decisions, and Executive Director, Center for Health Care Innovation spoke about the Penn Medicine Center for Healthcare

Innovation, which is embedded within Penn Medicine. The Center works to enable and catalyze innovation for health care provision and health improvement.

Karl Ulrich, Vice Dean of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, the CIBC Professor of Entrepreneurship and e-Commerce, and Professor of Mechanical Engineering, provided an overview of the mission and activities of Penn Wharton Entrepreneurship, which he oversees. Its programs seek to maximize the ability of all Penn students and alumni to address important challenges through entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial thinking. Professor Ulrich added that the programs seek to meet students where they are based on interest, experience, and goals, and to draw on synergies with other campus activities.

Council held its first Open Forum and discussed the following issues:

- Request to discuss the merits of closing the University on Election Day for the purpose of allowing students, staff and faculty to vote and participate in the election process.
- Request to provide commentary and pose questions related to behavioral health resources at Penn.

During the New Business portion of the meeting, a representative raised concerns about the Penn Student Health Insurance Plan and coverage of gender-confirming services.

FEBRUARY 1, 2017 MEETING

President Gutmann opened the meeting by indicating that two nights previously she and Provost Price had joined in solidarity with faculty, students, and staff to take issue with President Trump's recent executive order on immigration from several majority Muslim countries. A student representative expressed thanks and appreciation to the many Penn departments assisting students affected by the new executive order and urged continued support for those affected by the ban.

Beth Winkelstein, Vice Provost for Education, began the presentation on Council's second focus issue, a discussion of academic and personal integrity, with an explanation of Penn's two general statements of expectations of student behavior: the Code of Academic Integrity and the Code of Student Conduct. She noted the number of different communities at the University working to educate and facilitate individual connections, from the College Houses to interactions with faculty and the administration, including the Office of Student Conduct.

Jessica Mertz, Director of Sexual Violence, Prevention, and Education spoke about the importance of recognizing the great impact of sexual and relationship violence, the need for community-based solutions, and the hard work that must go into prevention efforts. Ms. Mertz indicated that in developing Penn Anti-Violence Educators (PAVE) last year, her office had drawn on the efforts of national programs and peer institutions to create a customized program. Trained students facilitate 90-minute workshops to empower students to recognize harmful behaviors, practice practical intervention skills, and learn how to overcome potential obstacles to taking action.

Karu Kozuma, Associate Vice Provost for Student Affairs, spoke about methods of engagement with students and the University community on issues relating to student personal integrity. Mr.

Kozuma added that partnerships with student groups provide an impactful connection for addressing these issues. Chris D'Urso, Co-Chair of the University Honor Council, indicated that the student-led Council works closely with the Office of Student Conduct. The Council's initiatives include recommendations for faculty to forestall cheating, such as posting standards for collaboration on syllabi and structuring exam environments. The Council also developed a guide for students with answers to frequently asked questions and plans to develop materials for international students.

During the New Business portion of the meeting, representatives raised concerns regarding the University taking positions on political issues, the removal of government data relating to climate change, support for the Asian-American Studies program, and steps being taken to combat sexual assault on campus.

FEBRUARY 22, 2017 MEETING

Provost Price opened panel discussion of Council's third focus issue about Penn's efforts in advancing online learning. He noted that online courses now encompass all 12 of Penn's schools, over 100 faculty members, and have enrollments approaching six million worldwide. Vice Provost for Education Beth Winkelstein offered a summary of Massive Open Online Courses at Penn. She spoke about the synergy of activities within the Online Learning Initiative (OLI), the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), and the Center for Learning Analytics and their new co-location at Van Pelt Library, which further facilitates intellectual sharing. Professor Winkelstein introduced key staff, including Professor Ryan Baker of GSE and Director of the Center for Learning Analytics, and Associate Director of Online Instructional Design Jessica Morris, who reports both to OLI and CTL and collaborates with faculty considering both refreshing or developing a course.

Professor Winkelstein then introduced panel members SEAS Dean Vijay Kumar and Professor Susan Meyers of the Department of Philosophy in SAS. Dean Kumar spoke about Penn Engineering efforts with online education, which are being developed with an eye to expanding the global footprint of the school and showcasing its faculty talent, and to complement the school's face-to-face education. Professor Meyer spoke about enriching the classroom of a traditional 14-week course, using as an example an introductory course on the history of Greek and Roman philosophy. With the support of Online Learning, she created a large number of short video lectures of about seven minutes each to be combined with quizzes and readings.

Council held its second Open Forum and discussed the following issues:

- Request to speak about mental health at Penn.
- Request to speak on sustainability and the endowment
- Request to speak on the University's recent statements regarding President Trump's executive orders.
- Request to speak regarding the safety and support of marginalized students on campus and the need for a centralized diversity office.

During New Business, representatives raised issues regarding support for First Generation-Low Income students, Vice President Biden's recent joining of the Penn community, and the continued needs of those impacted by the recent executive order travel ban.

MARCH 22, 2017 MEETING

The Moderator indicated that Council bylaws call for reports each spring by the President, Provost, and other administrators detailing budgets and plans for the next academic year.

Bonnie Gibson, Vice President of the Office of Budget and Management Analysis, presented the academic budget and student charges for 2017-2018, noting that this will be the ninth consecutive year with an increase under 4% and that over the past 10 years, Penn's increases have been at the average with its peers. She added that Ph.D. and research master's program tuition will increase 4% for the next year, while professional student tuition is set by each school.

Provost Price then opened a discussion of arts and culture planning and initiatives at Penn. He and President Gutmann were delighted to announce the establishment the Sachs Program for Arts Innovation in October. Vice Provost for Faculty Anita Allen noted that through the Sachs Program, students can propose a project and be eligible for funding. Professor Allen then spoke about how the arts is thriving at Penn in all forms. As examples, she noted the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts and its new director, Christopher Gruits; the creative offerings at Morris Arboretum; Penn's 85 active student arts groups; the radio station WXPB; Penn Museum and Kelly Writers House, and the work of many academic departments and schools.

She then introduced Ken Lum, Chair and Professor of Fine Arts in the School of Design, to talk about the Monument Lab program. Professor Lum noted that his project has been in development for three years. It began as he explored Philadelphia and wondered about those individuals who had been officially honored with monuments across the city, who had not been honored, and why.

Provost Price introduced the final focus issue of the year, an updated progress report on efforts to diversify its faculty. Vice Provost Allen and Lubna Mian, Executive Director, Faculty Affairs in the Office of the Vice Provost, outlined progress over the past five years. They reviewed the infrastructure with University-wide as well as school-based plans, strong partnerships across the University, and a \$100 million commitment in funding, as well as significant successes in the first five years, which include robust hiring for women and minorities.

Vice Provost Allen noted that the Diversity Action Plan pairs diversity with excellence, opening new areas of curricula and research, perspectives, teaching methods, and new representation with memberships and societies which directly support new levels of excellence and eminence for the University. In discussing challenges, Ms. Mian noted the challenge of maintaining current trends, adding that the University would like to accelerate the trend in recruiting women and continue to pay particular attention to the gender pay gap.

During New Business, a representative advocated the University becoming a member of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) and attend additional conferences to better establish a presence in marginalized and underrepresented communities across the nation.

APRIL 19, 2017 MEETING

Provost Price reviewed the eight recommendations he and President Gutmann had received from the Task Force on a Safe and Responsible Campus Community and announced that one recommendation from the Task Force has already been implemented, the appointment of Joann Mitchell as Senior Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer for the University.

Other recommendations included suggestions to update the policy on alcohol and other drugs as well as anti-hazing policies, and to collaborate with student leaders on an educational campaign to reinforce the expectations of individuals and groups in regard to behavioral responsibility as set forth in Penn's code of student conduct, code of integrity, and Guidelines to Open Expression. Also recommended was that Penn establish closer collaboration of campus landlords, that off-campus groups be defined as a new category of student organization, and that Penn explore creating a second year/sophomore experience program to address their unique needs.

Chairs of the five standing Council committees provided overviews of their final reports:

- Professor Masao Sako, Chair of the Committee on Facilities
- Professor Ani Nenkova, Chair of the Committee on Academic and Related Affairs
- Professor Emily Hannum, Chair of the Committee on Campus and Community Life
- Professor Ezekiel Dixon-Román, Chair of the Committee on Diversity and Equity
- Professor Reed Shuldiner, Chair of the Committee on Personnel Benefits

Provost Price and Dr. Gutmann thanked the chairs and the committee members for their dedication in exploring the charges assigned to their committees and making recommendations.

Faculty Senate Chair-Elect Professor Santosh Venkatesh reported on the work of the Council Committee on Committees in 2016-2017, indicating that the Council committees operated well overall and suggesting refinements to the process. Faculty Senate Chair Professor Laura Perna introduced potential focus issues for Council for the 2017-2018 academic year as suggested by Steering, Council, and constituencies.

Dr. Gutmann acknowledged the contributions of outgoing participants of Council, thanking them and all University Council members for their participation.