MEMORANDUM

To: Members of University Council
From: Amy Gutmann, President
Date: March 31, 2010
Subject: Report to the University Council

With the short days of winter behind us, we look forward to an energizing sprint to the end of the academic year. This semester, the Penn community has remained steadfast in its efforts to increase access, integrate knowledge across disciplines, and engage locally and globally. Together, we will continue to pursue our strategic priorities, propelling Penn to new levels of eminence.

Next year, undergraduate tuition charges will increase by 3.8 percent, and total undergraduate charges will increase by 3.9 percent -- the second lowest increase in 42 years. Penn’s support of students with limited means will continue as planned. This year, 42 percent of undergraduate students received need-based grants. In response to the lingering effects of the economic crisis, we will augment our financial aid budget by $15 million, or 11 percent, to $149 million.

Members of our exceptional student body continue to garner highly sought academic honors and prizes. Two Penn seniors and a recent alumna were awarded prestigious Gates Cambridge Scholarships. Additionally, two Penn students and a recent alumnus received Thouron Awards to continue their studies in the United Kingdom.

Dedicated students leaders recently hosted the first-ever Ivy League Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer conference. Nearly 500 students joined us on campus for IvyQ, two days of workshops, breakout sessions, and events. Penn students and their peers engaged in discussion and debate while building networks that will help them advance the democratic values of diversity and equality.

We continue to strengthen our global collaborations and build our international presence. In early March, I traveled to China with a group of deans and faculty for meetings and events with alumni, media, government leaders, and our academic partners. U.S. Ambassador to China Jon Huntsman, Jr. hosted a reception for our delegation and 450 Penn alumni and representatives at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing. Our visit focused on expanding existing initiatives and creating new partnerships with Tsinghua University and Peking University, two of China’s premier educational institutions.

Our trustees, alumni, parents, and close friends continue to fortify the University through their support of Making History: The Campaign for Penn. We have raised $2.7 billion, 77% of our goal of $3.5 billion. Recent gifts of note include a $4.25 million donation from a member of the Library Board of Overseers who wishes to remain anonymous. This generous gift will support the creation of a Special Collections Center on the 5th and 6th floors of Van Pelt Library.
Earlier this month, I announced that Dr. Arthur Rubenstein will step down as Dean of the School of Medicine and Executive Vice President of the University for the Health System at the end of his term in June 2011. Working with Dean Rubenstein has been one of the great personal as well as professional privileges of my presidency. Over the next 15-plus months, he will continue to drive forward our ambitious plans to ensure Penn Medicine's continued preeminence as one of the world's leading academic medical centers. Later this spring, I will name and charge an ad hoc consultative committee to begin the process of advising me on identifying Arthur’s successor this spring.