I join President Gutmann in thanking all the members of the Penn community who have devoted themselves tirelessly and selflessly to helping our students during the events of these past weeks. We greatly appreciate your efforts, especially in reaching out to and helping those who may potentially be in distress, as it is more important than ever to ensure that we all look after each other as one community.

I also thank everyone who participated in the two valuable and substantive Open Forums in the search for a new Director of Recreation and Intercollegiate Athletics to succeed Steve Bilsky. The Advisory Committee – co-chaired by me and Executive Vice President Craig Carnaroli – is working closely with Parker Executive Search, one of the most experienced and knowledgeable search consultants in intercollegiate athletics, who will help recruit candidates and receive nominations, applications, and expressions of interest. The Committee continues to welcome comments, suggestions, and nominations from the Penn community at its dedicated web area: http://provost.upenn.edu/about/dria-search.

The University’s Self-Study Report has now been submitted to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education as part of our ongoing reaccreditation process. In late March, we will host a three-day campus visit from a team of distinguished leaders and higher education experts, chaired by President John DeGioia of Georgetown University and including W. Kent Fuchs, Provost and Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Cornell University; Nancy Malkiel, Professor of History and former Dean of the College at Princeton University; and Linda Reimer, Senior Vice President of the New School. They will issue their own report followed by the Commission’s formal recommendation on reaccreditation later this year.

I encourage everyone to help celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of our remarkable Institute of Contemporary Art, which is marking this event with fifty presentations of contemporary art across six months. New micro-exhibits will open every two weeks, from now until mid-August, to spotlight the wide range and many forms of contemporary art, including eighteen works commissioned specifically for this anniversary, as well as works across such media as painting, sculpture, video, sound, and performance. As a special anniversary gift to patrons, anyone who visits more than five times will receive a free ICA membership.

I wish everyone a wonderful spring break and a productive start to the second half of the term.

Vincent Price
Provost