President’s Report to University Council
April 25, 2007

I begin this report by reiterating our solidarity with the Virginia Tech campus community. Although the victims of this tragedy wore different school colors, their dreams, their spirit, and their love of learning closely resembled our own. We feel this loss deeply within our Penn community.

It also is natural to ask questions about our own security. Penn has in place an emergency response plan that would be implemented in the event of a campus crisis such as the one that occurred at Virginia Tech. This plan is continuously reviewed and refined to reflect best practices. The University understands the crucial importance of crisis communication and is prepared to relay information during an emergency to faculty, staff, students and families as quickly as possible. We will continue to work to improve this campus emergency response plan toward ensuring the safety of all members of our Penn community.

I invite all students, faculty and staff who may be troubled by these events to reach out to Penn's many support resources. I also hope that this terrible tragedy will be a catalyst for us to reflect on what we can do in the future to help others who might be in pain or distress.

Admissions Records

Penn set new records with our applications for the Class of 2011. A record 22,634 students applied for admission, representing a 10% increase over last year and the largest jump in the Ivy League. We accepted 3,610 students, just 15.9% of the applicant pool, a record low admission rate for Penn.

We are pleased to have made dramatic progress in attracting an ever more diverse pool of applicants. Applications from black and African-American students were up
20%, and Hispanic applications up 18% over last year. Applications from Native Americans were up 8%, while we saw a 7% jump in the number of women applicants. We also had a 19% increase in international applications over last year.

**Financial Aid Changes Increase Access**

We have made two significant changes to our financial aid program. First, we have raised the family income threshold for replacing student loans with grants from $50,000 to $60,000. Second, we have increased our undergraduate financial aid budget by $7 million¹. These expanded initiatives will help ease the financial burden on high-need families and enable more talented students of all low- and middle-income backgrounds to benefit from an excellent Penn education.

**Professor Receives Guggenheim Fellowship**

Sanjeev Khanna, Professor of Computer and Information Science in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, has been awarded a 2007 Guggenheim Fellowship. The prestigious Guggenheim Fellowships recognize distinguished scholarly achievement and exceptional promise for future accomplishment. Dr. Khanna, who works in theoretical computer science at the interface of algorithms and computational complexity, was among almost 3,000 scholars who competed for the 2007 fellowships.

**Penn Wins Two EPA Awards**

Finally, I am pleased to report that Penn has won two “championship” awards in the EPA’s 2007-08 College and University Green Power Challenge. First, Penn was named Champion in the Ivy League Conference for purchasing the largest amount of green power. Our Ivy League Conference also earned a Champion award for the largest collective purchase of green power among eligible conferences and participating schools.

¹ We are awaiting reconfirmation of this figure from Bill Schilling.