MEMORANDUM

To: Members of University Council

From: Amy Gutmann, President

Date: September 24, 2008

Subject: Report to the University Council

We begin our fifth year together under the Penn Compact with great excitement as Penn’s students and faculty are stronger than ever before; our fundraising efforts continue to set records across the board, and the campus continues to grow in beauty and size.

Earlier this month, I officially welcomed the Class of 2012 at Convocation. The University received 22,935 applications and admitted 2,430 outstanding undergraduates to the most academically accomplished and socially, economically, and racially diverse incoming class in Penn’s history.

I am pleased to report that Penn’s Health System has recently made a landmark $50 million contribution to support five new Penn Integrates Knowledge professorships in the field of neuroscience, provide start-up funds for collaborative research, and strengthen interdisciplinary initiatives between the School of Medicine and other schools within the University.

I also am pleased to report that Penn students will enjoy increased opportunities to serve. In mid-September, I announced at the Service Nation Summit in New York that Penn will increase our level of service opportunities for students. During the next four years, the University will fund an additional 400 service opportunities for students. This increase in support of service will increase the already noteworthy achievements of the Civic House, Fox Leadership Program and the Netter Center for Community Partnerships.

This fall, we welcomed many new faculty, including two new Penn Integrates Knowledge professors. Robert Ghrist, one of the world’s leading applied mathematicians, is the Andrea Mitchell University Professor with joint appointments in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and the School of Arts and Sciences. John Gearhart, a preeminent researcher and national advocate for stem cell research, is the James W. Effron University Professor with joint appointments in the School of Medicine and the School of Veterinary Medicine.

We also celebrate the appointments of two Penn alumni who assumed their new roles over the summer – Eric J. Furda as dean of admissions and Charles Howard as university chaplain. Furda returns to his alma mater after a distinguished career in admissions and alumni relations at Columbia University. Howard has served at Penn as interim chaplain since February and as associate chaplain since 2005.

Since last October’s public launch of Making History: The Campaign for Penn, we have set multiple fundraising records with $607.5 million in new commitments, $475.9 million in cash receipts, and $55.7 million in annual giving. Support for the Penn Fund reached another all-time
record of more than $27 million. Today, $2.136 billion have been raised, and we are 61% toward our $3.5 billion goal.

In addition to tremendous fundraising success, the Development and Alumni Relations staffs received several 2008 Circle of Excellence Awards from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). CASE highlighted Penn’s advancement program as one that demonstrates superior accomplishments that have lasting impact, operates at the highest levels of professionalism, and delivers exceptional results.

The success of the Making History campaign is a powerful testament to the confidence that our trustees, alumni, parents, and close friends have in the University and the goals of the Penn Compact. Despite current market conditions, I look forward to another banner year for our Making History campaign, which is off to a wonderful start and has four years to weather any short-term fluctuations.

Meanwhile, we are forging ahead on major academic, research, and multi-use real estate projects. Students arriving this year will benefit from major student housing improvements. We have completed three phases of the $106 million renovation of Harnwell, Harrison, and Rodin College Houses, and we have upgraded heating, cooling, lighting, and elevator systems in Mayer, Hill and DuBois Houses.

Harnwell House also features a real-time energy and resource feedback system to monitor and manage building usage. The project is just one example of the ways in which Penn is moving toward a model of environmental sustainability. Also of note is the Green Roof of Kings Court English House. Completed last fall and dedicated two days ago, a growing medium and plants cover the roof, which protects the building from the elements and helps to reduce the flow of excess water.

Other capital projects either currently or soon underway include the Anne and Jerome Fisher Translational Research Center, the Krishna P. Singh Center for Nanotechnology, a beautiful renovation of the Music building, a new Franklin Field arcade and fitness center, and the conversion of a 10-acre lot along the banks of the Schuylkill River into Penn Park. The Weave Bridge, a permanent connection from Penn Park to South of South Street, will be completed in November.

Renovations and new construction are not the only improvements to campus. Between the beginning of the year and the end of August, crimes against persons were down 41% and crimes against property were down 6%.

The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees met last week on campus. The Trustees ratified a name change in the School of Arts and Sciences. To reflect its strengths and mission, the College of General Studies will now be called the College of Liberal and Professional Studies.