MEMORANDUM

To: Members of University Council

From: Amy Gutmann, President

Date: April 22, 2009

Subject: Report to the University Council

Each spring, campus hums with excitement as the academic year winds down and preparations for graduation and summer ramp up. This past weekend, students flocked to Spring Fling to enjoy some leisure time before final examinations. The event featured a carnival with games and events, performances by local bands and personalities, and a concert featuring hip-hop artist Akon and alternative rock group Guster.

Tomorrow, campus will be abuzz once again as hundreds of athletes and fans flock to Franklin Field for the Penn Relays. The first and oldest of relay meets, the event showcases the most talented track and field athletes in North America and is a proud Penn tradition. On Friday, however, no amount of cheering from fans will be able to drown out the boisterous junior class, which will be processing across campus to celebrate Hey Day and the official transition to senior year.

Current and soon-to-be graduated Penn students aren’t the only ones having fun. Earlier this month, I dropped in on Penn Previews to speak with eager students who were recently accepted to the Class of 2013 and their families. This year, Penn received 22,939 applications and admitted 3,926 students. Our admit rate increased by a fraction of a percentage point from 17 percent to 17.1 percent. Strong recruitment programs continue to attract high-achieving and diverse students. The percentage of students of color admitted to the Class of 2013 is 47 percent, a three percent increase from last year. This year, we have offered admission to more Latinos (373 v. 355) and international students (478 v. 470) than we did last year.

Penn’s recognition of excellence and promise extends to staff as well. This year, our Models of Excellence program celebrated its 10th anniversary. Since 1999, nearly 1,500 staff members have been nominated for these awards, which recognize and honor their contributions to Penn. This year’s Model Supervisor Award was presented to Pat Brennan, Director of Special Services in the Division of Public Safety. Topping the list of honorees was the PennMoves Team, which devised a plan to distribute unwanted student furniture, appliances and other items to local organizations and individuals in need.

Our trustees, alumni, parents, and close friends continue to show great confidence in our Compact through their support of Making History: The Campaign for Penn. We have raised $2.35 billion, 67 percent of our goal of $3.5 billion.

It has been a great year for Penn. Despite the financial and economic crisis, we pursued the goals of the Penn Compact and made strides toward eminence in many areas. Our commitment to our highest strategic priorities will pay dividends well into the future. This concludes my final report for academic year 2008/2009.