This is the thirty-sixth annual report of the Steering Committee of the University Council, prepared in accordance with a requirement in the 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 2, 2013 MEETING**

With the advice of Steering and consent of Council, President Amy Gutmann appointed Dr. Reed Pyeritz as moderator and Lauren Steinfeld as parliamentarian for the 2013-2014 academic year.

Faculty Senate Chair Dwight Jaggard advised that Steering had drawn on discussions at the April 2013 Steering and Council meetings to finalize four focus issues for 2013-2014, as follows:

- Discuss Penn’s current efforts and future plans to combat climate change. (December, 2013)
- Review campus security and emergency procedures. (January 29, 2014)
- Review and discuss the findings of the Commission on Student Safety, Alcohol and Campus Life. (February 19, 2014)
- Diversity at Penn. (March 26, 2014)

Council reviewed the 2013-2014 committee charges and Professor Jaggard announced two Open Forum sessions, at the October and February meetings.

Provost Price, with Vice Provost for Education Andy Bins and David Fox, Director, NSO and Academic Initiatives, led discussion of the 2013-2014 Academic Theme Year: The Year of Sound, with a variety of intellectual and cultural opportunities for students, faculty, and staff. The 2014-2015 theme will be The Year of Health.

**OCTOBER 30, 2013 MEETING**

In accordance with the Bylaws, President Gutmann presented a State of the University report outlining key aspects of Penn Compact 2020, noted Penn’s continuing commitment to all-grant no-loan undergraduate aid packages. She outlined efforts such as the Action Plan for Faculty Diversity and Excellence; advancing innovative open learning and online education initiatives, and supporting eminent and collaborative interdisciplinary faculty through Presidential Term Professorships, and Penn Integrates Knowledge (PIK) and other endowed professorships. Dr. Gutmann also highlighted Penn Connects 2.0 projects totaling 4.8 million square feet of new or renovated campus space.

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

- Concerns regarding the safety of employees at factories operated by Penn licensees
- Proposal to use Penn Course Review and the Center for Teaching and Learning as a metric for teacher improvement
DECEMBER 4, 2013 MEETING

Presenting on the focus issue of Penn’s current efforts and future plans to combat climate change, Vice President for Facilities and Real Estate Services Anne Papageorge summarized Penn’s Climate Action Plan and Integrating Sustainability Across the Curriculum, which includes climate action grants for undergraduate study, faculty support to incorporate sustainability into existing courses, and a new sustainability course inventory of over 100 courses.

Jane Dmochowski, Managing Director of the Vagelos Integrated Program in Energy Research, spoke about applicable classes, minors, and majors available. Ms. Sara Allan, an Environmental Studies major, spoke about the EcoReps program and the Student Sustainability Association’s (SSA) work to engage students. Professor Bill Braham, Director of the Master of the Environmental Building Design program at the School of Design and the Director of the T.C. Chan Center, spoke about facets of addressing climate change and sustainability challenges.

Vice Provost for Education Andy Binns spoke about the University’s Middle States Reaccreditation process, which is completed every ten years. One aspect, the Self-Study, looked at the University’s strategic vision for undergraduate education and issues of assessment of progress on goals. Dr. Binns noted Penn’s strength undergraduate student research access and interest in evaluating current practice and possible improvements. Close attention was also given to assessment of student learning and how Penn’s financial and administrative structures relate to its educational goals.

JANUARY 29, 2014 MEETING

Senior Vice President and General Counsel Wendy White provided background for discussing a proposal for University divestment of tobacco-related investments. She stressed that the University trustees have sole responsibility for all decisions about investment or divestment for the University endowment, and as fiduciaries, have a primary obligation to ensure investment to maximize financial return. She added that in extraordinary circumstances, the University may consider other factors in investment decisions and noted the three criteria for divestment: there must be a moral evil creating substantial social injury; companies targeted for divestment must have a clear and undeniable link to that social injury, and divestment must have the broad support of the campus community at large.

Michael Weisberg, Associate Professor and Graduate Chair of Philosophy and a sponsor of the proposal indicated that since tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States and the world, he and his colleagues had brought forward this call for divestment on the belief that it is antithetical to Penn’s missions of education, research, and health to benefit financially from companies that manufacture and sell tobacco. He then outlined how this proposal addresses divestment criteria, including that tobacco has no known beneficial qualities, is marketed to vulnerable populations, and the broad consensus that institutions such as Penn should not benefit financially from tobacco.

Paul Lanken, Associate Dean for Professionalism & Humanism, Perelman School of Medicine and Professor of Medicine and Medical Ethics & Health Policy indicated that his career as a pulmonologist was in treating those with lung diseases, many related to tobacco abuse. He provided data from the Centers for Disease Control on deaths, directly or indirectly, of over 400,000 in the U.S. each year, with millions more suffering from lung diseases such as COPD.
Professor Chris Geczy, Adjunct Associate Professor of Finance at Wharton and Academic Director, Wharton Wealth Management Initiative noted that he had done research specifically on screening portfolios based on non-financial considerations. He stated that divestment can be viewed as a constraint, and his research has shown that generally constraints do bind by limiting diversification, with substantial possible costs.

Bill Bratton, Deputy Dean, Nicholas F. Gallicchio Professor of Law and Co-Director, Institute for Law and Economics at Penn Law addressed a standard defense against divestment proposals, that divestment by itself doesn’t do very much while shareholder activism may better effect change. Professor Bratton indicated that Harvard’s 1990 divestiture from tobacco likely had impact for the tobacco companies, but the impact of another divestiture now would be less. He stated that he felt Penn should not expect any impact on tobacco companies to come from divestment, other than registering a moral judgment.

A vote on this proposal would be held at the next meeting of University Council on February 19.

Vice President for Public Safety Maureen Rush and Deputy Chief for Tactical and Emergency Readiness Mike Fink presented the focus issue, a review of campus security emergency procedures. Vice President Rush discussed Penn’s crisis management plan, the UPenn Alert System, and the Crisis Management Team (CMT) of senior university officials who would make policy decisions in an emergency and act to normalize University operations. Deputy Chief Mike Fink spoke about Penn’s Emergency Response Team (ERT) and efforts such as simulations with other police departments, exercises conducted with Penn’s schools and centers to ensure preparedness, and educational videos and presentations for the University community.

As New Business, Vice President and University Secretary Leslie Kruhly indicated that the University trustees, in view of recent campus discussions around tobacco divestment and after much deliberation, have put into place a new policy and procedures for a more informed analysis and response to any future calls for divestment. Steering has been advised of the new procedures, which provide for creation of an ad-hoc advisory committee of faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

FEBRUARY 19, 2014 MEETING

President Gutmann announced the creation of a new task force on student psychological health and welfare to be co-chaired by former SAS Dean Rebecca Bushnell and Anthony Rostain, Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics and Director of Education for the Department of Psychiatry at the Perelman School of Medicine.

Dr. Dwight Evans, the Ruth Meltzer Professor of Psychiatry and Director, Department of Psychiatry spoke about suicide and suicide prevention. He stressed the importance of education to recognize signs of depression and addressing stigma and reluctance to seek help. Dr. Evans outlined resources available to students at Penn, including CAPS, Penn Behavioral Health, Student Health, Student Intervention Services, the Chaplain’s Office, and his own Department of Psychiatry.

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

- Discussion of the lack of integration of mental health/psychological support services with residential programming across Penn, and a proposal for a possible pilot program that seeks to test the effectiveness of integrating CAPS with CHAS
- Proposal for changes related to mental health and wellness
• Discussion of mental health on campus
• Discussion of the challenges faced by new, student-run initiatives at the University of Pennsylvania
• Discussion of the status of political discrimination on campus
• Discussion of Penn divesting itself of tobacco

The vote on the proposal to divest from tobacco was held, with the proposal before Council as follows: that the University Council recommends that Penn consider adopting a policy to exclude tobacco holdings from its direct investments. A motion for a roll call vote was made and the vote completed. Votes were tallied and checked by the Moderator, the University Secretary, and the Parliamentarian, with the result of 51 in favor, six opposed and two abstentions. The motion passed.

A discussion of the focus issue, a review and discussion of the findings of the Commission on Student Safety, Alcohol and Campus Life was led by Dr. Charles O’Brien, Kenneth E. Appel Professor of Psychiatry and Commission Chair. Joann Mitchell, Vice President for Institutional Affairs and Vice Chair of the Commission summarized the Commission’s work to review relevant campus and national data, current practices and those of peer institutions, and identify opportunities to strengthen current initiatives and/or recommend new ones.

Julie Lyzinski Nettleton, Director for the Office of Alcohol and Other Drug Program Initiatives summarized key findings of the Commission’s working groups regarding outreach and prevention efforts during highest risk periods, national data comparison, and student perceptions of the number of students who drink against actual self-reported rates. The Commission’s three key recommendations were: the addition of the position of safety education expert to aid in effective outreach and collaboration; periodic assessment to ensure appropriate resources and supports are in place, and to continually create, promote, and refine education and research efforts.

MARCH 26, 2014 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.

Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel, Vice Provost for Global Initiatives, summarized Global Initiatives at Penn, grouped around three areas: greater student engagement, in Penn students going abroad and international students to Penn; Penn setting the agenda for addressing global issues, and Penn as a leader in research and education promoting healthy and productive lives worldwide. He noted the growing options for student engagement through interdisciplinary and multi-school programs and the role of the new Perry World House as the center of global activities, engaging students and bringing together faculty, policy makers, and others through conferences and programs.

Bonnie Gibson, Vice President of the Office of Budget and Management Analysis, presented the academic budget and student charges for 2014-2015. She stated that the 3.9% undergraduate tuition increase for 2014-15 places Penn in the mid-range of increases as compared with peer schools and noted that graduate and professional schools planned increases ranging from zero to 3.9%.

Joann Mitchell, Vice President for Institutional Affairs; Anita Allen, Vice Provost for Faculty; Will Gipson, Associate Vice Provost for Equity and Access, and Sam Starks, Executive Director, Office
of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Programs presented on the focus issue, Diversity at Penn. Ms. Mitchell indicated that addressing issues of diversity and inclusion has been a Penn priority for several years, ultimately leading to a stronger, more vibrant community.

Dr. Allen indicated that data from December 2013’s Minority Equity Report shows particularly good results over the last three years, as the percentage of women faculty has increased as well as minorities. There has also been a sharp increase in the number of underrepresented minorities and decline in the number of faculty leaving Penn for other universities and ventures. Dr. Allen noted a key feature of the Diversity Action Plan yielding results, that of senior faculty acting as diversity search advisors for every appointment in all schools.

Will Gipson, Associate Vice Provost for Equity and Access, VPUL, spoke about opportunities to strengthen the Penn community through engagement across Penn’s longstanding resource communities, including the LGBT Center, the Women’s Center, and the Greenfield Intercultural Center, and the growth of cultural resource centers, such as La Casa Latina, the Pan Asian American Community House, and Makuu, now housed in the newly renovated ARCH.

Sam Starks, Executive Director of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Programs, stated that his office collaborates with Human Resources and the Office of Faculty Affairs to monitor programs and policies on non-discrimination to ensure a welcoming environment free of harassment and discrimination and committed to creating and maintaining a workplace as diverse as Penn’s student and global populations. He added that his office works with departments to recruit, train, develop, and retain staff from diverse backgrounds.

Due to time constraints at the previous meeting, Council held an extension of its second Open Forum and discussed the following issues:

- Suggestions for improving healthcare coverage and concerns about military research at Penn
- Suggestions to improve the procedures to receive an Individualized Major from the College of Arts and Sciences

**APRIL 30, 2014 MEETING**

Moderator Reed Pyeritz introduced representatives from the five standing committees who provided brief overviews of their final reports:

- Professor Steven Kimbrough, Chair of the Committee on Academic and Related Affairs
- Professor Kent Bream, Chair of the Committee on Campus and Community Life
- Professor Joe Libonati, Chair of the Committee on Diversity and Equity
- Professor Stephanie Weirich, Chair of the Committee on Facilities
- Professor Tom Baker, 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 Claire Finkelstein reported on the work of the Council Committee on Committees in 2013-2014, indicating that the committees operated well overall and suggesting refinements to the process.
Faculty Senate Chair Professor Dwight Jaggard then led a discussion of potential focus issues for Council for the 2014-2015 academic year suggested by Steering, Council and constituencies:

- A review of the findings and suggestions of the Middle States Reaccreditation Self Study relative to undergraduate research
- Local school engagement
- Overview of the Pennovation Center and other activities at the South Bank
- Programs/activities of the Penn Wharton China Center
- Findings from/Update on the Task Force on Student Psychological Health and Welfare
- Political Life at Penn
- International Students at Penn

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