President’s Report to Council  
March 1, 2006

I wish to review the significant progress we have made across the board on our highest priorities for the current academic year.

First, we are right on track in completing a revised campus development plan that will guide the redevelopment of the postal properties to the east. An interim report of the Campus Planning group appeared in the February 7 Almanac. The report offers a detailed vision for Penn to establish a campus presence along the Schuylkill River corridor, to create seamless gateways between the campus and Center City, and to strengthen our connections with the surrounding communities.

We plan to present the completed plan to the Trustees in June. The plan will include:

- A comprehensive campus development phasing strategy with proposed implementation time periods over the next 30 years;
- Coordination with the ongoing University capital planning;
- Financial estimates and financing strategies linked to the development phases; and
- Proposed implementation and real estate development strategies.

Last month, the President's and Provost's Task Force on Global Engagement issued an excellent set of recommendations designed to position Penn as the premier American urban research University with the most far-reaching global perspective and impact.

Its key recommendations are:
First, to promote greater access, establish a Penn World Scholars program that will recruit outstanding scholars with strong leadership potential from a geographically diverse pool of students worldwide.

Second, to enlarge the integrated global perspective of our students, bring to the Penn campus eminent visiting scholars renowned global leaders who have made significant contributions to human progress.

Third, to encourage successful partnerships between arts and sciences and Penn's professional schools, establish a competitive fund to underwrite initiatives that will enhance international teaching, research and practice that benefits our students, society, and world.

The Provost and I will move rapidly forward with these recommendations. We want to thank the members of the Task Force, including co-chairs Pat Harker and Susan Fuhrman, for a job well done.

We have been moving full-steam ahead in fundraising for financial aid, faculty retention and recruitment, and critical programmatic and capital projects.

Indeed, we are enjoying another record-breaking year. Overall receipts through January are up 14% over last year, with endowment receipts up 54%. We have also seen a 62% increase in the number of first-time million-dollar-plus donors.

George Weiss's extraordinary $14 million gift has had a electrifying impact on fundraising for undergraduate and graduate financial aid. His challenge has helped secure three new 7-figure gifts for financial aid, 2 of which will be matched.
We also are enormously grateful to Ray and Ruth Perelman for their $25 million naming gift for the Center for Advanced Medicine.

To the Annenberg Foundation and Mrs. Leonore Annenberg, we are grateful for two new and important gifts: a $10 million gift to support The Project for Global Communication Studies at the Annenberg School; and a $5 million gift to name the nursing building for a legendary Penn scholar, teacher, and leader, Claire Fagin.

Penn Engineering has received an anonymous $5 million gift that will support one of the School’s highest priorities. Dean Eduardo Glandt and the donor will come to a meeting of great minds to determine where this gift can have the most transformative impact on Penn Engineering’s future.

As we gear up for the Campaign, Penn Trustees are demonstrating tremendous leadership by making early campaign commitments.

We thank Mitchell Blutt for his $2 million pledge to support the College House Music Lesson Program, an annual music festival, a songwriting symposium at Kelly Writers House, an endowed lectureship in the Medical School, and an internship in the new Vagelos Program in Life Sciences and Management.

We thank Paul Williams for his $2 million pledge, which will support a broad array of projects that include:

- A scholarship challenge fund targeted to young alumni;
- An initiative in the Provost’s Office to combat drug and alcohol abuse among undergraduate students;
- Increased funding for term chairs that Paul established in his
parents’ memory; and

- The Penn Sound Project at Kelly Writers House.

And we are enormously grateful to David Silfen and his wife Lyn for their extraordinary new $12 million campaign commitment. Their gift will:

- Establish two new Penn Integrating Knowledge professorships;
- Create a high-profile interdisciplinary lecture series

I believe these extraordinary gifts are both a reflection of a great University on the move … and a harbinger of a successful campaign. As long as we keep moving forward, our alumni and friends likely will be happy to give.

Finally, our record-breaking admissions numbers furnish further proof that Penn remains very hot. We swept past the 20,000-application mark for the first time, an 8.7% increase over last year.