I am grateful to Prof. Edward Rock for his illuminating presentation of Penn’s open learning initiatives at the October 31 Council meeting. We have now completed seven Coursera courses, four are in progress, and more than a dozen are in preparation for next year. As this work advances, we continue to develop the appropriate frameworks of oversight and governance to ensure that open learning continues to thrive at Penn. First, we have established a Faculty Advisory Committee, which will review and recommend course proposals, offer feedback to the proposers, and provide input on policy issues related to open learning. This committee includes faculty experts across eight of our Schools, several of whom have experience teaching open learning courses.

Second, we have invited faculty members to submit proposals, by December 14, for future open learning courses: [http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v59/n10/coursera.html](http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v59/n10/coursera.html). Third, the Center for Teaching and Learning has begun workshops to assist faculty members with these course proposals and other key elements of open learning. The first workshop was fruitful and well-attended; and a second will be offered on November 30, from 12:30-2:00. Interested faculty members can register by contacting CTL at: ctl-help@sas.upenn.edu. We are indebted to the faculty members who are pioneering open learning at Penn, as well as to the deans, department chairs, and leaders of the Faculty Senate who have helped move us forward toward this exciting new frontier in teaching and learning.

I encourage everyone, especially as we near the holiday season, to visit one of the outstanding arts and culture programs from this semester that will soon be concluding. The Arthur Ross Gallery spotlights the remarkable range of Penn’s art collection in 9 Perspectives on a Photography Collection, in which nine faculty members from the School of Design present their distinctive selections of photographs from the collection. The Penn Museum’s landmark Maya 2012: Lords of Time exhibit, continuing through mid-January, provides fascinating insights into this ancient civilization, with an interdisciplinary focus on the forms of time that shaped its culture, religion, science, and art. And the ICA’s retrospective of British artist Jeremy Deller, on view to the end of December, engages us in playful interactions, including the reproduction of the artist’s childhood bedroom and the live serving of tea by members of the ICA and Penn communities.

I wish everyone a productive end to the semester and a joyous holiday season, and I look forward to working together in the year ahead.

Vincent Price
Provost