

Faculty Senate Seminar with Dr. Wendell Pritchett, Provost

November 4, 2020

Questions begin at 21:30, preceded by a presentation

- What changes do you see on the horizon for higher education?
- How is Penn thinking about the future of graduate education at Penn?
- The market for newly minted PhDs is limited in many fields, a trend that does not appear to be changing. Should Penn engage in broadly based discussions about additions to the roles that PhD programs serve?
- Many schools have developed laddered, non-tenured, continuing appointments for faculty, displacing traditional tenure tracks. Do you see Penn developing such a track?
- We have learned that faculty can teach and conduct their research from locations far from campus. Will Penn require in-person teaching and on-campus research for current and new faculty in the post-pandemic world?
- What lessons has Penn learned from virtual teaching that we should carry over into post-pandemic education at Penn?
- Is there an ideal proportion of administration to faculty, and where does Penn sit on that scale?
- As the university gradually opens up and classroom teaching resumes beyond special cases, what protections will be given to faculty who judge it unsafe to teach in person? Will legitimate demurrals from in-person teaching be honored without penalty? How can determining what qualifies as a legitimate demurral be fairly and objectively assessed?