This is the thirty-fifth annual report of the Steering Committee of the University Council, prepared in accordance with a requirement in the Council Bylaws that the Steering Committee publish an annual report to the University community that reviews the previous year’s Council deliberations and highlights “both significant discussions and the formal votes taken on matters of substance.”

OCTOBER 3, 2012 MEETING

With the advice of Steering and consent of Council, President Amy Gutmann appointed Dr. Reed Pyeritz as moderator and Marjorie Hassen as parliamentarian for the 2012-2013 academic year.

Professor Dwight Jaggard, Chair-Elect of the Faculty Senate advised that Steering had drawn on discussions at the April 2012 Steering and Council meetings to finalize the four focus issues for the 2012-2013 academic year, as follows:

- Discuss the use of new media by University Communications. What are we doing? What are their limitations? When are old media methods important?
- How does the Perelman School of Medicine and the University of Pennsylvania Health System integrate with and enrich the health care and the educational and research missions of the University community as a whole?
- A look at and discussion with some of the PIK professors, especially those who teach undergraduates
- Discuss Penn’s wellness initiatives for students, faculty, and staff.

Council reviewed the 2012-2013 committee charges and Professor Jaggard reminded Council that there would be two Open Forum sessions, at the November and February meetings.

Provost Price, with Andy Binns, Vice Provost for Education, and David Fox, Associate Director, College Houses and Academic Services, led discussion of the 2012-2013 Academic Theme Year: The Year of Proof, which serves to foster University-wide analysis and conversation and offers a variety of intellectual and cultural opportunities for students, faculty and staff. The 2013-2014 academic year theme will be The Year of Sound.

OCTOBER 31, 2012 MEETING

In accordance with the Bylaws, the President, Provost and other administrators presented extended State of the University reports, with this year’s report covering Penn’s new partnership with Coursera and the Making History campaign.

The Provost noted that Coursera launched in April with Penn and three partner institutions and has rapidly grown to include dozens of institutional partners and close to five million course enrollments. The Provost then introduced Ed Rock, the Director of Open Course Initiatives and the Saul A. Fox Distinguished Professor of Business Law and Professor of Business Economics and
Public Policy at Wharton. He noted that there are 7,000 students on the site at any time, and 33 partner universities now offer MOOCs (massive open online courses) on the Coursera platform.

John Zeller, Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations, noted that Making History has been the largest fundraising campaign in Penn’s history, noting that many capital projects were made possible in large part by private gifts. He added that the campaign has raised over $530 million to date for faculty support, over $600 million for student financial aid and $1.75 billion for the endowment. Mr. Zeller noted that the last results to be made public, from June 30, indicated that the $3.88 billion mark had been reached.

NOVEMBER 28, 2012 MEETING

Mr. Stephen MacCarthy, Vice President for University Communications, led the focus issue discussion on the use of new and traditional media methods in University communications. He noted that total media coverage for the University is increasing, from an average of 4,000 stories per week last year to about 8,000 per week this year. Matthew Griffin, Manager of New Media Communications, indicated that first priorities had been to reach larger audiences. He added that his office offers itself as a resource to aid constituencies at Penn gain a targeted social media presence. In conclusion, Mr. Griffin noted that while current efforts have been very successful, Penn continues to “learn as it goes” in exploring new platforms to expand Penn’s message.

Council held its first Open Forum and discussed the following issue:

- Proposal for ways to collaborate with the University in support of University students who have experienced some form of racial/sexual harassment or assault.

JANUARY 30, 2013 MEETING

Dr. Larry Jameson, Executive Vice President of the Health System and Dean of the Perelman School of Medicine, presented the focus topic discussion on how the Perelman School of Medicine and University of Pennsylvania Health System work to enrich the healthcare and educational and research missions of the university community as a whole. He briefly reviewed relevant financial details, including $4.3 billion in operating revenues, 2,000 full-time faculty, nearly 2,400 students, and more than 1,000 residents and fellows training in specialties. He added that Penn’s clinical enterprise is one of the largest employers in Pennsylvania, with 20,000 employees, 2,400 physicians, more than 1,500 beds and 78,000 adult admissions last year. Dean Jameson noted that through freshman seminars and research programs, medical school faculty connect with Penn’s undergraduates, offering opportunities to explore interest in biomedical research as a career. He highlighted the many ways Penn Medicine’s outreach impacts the community, through the care of underserved populations and investments in physician training and beyond, noting in particular the strong 10-year partnership with Botswana.

FEBRUARY 20, 2013 MEETING

Professor Adrian Raine, the Richard Perry University Professor in the Departments of Criminology, Psychiatry, and Psychology and Dr. Christopher Murray, Richard Perry University Professor of Chemistry and Materials Science and Engineering presented the focus issue discussion about the
Penn Integrates Knowledge professorship program. Dr. Raine summarized aspects of his work, which integrates the knowledge of the social and the biological understandings of the causes of crime. Undergraduates have been able to learn clinical interview and assessment techniques through involvement in initial studies of the possible early roots of violent behavior and white collar crime.

Dr. Murray spoke about his work in nanoscale science and technology, which offers many opportunities for undergraduates. He described his work in looking for ways to use the methods of chemistry and the tools of materials science to design these new materials. Dr. Murray noted that students with even rudimentary skills in chemistry and the sciences could become involved in emerging research such as optics, photovoltaics and thermoelectrics.

Council then held its second Open Forum of the year. Issues discussed included:

- Concerns regarding Penn’s commitment to the faculty, staff, students, and alumni who live in Penn Alexander catchment area
- Discussion of partnering with local public schools beyond Penn Alexander
- Achieving climate neutrality
- Concerns regarding size of late fees assessed by SFS
- Discussion of Penn's faculty and student diversity initiatives vis-a-vis Arabs, Muslims and South Asians
- Exploration of Penn's commitment to sustainable transportation, and what steps are taking towards Penn's mission
- Proposal for additional ways to promote entrepreneurship at Penn
- Request that the University divest from fossil fuel companies
- Concerns regarding tuition increases for graduate students

April 3, 2013 MEETING

Leslie Kruhly, Vice President and University Secretary began the meeting by announcing several updates to procedures for Open Forum. These included allowing an Open Forum session to roll over into the next meeting if there is insufficient time for discussion. In addition, the Secretary’s Office will provide Council with an update on any follow-up to Open Forum topics.

The Moderator indicated that Council bylaws call for reports each March detailing budgets and plans for the next academic year. He introduced Bonnie Gibson, Vice President of the Office of Budget and Management Analysis, to present on the academic budget and student charges for 2013-2014.

Ms. Gibson stated that the 3.9% undergraduate tuition increase for 2013-14 places Penn in the mid-range of increases as compared with peer schools. She noted that graduate and professional schools planned increases ranging from zero to 4.8%. The financial aid budget in 2013, including undergraduate, graduate professional aid and graduate stipends, rose to $390 million.

The Moderator introduced Andy Binns, Vice Provost for Education, to discuss College Houses and Related Initiatives. Dr. Binns stated that College House programs began in the late 1990s and have
continued to grow since that time. He introduced Marty Redman, Executive Director of the College House System, to provide an overview with reference particularly to the academic programs and academic services provided. Mr. Redman reviewed the major roles of a college house, including helping students adjust to and engage in the academic life of the university, to offer engagement in smaller groups to foster interaction and relationships, and to provide leadership opportunities, both in the house and the community.

Mr. Redman noted the three types of college housing: predominantly first year, traditional four-year, and upper class housing. He then outlined programs and events offered through the college houses. Mr. Redman introduced the three House Deans in attendance: April Herring of Fisher-Hassenfeld, Christopher Donovan of Gregory College House and Ryan Keytack of Rodin. Ms. Herring outlined the work of first-year transitions with integration into Penn both socially and academically. Dr. Donovan spoke about the unique features of the smaller four-year houses such as Gregory, DuBois and Stouffer, which offer an excellent environment for students who might feel overwhelmed or isolated in larger college houses. Mr. Keytack spoke about the high rise house programs and their goal of making a large environment feel like a smaller community.

The Moderator then welcomed the presenters for the focus issue of Penn’s wellness initiatives for students, faculty, and staff. Marilyn Kraut, Director of Quality of Work Life Programs noted that the program was introduced in 1995 to support a constructive and productive work experience for Penn’s faculty and staff and outlined the many partnerships that assist in providing health promotion activities. Of particular note is the Be in the Know campaign last fall that offered free blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol screenings at over 20 Penn locations. The program identified 87 persons with very serious health conditions and 18 needed immediate medical care.

Dr. Evelyn Wiener, Executive Director of Student Health Services noted that Student Health Services’ roles in public health and health promotion has expanded over the years. Campus Health Initiatives was created as a framework for planning, communication, and collaboration on health issues. Dr. Wiener introduced Sharon McMullen, Director of Campus Health Initiatives, to speak about CHI. Ms. McMullen began by noting the negative impact that excess levels of stress have on academic success. She also spoke about the flu vaccination clinics held at Penn, where 2,500 vaccines were administered in just two days, and the creation of a “Healthy Campus 2020” coalition to measure and improve the health and wellbeing of campus communities across the country.

APRIL 24, 2013 MEETING

Moderator Reed Pyeritz introduced representatives from the five standing committees who provided brief overviews of their final reports:

- Professor Steven Kimbrough, Chair of the Committee on Academic and Related Affairs
- Professor Kent Bream, Chair of the Committee on Campus and Community Life
- Professor Judy Shea, Co-Chair of the Committee on Diversity and Equity
- Professor Stephanie Weirich, Chair of the Committee on Facilities
- Professor Tom Baker, Chair of the Committee on Personnel Benefits

Provost Price and Dr. Gutmann thanked the chairs and the committee members for their dedication in exploring the charges assigned to their committees and making recommendations.
Faculty Senate Chair-Elect Professor Dwight Jaggard reported on the work of the Council Committee on Committees in 2012-2013, indicating that the committees operated very well overall.

Faculty Senate Chair Professor Susan Margulies then led a discussion of potential focus issues for Council for the 2013-2014 academic year. Topics suggested by Steering, Council and constituencies included:

- A discussion of Penn’s new strategic plan for global initiatives
- A discussion of Penn’s engagement with local public schools
- A discussion of academic integrity with the Office of Student Conduct
- Religious life at Penn
- A discussion of the findings of the Commission on Student Safety, Alcohol and Campus Life
- Campus security
- Diversity at Penn
- Political life at Penn
- A discussion of Penn’s efforts to combat climate change

The meeting ended with Dr. Gutmann acknowledging the contributions of outgoing participants of Council and thanking them and all University Council members for their participation.