
Farewell Reception for Provost Ron Daniels
GAPSA Chair's Brief Remarks

February 10, 2009

“I’d like to thank the organizers for the opportunity to say a few words, and for the opportunity to be brief! Given my position on the speaker’s list, I like to think that they saved the best speaker for last, but I know the real reason is because they wanted to end the program on a high note and they know that over the past four years graduate and professional students have nothing but great things to say about Ron Daniels.

I’ve actually had the privilege of having all four years of my involvement in student government almost perfectly coincide with Ron’s tenure as Provost, and because of that I’ve had the opportunity to observe and take part in many of Ron’s successes. I couldn’t possibly name them all, but I’ll briefly list a few:

Ron has been involved in the creation of University-wide family friendly policies including the family and childbirth leave policies; improved stipend levels for Ph.D. students; increased support for the Penn Graduate Student Center; the creation of the GAPSA-Provost Award for Interdisciplinary Innovation; restructuring of Ph.D. tuition; restructuring of GAPSA; and recently, significant changes to the rules governing all Ph.D. programs - which will undoubtedly lead to shortened times to degree and improved supervision of students.

And while we’re calling them ‘Ron’s successes’ today - and they do belong to Ron, and to the hardworking women and men who staff his office - really they’re the successes of students and the successes of Penn.

So on behalf of the 12,206 graduate and professional students here, I’d like to say, ‘Thank you, Mr. Provost for all you’ve done, we’ll miss you’ and ‘We wish you well at Hopkins, Mr. President.’

With that I’d like to reintroduce the President of our University, Dr. Amy Gutmann.”

Andrew J. Rennekamp
Chair of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly