I am pleased to join President Gutmann in welcoming Benjamin Garcia, the outstanding young scholar of cell biology and proteomics who will be our first Presidential Professor, and to report that all twelve Schools are making excellent progress on their individual diversity plans. We look forward to sharing more of this work as the plans are finalized and implemented in the next year. We also had a successful beginning to the reaccreditation process that Vice Provost Binns described at last month’s Council. As he noted, the campus-wide self-study of undergraduate education at the heart of the reaccreditation cycle will be conducted by seven working groups in specific areas, each led by a member of the standing faculty. You will find up-to-date information, now and throughout the process, at: http://www.upenn.edu/provost/reaccreditation_2014.

I encourage all of you to join me at the ceremony for our annual university-wide teaching awards, which will be held on April 17 at 5 PM in the Hall of Flags. This is a wonderful event at which we honor the professors who exemplify the values of stimulating and rigorous learning at the heart of Penn. This year’s recipients of Lindback Awards are, in the non-health schools, Profs. Mirjam Cvetic (Physics, SAS), Andrew Rappe (Chemistry, SAS), Larry Silver (History of Art, SAS), and CJ Taylor (Computer and Information Science, SEAS); and, in the health schools, Profs. Jeffrey Berns (Medicine, PSOM), Lesley King (Critical Care, SVM), Mitchell Lewis (Biochemistry and Biophysics, PSOM), and Neal Rubinstein (Cell and Developmental Biology, PSOM). We will also honor the recipients of the Provost’s Awards for Teaching Excellence by Non-Standing Faculty – Eric Goren (Medicine, PSOM) and Bruce Kothmann (Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics, SEAS) – and Distinguished PhD Teaching and Mentoring: David Leatherbarrow (Architecture, School of Design) and Mark Pauly (Health Care Management, Wharton). We extend our congratulations and gratitude to all of these devoted members of the Penn community.

I am happy to report, as we look toward summer, that fifty Penn students will be participating in this year’s International Internship Program. Forty-four undergraduates, representing all four undergraduate Schools, and six graduate students will work with non-governmental or non-profit organizations in Africa, China, Europe, India, and Latin America. This program works closely with academic programs and centers on campus to offer students meaningful, hands-on learning opportunities, for which they all receive a stipend, that are an invaluable way of enhancing their Penn experiences and extending Penn’s engagements around the world.

I look forward to working together as we near the joyous Commencement season.

Vincent Price
Provost