MEMORANDUM

To: Members of University Council

From: Amy Gutmann, President

Date: January 30, 2013

Subject: Status Report to the University Council

The beginning of a new calendar year marked the formal—and highly successful—conclusion of our groundbreaking Making History Campaign, which came to a close on December 31, a little over five years since we first announced our ambitious $3.5 billion goal. With the unflagging support of Penn’s incredible alumni, parents, and friends—and the hard work of our students, faculty, and staff—we surpassed our original goal fifteen months ahead of schedule. By the formal close of Campaign, we had reached even greater heights, including exceeding our goal for undergraduate financial aid. Just as important, we enjoyed record-breaking numbers for alumni engagement over the course of the Campaign. Soon, we will announce the final Campaign total to the Penn community. I hope you will mark your calendars for a spectacular university-wide celebration in Penn Park on April 19—more details to come.

This month, we began the new year on a high note by announcing the successful conclusion of the national search for Dr. Rebecca Bushnell’s successor as dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. Dean Bushnell’s superb service and leadership, as well as the eminent standing of SAS, set a very high standard for the ideal candidate. Our extensive search process revealed that the candidate best prepared to lead SAS to global preeminence is here at Penn already. Dr. Steven J. Fluharty—Penn’s current senior vice provost for research and professor of pharmacology, psychology, and neuroscience—will assume the deanship this summer. Steve is an award-winning researcher and teacher, a proven leader, and a very proud Penn alumnus.

Penn faculty continue to garner outstanding honors. Five Penn professors were recently elected to the prestigious American Association for the Advancement of Science. The new Penn AAAS members represent the School of Arts and Sciences and the Perelman School of Medicine across several critically important areas of research:

- Dr. Shelley Berger, Daniel S. Och University Professor in the department of cell and developmental biology and department of genetics at the Perelman School, as well as in the department of biology in SAS.
- Dr. Feng Gai, professor of chemistry in SAS.
- Dr. Marisa Kozlowski, professor of chemistry in SAS.
- Dr. Andrea Liu, Hepburn Professor in the department of physics in SAS.
- Dr. Reed Pyeritz, professor of medicine in the Perelman School and director of Penn’s Center for the Integration of Genetic Healthcare Technologies.

The safety of every member of the campus community remains one of our highest priorities. Vice President for Public Safety Maureen Rush recently announced that calendar year 2012 saw a drop of 7 percent in campus crime, including a 15 percent decrease in crimes against people and a 6 percent decrease in crimes against property. That’s wonderful news and a testament to the dedication and expertise of Penn’s Department of Public Safety.
To further safeguard the well-being of our University community, we recently announced the creation of a Commission on Student Safety, Alcohol, and Campus Life, drawing on Penn’s expertise in several related fields to address these issues. The Commission is charged with ensuring that Penn’s policies and practices represent the very best—both for encouraging responsible conduct and for improving student safety. The Commission is chaired by Dr. Charles O’Brien, the Kenneth Appel Professor and Vice Chair of Psychiatry and Director of the Center for Studies of Addiction in Penn’s Perelman School of Medicine. Dr. O’Brien is an internationally renowned expert on alcohol dependency and public policy. The Commission will structure its efforts through several working groups that will include students, faculty and others across campus. I expect to have findings and recommendations from the Commission by the end of 2013.

Finally, Penn marked MLK Day with another inspiring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Symposium on Social Change. I congratulate Penn’s Center for Africana Studies and everyone else involved in organizing a fitting tribute to Dr. King’s legacy. This year’s symposium featured a conversation on social justice between Grammy-award winning recording artist, philanthropist, and Penn alumnus John Legend and Dr. Camille Z. Charles, director of the Center for Africana Studies. The campus community turned out in strength for the Day of Service, undertaking a variety of volunteer activities across West Philadelphia. And we honored Dr. King’s enduring messages of nonviolence, equality, and love at the Interfaith Program and MLK Community Service Awards Commemoration. I salute this year’s award recipients and all who continue Dr. King’s noble work.