

A Message to the Penn Community

Like you, I am closely monitoring recent developments from Washington that directly affect higher education. These include executive orders and pending legislation on research funding, financial aid, visas, immigration status, student loans, endowments, and DEI programs. Because these immediately affect our missions, operations, and community, I write today to provide guidance to sustain our missions while ensuring Penn complies with federal law.

First, **we do not know how these developments will play out.** We have convened members of Penn's administration, the Faculty Senate, the Council of Deans, and other leaders to review these orders, understand their implications, and ensure that we are taking appropriate action. Given the rapidly changing landscape, we are also reviewing our policies, programs, and practices.

Second, **Penn's financial outlook is sound, and the Penn community should continue its essential research and other work.** We know these announcements from Washington have caused uncertainty and anxiety. If you have questions or if your funding agency has specifically requested that you pause your research, please get in touch with your Dean's office.

Third, **we will uphold Penn's values.** Our values, like our University motto, have served Penn well for centuries and through many societal shifts. Our success as a world-class academic institution is inextricably linked to our commitment to non-discrimination and prizing excellence. This approach guides how we identify and recruit the most talented individuals based on their accomplishments and potential. In my meetings with faculty, students, and alumni, I never cease to be amazed by the brilliant and aspirational people at Penn and by the impact that we are having on the world.

The American higher education system is the envy of the world and one of America's greatest strengths. A social contract has long enabled U.S. colleges and universities to serve individuals, communities, and government for the good of all. This contract has been a cornerstone of innovation and opportunity in our society.

I ask every member of the Penn community to come together and do what we must: take care of one another, seek help when needed, and ensure the continuation of our critically important work. Together, we will protect and preserve what defines us as Penn.

Sincerely,

J. Larry Jameson, MD, PhD
Interim President

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