PROVOST’S STATUS REPORT  
University Council  
September 2010

It is a pleasure to welcome everyone back to campus for the start of another wonderful year. I would like to extend a special welcome to some of the newest members of the Penn community. Karu Kozuma joined us this summer as Executive Director of the Office of Student Affairs. He is a highly experienced leader who will help shape a new era of student life at Penn, following the retirement of Fran Walker after an extraordinary 35 years of service. Barbara Gorka returns to Penn as Director of Study Abroad, having earned her MA and PhD here in Spanish. She was most recently director of international programs and off-campus study at Colgate University, and she will be a wonderful asset in expanding and strengthening our many programs around the world. In the coming year, we will also be conducting searches for two exciting new positions: Executive Director of College Houses and Academic Services, and Director of Arts & Culture Marketing for the University, who will also serve as Director of Communications and Marketing for the Penn Museum.

We are delighted to welcome the largest-ever group of Penn World Scholars to the Class of 2014. They are twelve of the most outstanding undergraduates from around the world, who come to us this year from Brazil, Colombia, Cyprus, Ecuador, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Nepal, South Africa, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe. We now have 32 World Scholars on campus, across all four years since the program began with the Class of 2011, who are adding immeasurable breadth to the diversity and global engagement of the entire Penn community.

We are off to a great start on our fourth academic theme year, the Year of Water. During New Student Orientation, the Penn Reading Project focused on The Big Necessity, the study of global waste and sanitation by Penn alumna Rose George, who joined us for a stimulating discussion and will return next term for a Global Forum address. This week, we partnered with the national organization United By Blue and a wide range of student groups on a weeklong River Rescue at both the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers. I took part in the kickoff event on Sunday afternoon at Neshaminy State Park – along with EcoReps, members of the UA, and more than 100 students – and I can attest that it was an inspiring “hands-on” way to engage in the challenges of local water conservation. In the year ahead, among many other events, the Arthur Ross Gallery will feature evocative photographs of the water crisis in Mali; the Theater Studies Program will offer an irreverent look at water conservation in the musical satire Urinetown; and the Penn Museum will lead a major symposium on Water and Ancient Civilizations. I encourage you to learn more about all the Year of Water initiatives at the program’s terrific website: http://www.yearofwater.org.

I look forward to working closely together in the year ahead.

Vincent Price  
Provost