Dear Members of the Penn Community:

Ensuring the safety of Penn students is among our highest priorities. No one should experience sexual misconduct on campus. Despite our best efforts, sexual assault continues to be endemic. Penn has taken numerous steps to protect and support our students, including strengthening our policies, educating for prevention, and increasing our resources to provide education and respond to reports.

Last spring, Penn was one of 33 colleges and universities that participated in the second administration of the Association of American Universities’ Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct. Penn also participated in the first AAU survey in the spring of 2015. Our goals in both cases were to learn more from our undergraduate, graduate, and professional students about sexual misconduct on campus, assess our education and prevention strategies, and guide our efforts moving forward. We write today to share information about the follow-up survey, the results of which were released by AAU today.

We thank our great Penn students for the much higher response rate this year than in 2015, which offers us a much fuller understanding of our students’ experiences. The 10,306 students who responded represented 42.8% of our enrollment, compared to a response rate of 26.9% in 2015 and an overall AAU response rate for this survey of 21.9%. However, we are troubled that there was little change in the prevalence of non-consensual/unwanted sexual contact reported by our students.

Penn’s figures are almost exactly at the median of our peers. But there is no comfort in that. The numbers are disturbing -- 25.9% of female undergraduate students in this year’s survey experienced unwanted sexual contact, down from 27.2% in 2015. Among male undergraduate students, the figure rose from 5.5% to 7.3%; among undergraduate students who are transgender, genderqueer, and non-binary (TGQN), it increased from 19% to 21.5%. Among graduate students, the figure for female students rose from 6.5% to 7.5%, and for men it rose from 2.1% to 2.7%.

We urge all members of the Penn community to read the full results of the survey, which can be found at [http://www.upenn.edu/ir/aau-campus-climate-survey.html](http://www.upenn.edu/ir/aau-campus-climate-survey.html). As we all better understand the scope of the problem, we might better work together to lessen the risk that any student may face. We also want to remind anyone who has experienced sexual misconduct – or knows someone who has experienced it – of the confidential resources available on campus:

- African-American Resource Center (resource for students, staff or faculty)
- Counseling and Psychological Services, including its Sexual Trauma Treatment Outreach and Prevention team also known as STTOP (resource for students)
- Employee Assistance Program (resource for staff or faculty)
- Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Center (resource for students, staff or faculty)
• Office of the University Chaplain (resource for students, staff, faculty or visitors)
• Office of the Ombuds (resource for students, staff or faculty)
• Penn Violence Prevention (resource for students)
• Penn Women's Center (resource for students, staff or faculty)
• Special Services Department, Division of Public Safety (resource for students, staff, faculty or visitors)
• Student Health Service (resource for students)

If you have any doubt about where to turn, Penn's HELP Line is available 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, at 215-898-HELP.

Sexual misconduct is absolutely unacceptable. The AAU survey makes clear the extent of the challenge and the need to reaffirm education, prevention, and support on our campus. We encourage all members of our community to learn more about our Sexual Misconduct Policy and the resources available at Penn. It is our collective responsibility to create a shared campus environment in which every student can fulfill their fullest potential.

Sincerely,

Amy Gutmann, President
Wendell Pritchett, Provost