MEMORANDUM

To: Members of University Council

From: Amy Gutmann, President

Date: March 2, 2011

Subject: Report to the University Council

Half way through our current semester, with spring break just two days away, it is the perfect time to take stock of all the ways that Penn is breaking new ground and new paths, as our campus expands, our community remains engaged, and our commitment to our strategic priorities remains strong.

Two weeks ago, we broke ground on our $80 million dollar Singh Nanotechnology Center, named for Penn alumnus and Trustee, Krishna P. Singh. The state-of-the-art teaching and research center will be located on the 3200 block of Walnut Street. Destined to be the eastern most academic building on campus, it will create an iconic gateway into Penn from Center City Philadelphia with its walls of glass and steel and green spaces. Developed jointly by Penn Engineering and SAS, it is the first academic building shared by two schools, and is the physical embodiment of our commitment to the integration of knowledge. Also designed to be one of the largest nanotechnology centers in the region, it will signal Penn’s leadership in the pathbreaking field of nanotechnology, and it will support the cutting-edge research that transcends the disciplinary boundaries of engineering, medicine, and the sciences. Occupancy is scheduled for 2013.

As we break ground on the Singh Center, we prepare to cut the ribbon on our extraordinary Penn Park before the Class of 2015 arrives on campus. We will soon complete the transformation of what was once a desolate strip of asphalt, concrete, and neighborhood blight into an environmentally sustainable park our entire community can enjoy.
As we physically enhance and enlarge our campus, we are also breaking new ground in our *Making History* campaign. As of last week, we reached the $3 billion dollar mark in our $3.5 billion campaign. This extraordinary milestone affirms our bold vision for Penn, inspires us all to go farther, and demonstrates that our alumni, parents, and friends generously support our highest strategic priorities.

One of those priorities is increasing access. Two weeks ago, the Board of Trustees approved the second smallest tuition increase in 43 years, 3.9 percent, while reaffirming our commitment to our no-loan financial aid program. To underscore that commitment, we are expanding our financial-aid budget for the coming year by $10.7 million, or 7.7 percent, to $161 million.

In other news, I am glad to report that the pathbreaking exhibit, *The Secrets of the Silk Road*, is now open at the Penn Museum with all the mummies and artifacts from China. The museum hosted an average of 1,500 visitors a day during the first three days of the full exhibit; the average visitor attendance at the Penn Museum is usually 4,000 per month.

Finally, it gives me great pleasure to note that Eduardo Glandt has agreed to extend his term as dean of Penn’s School of Engineering and Applied Science until June 30, 2015. Serving as dean of SEAS since 1999, Dean Glandt planned and implemented successful strategic initiatives in information technology, biotechnology and nanotechnology. He solidified the School’s excellence by recruiting and retaining outstanding faculty, made SEAS a magnet for outstanding students, and raised the funds to construct exceptional, award-winning, buildings such as Skirkanich Hall, the Melvin J. and Claire Levine Hall, and the forthcoming Singh Center for Nanotechnology. Dean Glandt is a remarkable leader who has fostered a vibrant and highly collaborative community of innovation, and extending his tenure for three years will maintain the School’s strong momentum.