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From the Dean

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From the Dean:

Dear Friends,

By now the news of our financial situation has reached nearly every constituent of the School and many individuals who did not know of us before.

Indeed, who would have expected that an institution with a proud record of 108 years of education, research and service could be threatened by a draconian cut in its funding? Yet, it happened. And, despite all of our efforts, the Pennsylvania legislature passed a stop-gap budget which fails to provide any funds for private institutions of higher education.

The agricultural community and our many constituents and friends have risen to the call and forged a coalition to assist us by convincing the State to restore our funding. We are comforted by a $16.5 million deficit budget approved by the University Trustees, and we are confident that all that we represent to the state, profession, nation, and indeed the world, will be recognized and appropriately supported.

The issue of stable funding over the last several years has sharply focused the vulnerability which we face in maintaining the quality of our institution, and the breadth of our programs and services. As I stated in the Spring Bellwether; “those educational institutions with a clear purpose and sustained funding will be the leaders in the next century.”

With the support of you, our constituents, and friends and with recognition of our importance by the State we will succeed in being one of those leaders.

New Overseers Appointed

Mrs. Elsie Sterling Howard, Mr. Edward Kane, Dr. Laurie Landeau, and Mr. Robert P. Levy have been appointed to the School’s Board of Overseers.

Mrs. Howard (C’68) is a director of the National Foundation of Ileitis and Colitis and the Comprehensive Cancer Foundation. She also serves as vice president of the Project Newborn of the Neonatal Care Facility and chairman of the Second Generation of the Maine Heart Institute. In addition, Mrs. Howard is a member of the Safety Committee of the City of Miami Beach, the Chamber of Commerce of Miami Beach, and the board of the Jewish Federation of Miami Beach. She currently serves on the Trustees’ Council of Penn Women and the President’s Council. Mrs. Howard serves as an alumni trustee and serves on the Trustees’ Student Life Committee.

Mr. Kane (C’71) serves as managing general partner of Hancock Venture Partners. Mr. Kane joined John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance in 1979 and co-founded Hancock Venture Partners in 1982. He previously served in the commercial banking division of the Bank of New England for four years.

Dr. Landeau (V’84, W’84) is the first alumnae to serve on the Board of Overseers. Dr. Landeau is president of Marinetics, Inc., an environmental research center. She is also assistant director of Penn’s Program in Aquatic Veterinary Medicine. In 1986, Dr. Landeau co-authored a section on exotic animals in the Small Animal Hospital Formulary.

Mr. Levy (C’52) is chairman and president of DRT Industries, Inc., chairman of the Atlantic City Racing Association, and a partner with his wife, Rochelle, of the Philadelphia Phillies Baseball Team. He is a director of the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and president and director of the Thoroughbred Racing Association. Mr. Levy is a recipient of the John B. Kelly Athletic Award from the John B. Kelly Foundation, the Service to Youth Award from the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame, the Alumni Award of Merit from the Penn Charter Alumni Society, the Distinguished American Award from the Philadelphia Chapter of the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame, and the 1987 Police Athletic Award. He served on the President’s Commission on Olympic sports from 1974-76 and was appointed to the President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports in 1985. Mr. Levy and his family made possible the creation of Blanche P. Levy Park in the center of campus, the Levy Tennis Pavilion, and the Dental School’s Levy Research Building and the Paley Professorship for the dean of the Graduate School of Fine Arts. A trustee for many years and a member and past chairman of the Board of Overseers of the School of Dental Medicine, he served on the Trustees’ Development, Facilities and Campus Planning and Student Life Committees as well as the Investment Board and the Athletic Advisory Board.