MEMORANDUM

To:        Members of University Council

From:    Amy Gutmann, President

Date:    December 9, 2009

Subject:  Report to the University Council

As a tumultuous decade ends, we reflect on challenges that we have surmounted together and prepare for opportunities that await us in the New Year. On an expanding campus populated by award-winning students, eminent faculty, and dedicated staff members, there are many reasons to look forward to Penn’s bright future.

We recently celebrated the opening of the Roberts Proton Therapy Center. Integrated with both the Ruth and Raymond Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine and the soon-to-be-completed Fisher Translational Research Center, the Roberts Proton Therapy Center is the most comprehensive facility of its kind. Thousands of patients will receive treatment at the center, as Penn physicians, clinicians, and scientists collaborate on research that will expand our understanding of proton therapy and lead to new treatment combinations to attack cancer.

For the third consecutive year, Penn topped Security Magazine’s annual list of the country’s most secure colleges and universities. Our Division of Public Safety continues to make safety and security the bedrock of our campus community by integrating traditional services and the latest technology. This ranking is both a well-deserved honor and a reflection of our ongoing commitment to making West Philadelphia a safer place to learn, work, and live.

Penn faculty and students continue to receive prestigious recognitions and prizes. In October, four professors from our School of Medicine were elected as members of the Institute of Medicine, bringing the total number of Penn inductees since 2004 to twelve. Last month, senior Joshua Bennett was among forty students in the nation to receive a Marshall Scholarship. Joshua will attend the University of Warwick next year to pursue a Master’s degree in Theatre Studies, building on his academic work at Penn in Africana Studies and English.

In November, Penn recognized Jim Riepe for his decade of service as chairman of the University Board of Trustees. With thoughtful guidance and charismatic leadership, Jim oversaw a decade of tremendous accomplishment and unprecedented growth at Penn, including a nearly 58 percent increase in Penn’s endowment and the opening of 14 new buildings on campus. He will continue to serve the University as a Penn Trustee and recently began his tenure as Chairman of the Penn Medicine Board.
The Trustees have elected David L. Cohen, a 1981 graduate of Penn’s Law School, as chairman of University Board of Trustees. David has served the University as a trustee since 2001, and he brings to the role a deep love of Penn and a history of collaborative leadership. We are confident that his term will be a distinguished one.

Penn is poised for success in the coming year. Our alumni, parents, and friends remain stalwart supporters and have contributed $2.54 billion to Making History: The Campaign for Penn. Guided by the Penn Compact, we will continue to increase access for highly-talented students, integrate knowledge among disciplines, and engage locally and globally to improve our community and our world.