MEMORANDUM

To: Members of University Council

From: Amy Gutmann, President

Date: April 24, 2013

Subject: Status Report to the University Council

Spring on Penn’s campus is a green, blooming time of tradition and celebration. As we prepare for a momentous Commencement ceremony for the Class of 2013, featuring Vice President Joe Biden, Penn is also welcoming prospective members of the Class of 2017. With the superb leadership of Dean of Admissions Eric Furda, Penn for the first time implemented an Early Decision Day, which drew 3,000 future students, parents, and family members. The students and their families were treated to a history- and fun-filled program in the Palestra, where they learned “The Red and Blue” by heart. In addition to Early Decision Day and our traditional Penn Previews, admissions staff and alumni volunteers are hosting over 30 receptions for admitted students across the nation. Dean Furda has already hit the road to meet with additional prospects from Miami to San Francisco.

Last week, we came together to celebrate the success of Penn’s Making History Campaign with a gala in Penn Park. Last week also marked some other important milestones. We broke ground on Penn’s new Neural-Behavioral Sciences building, a vital hub for interdisciplinary collaboration among the Psychology and Biology Departments, the Biological Basis of Behavior Program, and the Vagelos Program in Life Sciences and Management. In addition, NBS will make the most of its strategic location on University Ave. at 38th Street, close to the Perelman School, Nursing, Veterinary Medicine, and the Dental School. We also dedicated the new Smilow Center for Translational Research, and the formal opening and dedication of Penn Libraries’ new Special Collections Center in Van Pelt.

We also continue to excel in our greening and sustainability efforts, as evidenced by Penn finishing first in the Environmental Protection Agency’s nationwide College and University Green Power Challenge. Penn has placed first every year since the EPA began its challenge in 2006. I’m proud to report that we again took top honors by purchasing more than 200 million kWh of wind power—more green power than any of the 75 other competing institutions. Through Penn’s array of new LEED-certified building and renovation projects, our dedication to improving our campus landscape with innovative new green spaces, our annual Power Down Challenge, and myriad other efforts, Penn sets the bar in urban sustainability.

I congratulate four Penn Medicine researchers who were just awarded a combined total of $2.4 million in grants from the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and the American Association for Cancer Research. Fueled by this latest boost, these top researchers will continue to help lead the fight against this threat:

- Dr. Andrew Rhim, instructor in the Gastroenterology Division
- Dr. Anil Rustgi, chief of the Gastroenterology Division
- Dr. Celeste Simon, professor of Cell and Developmental Biology
- Dr. Robert Vonderheide, associate professor of Hematology-Oncology and associate director of Translational Research in the Abramson Cancer Center
In closing, it’s been an incredible year filled with history-making milestones for Penn, and I want to thank you all for your exemplary Council service. I hope your final weeks of the spring semester are productive, and you have my best wishes for a fun and relaxing summer!