

Penn History

On September 30, 1791, an act confirmed an agreement which united the University of the State of Pennsylvania with the College, Academy, and Charitable School and provided that the name of the institution would be "**The Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania**".

FYI: The University regulates use of its name, including University of Pennsylvania, Penn, the names of its schools and programs, its shield and related insignia, trademarks, and logos ("insignia") to ensure that such use is related to the University's educational, service and research missions and promotes its objectives. Responsibility for overseeing use of the University's names and insignia lies with the Secretary of the University. The Office of the University Secretary is the official guardian of the University's marks, insignia, and brand. However, there are various entities around campus that are involved in the usage of these marks: The Penn brand is an integral component of the overarching Penn experience. These symbols play an important role in promoting the University and as such, it is important that the logo not be physically altered. The Secretary of the University serves as the administrative link to the Board.

If you want more information about Penn's governance: <https://secretary.upenn.edu/trustees-governance/open-trustee-meeting>

Many of you have asked about the President's responsibilities.

The President of the University of Pennsylvania is a leader of an internationally acclaimed faculty. Penn's 4,000 faculty members include winners of Nobel Prize, the Pulitzer Prizes, MacArthur Fellowships, and other important scholarly awards and honors.

The President leads an institution dedicated to providing educational, research, and co-curricular opportunities for some 23,000 students enrolled in one of Penn's [12 undergraduate, graduate, and professional schools](#) and the [College of Liberal and Professional Studies](#). These students are among the brightest and most accomplished in the world. Encouraged to pursue their own research and engage in community service, Penn students count among their ranks many winners of Fulbright awards and Rhodes, Marshall, and Truman scholarships. Their educational experience is enriched by more than 300 student co-curricular activities and organizations.

The President represents the University to external constituencies on issues related to Penn and on higher education in general. Her/His counsel and collaboration are sought by leaders from the community, the city, the commonwealth, and the federal government.

The President is expected to be Penn's chief architect and steward of [Penn's thriving partnership with the West Philadelphia community](#). By directing the University's multi-faceted academic, service, and economic activities toward revitalizing the neighborhood and improving

community relations, the President upholds Penn's standing as a national model for civic engagement. Today, thousands of Penn students currently volunteer in West Philadelphia, either through direct community service or through academic service-learning courses that produce enduring changes, such as improved public schools, heightened literacy and nutrition awareness, and small business development.

The President is the chief executive of the largest private employer in Philadelphia and the fourth-largest in Pennsylvania; she is responsible for the financial health of the University, and oversees one of the largest integrated academic health systems in the country.

The President is expected to be an ambassador of the University to [Penn's 300,000 alumni](#). Penn has 122 alumni clubs: 68 domestic clubs in 38 states and Puerto Rico, plus clubs in 49 foreign countries. Active members of the Penn community, alumni participate in the University as trustees, as advisors of Penn schools and centers, and as leaders of class- and school-based initiatives. They meet with applicants, serve as career advisors to students, and many are still Penn students themselves, participating in life-long learning courses on the Internet.

The President works with deans, administrators, and alumni in efforts designed to attract philanthropic support from individuals, corporations, and foundations. Many of Penn's buildings and landmark restorations were made possible by major gifts from prominent alumni.

The President reports to the Board of Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania and is an ex-officio member of the Board and is chosen by the Board of Trustees.

In **January 1931** the University's Trustees amended the Statutes of the University to provide for a [President](#) and four Vice Presidents: a Vice President in Charge of Undergraduate Schools; a Vice President in Charge of Medical Affairs; a Vice President in Charge of the Law School; and a Vice President for Administration. The Provost remained in charge of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the University Library, and Research. This action greatly reduced the Provost's sphere of authority and only over six decades did the Office of the Provost regain full administrative oversight of all faculties at the University.

To learn more about Penn's leadership history: <https://archives.upenn.edu/exhibits/penn-people/notables/university-leaders/provosts/>

To learn more about the history of Penn's Trustees: <https://archives.upenn.edu/exhibits/penn-people/notables/university-leaders/heads-trustees/>

Finally: The College of Philadelphia: Benjamin Franklin, President of the Board of Trustees 1749-1755 (Academy), 1755-1756 (College), Trustee 1779-1790 (University).

"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn." "Honesty is the best policy." Without continual growth and progress, such words as

improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning.” “Energy and persistence conquer all things.” “By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.”