MEMORANDUM

To: Members of University Council

From: Amy Gutmann, President

Date: April 3, 2013

Subject: Status Report to the University Council

As Spring Break concluded and classes resumed, the Penn community learned of several exciting developments. One of the biggest was the news that Penn’s Making History Campaign had surpassed all expectations, raising more than $4.3 billion in support of the University’s highest priorities. Penn people accomplish extraordinary things when they come together to achieve a goal, and we have many achievements to celebrate. I invite you—and the entire Penn community—to come to Penn Park on April 19 at 5pm for a spectacular university-wide celebration, featuring Grammy Award-winning artists Train and John Legend. I hope everyone will have an opportunity to join us for food, music, and abundant Penn spirit.

Penn’s global engagement received a powerful boost last month from University Trustee Richard Perry and his wife, Lisa: a generous $10 million gift to create a new World House at Penn. The Perry World House at 38th and Locust Walk will be our new global hub in the heart of campus where faculty, students, and eminent international scholars will join to explore matters of worldwide importance. The Perry World House will serve as a locus for building Penn’s presence abroad, as well as further strengthening our reputation for thought leadership on global issues.

Also last month, three Penn faculty received prestigious honors from the National Science Foundation. Dr. John B. Jemmott, professor of communication in psychiatry at the Perelman School and Kenneth B. Clark Professor of Communication at the Annenberg School, was one of a select group to be honored by the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program. And Dr. Rahul Mangharam, the Stephen J. Angello Term Assistant Professor of Electrical and Systems Engineering, and Dr. Aaron Roth, the Raj and Neera Signh Assistant Professor in the department of computer and information science, were both awarded the NSF CAREER Award for outstanding teaching and research. The CAREER Award is the NSF’s most prestigious honor in support of junior faculty.

We were proud to announce Penn’s 2013 Commencement Speaker, U.S. Vice President Joe Biden. Vice President Biden has long been a great friend of our University, and we are thrilled to have him share his insight and experiences with this year’s graduates. Our 257th Commencement ceremony will also feature Honorary Degree recipients K. Anthony Appiah, Michelle Bachelet, Ursula M. Burns, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Samuel H. Preston, Ellen Mosley-Thompson, Lonnie G. Thompson, and James Edward West.

In closing, I want to remind everyone that our next David and Lyn Silfen Forum—“Open Learning and the Future of Higher Education”—is this Friday, April 5, at noon in Irvine Auditorium. We have a fabulous panel lined up, with Daphne Koller, one of the co-founders of Coursera; New York Times columnist Tom Friedman; Under Secretary of Education Martha Kanter; and Brit Kirwin, Chancellor of the University System of Maryland. I will moderate what we expect to be an illuminating and engaging discussion. We expect a big crowd in Irvine for this important event, and I invite you all to attend. You can learn more and watch a live webcast of the forum at www.upenn.edu/silfenforum.