PROVOST Price and I are delighted that Vijay Kumar—the UPS Foundation Professor in Penn Engineering and an internationally respected pioneer in robotics—will begin his tenure as SEAS dean on July 1, 2015. Vijay has been a Penn faculty member for nearly 30 years. His superb academic judgment, compelling vision for the future of engineering and applied science, and proven track record as a leader and administrator make him the perfect choice to lead Penn Engineering. Vijay knows Penn, loves Penn, and is deeply committed to our students and faculty.

We also join together in applauding Dean Eduardo Glandt for his extraordinary 17-year tenure leading Penn Engineering. With Eduardo’s great vision, energy, and intellect, SEAS has become more eminent and innovative. We are deeply grateful and will take ample opportunity this spring to celebrate Eduardo’s lasting contributions to Penn.

As Provost Price reports, Penn will join 28 fellow AAU institutions on April 2 in launching a sophisticated campus climate survey on sexual violence. The participating universities represent more than 800,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, so we expect the survey to be among the largest ever on sexual violence in higher education. Developed with extensive input from experts in the field of campus sexual violence, the survey will assess campus climate in a way that facilitates comparison of data within and across institutions while protecting the confidentiality of respondents.

I join the Provost in urging all Penn students to participate. Every thorough and thoughtful survey response will contribute to our mutual mission of safeguarding student safety and wellbeing.

I am delighted to report that three Penn professors are among this year’s recipients of the prestigious Sloan Research Fellowship. Awarded to the most promising early-career scientists and scholars, Sloan Fellowships are a mark of distinction for pioneering research and discovery. Hearty congratulations to:

- Dr. Zahra Fakhraai, assistant professor of chemistry in SAS.
- Dr. Jennifer Phillips-Cremins, assistant professor of bioengineering in SEAS.
- Dr. Aaron Roth, the Raj and Neera Singh Assistant Professor of Computer and Information Science in SEAS.

I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable Spring Break. Welcome back!