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Amy Gutmann Is Elected to Succeed Judith Rodin

Amy Gutmann, the Provost and Laurance S. Rockefeller University Professor of Politics and the University Center for Human Values at Princeton University, was elected the University of Pennsylvania’s next president by Penn’s Board of Trustees at its February 20, 2004 stated meeting.

Gutmann, 54, will succeed Judith Rodin, CW’66, on July 1. Rodin announced last June that she planned to step down after serving as Penn’s president since 1994. Gutmann’s inauguration as Penn’s ninth president will be held on October 15, 2004.

“Amy is a brilliant scholar with a demonstrated commitment to undergraduate and graduate education, a proven and skilled administrator who understands the challenges of running a major research university and an articulate spokesperson about the essential role of higher education in our lives and in the future of our society,” said James S. Riepe, chair of Penn’s Trustees.

“She has established an extraordinary record of achievement during her more than 25 years at Princeton, most recently as Provost. She is widely regarded as a world-class scholar whose research addresses many of the key issues facing our society today—from religious freedom, to race and affirmative action, to ethics and public affairs. As Dean of the Faculty, she was hugely effective in attracting excellent faculty to Princeton. Colleagues speak of her with the highest regard: ‘fair and evenhanded, courageous and willing to take on tough problems,’ ‘renowned for doing her homework,’ ‘there are no limits to what this person can achieve.’ We are confident that Amy is the ideal person to lead Penn forward into the next stage of its evolution.”

Gutmann said she was “tremendously excited to be given the opportunity to lead one of our nation’s oldest and most distinguished research universities.”

“Penn has enormous energy and a dynamic spirit,” she said. “It has extraordinary academic programs that span 12 schools, all of which are located together on one beautiful urban campus. Under Judy Rodin’s leadership, Penn has established itself in the top rank of institutions, well positioned to face the opportunities and the challenges that lie ahead. I look forward with great enthusiasm to working with faculty, students, staff, alumni and other members of the Penn family to help the University build upon its tradition of excellence in teaching, research and public service.

“I am also looking forward to moving to the great city of Philadelphia, “ said Gutmann, “with its wealth of cultural and historic institutions, and to becoming an active citizen of Penn’s vibrant West Philadelphia community.”

Riepe noted that the Board of Trustees strongly believes it has found in Gutmann “someone to expand upon the phenomenal momentum the University has experienced during the last decade . . . a dynamic leader who is both a renowned scholar and skilled administrator . . . a champion of innovative academic ventures with a proven ability to recruit faculty of the highest stature . . . someone who will grow Penn’s financial resources, enhance our entrepreneurial opportunities, and capitalize on our many strengths.”

Gutmann has been Provost of Princeton since September 2001, serving as the University’s chief academic and chief budgetary officer, reporting to the President. She is responsible for long-range planning and for the coordination of the administrative and support functions of the University with its academic purposes.

A faculty member at Princeton since 1976, she has taught political philosophy, democratic theory, the history of political thought and practical ethics.

Gutmann received her B.A. from Radcliffe College, her M.Sc. from the London School of Economics and her Ph.D. from Harvard University.