

# THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON



LUIS M. PROENZA  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 15, 2009

Members of the University Community

I am pleased, Dear Colleagues . . .

. . . to forward for your information a summary of actions approved by The University of Akron's Board of Trustees at its regular meeting on March 25, 2009.

## **Presentation to the Board**

College of Engineering Dean George Haritos, alumnus and manager of electronic controls for The Timken Company Orestes Varonis, and engineering students Matthew Augustin and Michael Baraona explained the benefits to students, faculty and employers of Siemens PLM Software NX and Teamcenter Engineering, dynamic-modeling software that has been donated to the University.

## **Educational Policy/Student Affairs Committee**

### 1. Creation of the Service Center for Transfer Students

This center will bring together existing personnel from the Advising Center and the Admissions Office to create a one-stop shop for the University to recruit, evaluate and retain our growing transfer student population.

### 2. Approval of the Academic Policies Committee Recommendations

The following changes were approved by Faculty Senate on February 5, 2009:

- Due to the increase in graduating students, an additional spring commencement ceremony has been added to the academic calendar.
- To better reflect its current mission of providing primary care for vulnerable and marginalized people in the community, The Center for Nursing is being renamed The Nursing Center for Community Health.
- As the last in a series of events mandated by the IACUC and to reflect the facility's new reporting structure, the Biology Resource Center is being renamed The University of Akron Research Vivarium.

3. Approval of the Curriculum Proposal Recommendations

**Buchtel College of Arts & Sciences**

AS-09-033 Minor in Bioethics

This change to required courses for the Minor in Bioethics will incorporate two new courses. Adding Environmental Ethics and Neuroethics as requirement options and moving Advanced Topics in Ethics into the requirement option category, as well, will provide students with a greater variety of courses from which to choose to complete the requirements for this program. It also will eliminate the need to substitute Environmental Ethics and/or Neuroethics for the Advanced Topics in Ethics course.

AS-09-044 Politics of Homeland Security Minor changes

This change will alter the list of electives for the minor in the Politics of Homeland Security. Due to the changing nature of the politics of homeland security, it is necessary to stay up-to-date with new trends in bio-warfare and public health threats (addition of 3700:413). As we move away from September 11, its history and long-lasting influences on homeland security are incorporated into the required courses 336 and 337 (deletion of 3700:338).

AS-09-059 Sociology/Criminology and Law Enforcement change in hours

This change will increase the minimum number of credit hours from 34 to 35 under the Sociology/ Criminology and Law Enforcement requirements of the BA degree to better reflect the workload of the internship experience.

AS-09-060 Psychology of Hate (3750:425)

This change will make 3750:425 - Psychology of Hate a regular course offering. For the past three years, it has been a Special Topics course.

AS-09-061 Sensation & Perception (3750:405)

This change will make 3750:405 - Sensation & Perception a regular course offering. The course has been offered for several years now as a Special Topics course with full enrollment.

AS-09-062 Cognitive Neuroscience (3740:415)

This change will make 3750:415 - Cognitive Neuroscience a regular course offering. For the past three years, it has been offered as a Special Topics course with full enrollment.

AS-09-092 Addition of course to Mathematics BS Degree

This change will—(1) add course 3450:335 Differential Equations, 3 credits, to the required courses for the Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and (2) reduce the number of electives from 15 to 12. Currently students are encouraged to take 3450:335 as an elective and most do. Hence, the change reflects the curriculum that most students are completing presently.

AS-09-094 Applied Mathematics BS

This change adds course 3450:307 Fundamentals of Advanced Mathematics, 3 credits, to the required courses for the Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics, thus increasing the number of required credits to 41 and reducing the number of electives from 18 to 15. Currently students are encouraged to take 3450:307 as an elective and most do. Hence, the proposed change reflects the curriculum that most students are completing presently.

**College of Business Administration**

BA-09-03 Change in program requirements and description of program

This change affects program requirements and the description of program. The School of Accountancy curriculum is designed to assist in preparing students to sit for the CPA exam. To have them prepared in the taxation discipline, they should take both Taxation I (6200:430) and Taxation II (6200:431). This proposal requires students to take both taxation classes. Advanced Managerial Accounting (6200:460) was eliminated as a requirement, partly due to the fact the course did not contribute directly to the CPA exam and partly due to resource constraints for summer teaching. Students are encouraged also to take one of two ethics classes (3600:120 - Introduction to Ethics or 3600:362 - Business Ethics) as some states require three hours of ethics classes prior to sitting for the CPA exam.

BA-09-05 Change in college requirements for Transfer Students

This change will make requirements for all transfer students the same.

BA-09-06 Change in Continuation of the Baccalaureate Program

This change provides additional guidelines for a student who is placed on academic probation. It informs the student of the consequences of remaining on probation for more than a year and describes how the student can be reinstated in the program.

BA-09-17 Change in title of Corporate Financial Management Program

This change alters the title of Corporate Financial Management Program to Corporate Financial Management Major to reflect it as a major. The goal is to make it easier for prospective and current students to understand the structure of the majors available in finance.

BA-09-24 Change Financial Services Program to Financial Services Major

This change alters the name of Financial Services Program to Financial Services Major to reflect it as a major, which should make it easier for prospective and current students to understand the structure of the majors available in finance.

BA-09-25 Change in title of Global Interdisciplinary Option to Global Interdisciplinary Track

This change in title from Global Interdisciplinary Option to Global Interdisciplinary Track should make it easier to explain and understand the offering.

BA-09-26 Change in title of Foreign Language Option to Foreign Language Track

This change in title from Option to Minor should make the offering easier to explain and understand.

**College of Engineering**

EN-09-25 420006C & 420007C Chemical Engineering / Polymer Engineering Certificates

This change adds a course as a design elective to Chemical Engineering/Polymer Engineering Certificate Programs in the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering since Solids Processing covers important aspects of polymer processing.

**Women's Studies Program**

PR-07-01 Women's Studies Minor

To meet the evolving needs of the program, this change adds the following courses as electives: 3400:493 Women in the Middle East (History), 3 credits; 3400:493 Medieval Women (History), 3 credits; and 3300:489 Women Writers (English), 3 credits. It also changes 3400:340 African-American Women's History to 3400:469.

**Summit College**

SC-08-48 Surveying and Mapping Technology

To meet the evolving needs of the program, this change proposal reduces the number of credits for the degree from 68 to 66 by—(1) dropping 3370:100 Earth Science, 3 credits; (2) adding one additional credit to a surveying elective; (3) replacing 2030:356 Technical Calculus II, 3 credits, which was dropped from the AAS degree program; (4) changing two current surveying electives, 2980:330 Applied Photogrammetry from 2 to 3 credits and 2980:426 History of Surveying, name and content change to History of Surveying to 1785; and (5) adding two new surveying electives: 2980:355 Business of Surveying, 2 credits, and 2980:428 History of Surveying since 1785, 2 credits. These courses already have been taught as Special Topics courses. Fifty percent of all surveying companies are small business units. How to develop a small business plan for a small company is desired by some students. The amount of material in the History of Surveying course justifies splitting the one current course into two courses.

Faculty Senate approved these curricular changes on February 5, 2009.

4. Name Change for the Department of Learning Technologies and Scholar/Learner Services

To clarify the department's purpose for the audience it serves, the Department of Learning Technologies and Scholar/Learner Services in Information Technology Services will be renamed the Department of Instructional Services.

5. Research Grants and Sponsored Programs Report – February 2009

For July 2008-February 2009, funding for externally funded research and other sponsored programs was \$35.6 million to support 286 projects. For the same period in the prior fiscal year, funding totaled \$27.8 million for 334 projects. For FY2009 to date, 6 patents were awarded, 12 patent applications were filed, and 40 disclosures were submitted. For the eight months of the prior fiscal year, 2 patents were issued, 23 patent applications were filed, and 30 disclosures were submitted.

**External Affairs Committee**

1. Cumulative Gift and Grant Income Report – January 2009

For July 2008-January 2009, total giving was \$17.3 million, 38 percent less than the \$28 million received during the first seven months of FY2008 but 2 percent greater than the \$16.9 million average for the previous five years. UA received 12,477 gifts in the 2008-09 fiscal year to date, compared to 12,590 for the prior fiscal year to date.

2. The Honorable Donald L. Plusquellic

In recognition of his exemplary achievements, unparalleled career and devoted service to Akron's students, families and citizens, Akron Mayor Donald L. Plusquellic will be awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

**Facilities Planning and Oversight Committee**

1. Polsky Building Rehabilitation

Contracts were awarded to low bidders Cardinal Maintenance and Service Company, Inc. (\$770,850 for roof replacement) and M-A Building and Maintenance Company (\$265,600 for masonry restoration).

2. West Campus Parking Deck Repairs

M-A Building and Maintenance Company submitted the low bid and received a contract for \$229,027.

3. Multiplex – Student Housing

Trustees approved contracts to low bidders Parsons Concrete Contractors (\$508,260 for concrete flatwork), Canton Floors, Inc. (\$528,832 for flooring and ceramic tile), Novatny Electric Company (\$3,000,000 for electrical), Summit Construction (\$4,715,000 for general construction, glass, glazing and painting), and S. A. Comunale Company, Inc. (\$4,875,000 for plumbing, fire protection, and HVAC).

4. Multiplex – Football Stadium Graphics Enhancement

Low bidder 49 Degrees was awarded a \$262,530 contract for signage and graphics.

5. Multiplex – Football Stadium Food Service FF&E

Low bidder Breckenridge Kitchen Equipment and Design, Inc. was awarded a \$251,726 contract for food service equipment and walk-in coolers.

6. Multiplex – Football Stadium Academic Development

The Board approved contracts with low bidders Stanley Miller Construction Company (\$263,000 for general trades), Western Reserve Interiors, Inc. (\$378,360 for drywall), United Glass and Panel Systems, Inc. (\$188,972 for curtainwall), and S. A. Comunale Company, Inc. (\$107,364 for fire protection).

**Finance, Fiscal Policy, and Investment Committee**

1. Quarterly Report – July-December 2008

Trustees reviewed the financial report for the first and second quarters of the current fiscal year, covering July 1-December 30, 2008. In that period, revenue for the Akron campus was \$179.9 million, or about 0.5 percent greater than what was estimated in the budget. Total expenditures were \$150.5 million for the period, or about 1.4 percent less than what was budgeted. Revenue at Wayne College for the period was \$6.7 million, or about 1.1 percent more than budgeted, and total expenditures at Wayne were \$5.3 million, or about 5.9 percent less than budgeted.

2. Purchases More Than \$150,000

The Board awarded the following contracts for purchases exceeding \$150,000:

- To ABM Janitorial Services, \$418,307.04 for miscellaneous custodial cleaning services at six campus locations for July 2008-June 2009 with optional renewal for up to two one-year periods;
- To The Mail Room, Inc., \$140,000-160,000 for digital print and fulfillment service for Reading First Ohio (e-Read Ohio) for approximately March 2009-April 2011; and
- To Electrical Geodesics, Inc., \$451,648 for hardware and software to create a Neuro-Marketing Laboratory.

3. Tuition Plateau and Two-tier Rate Structure

In February 2008, the Tuition and Fee Group was convened to finalize recommendations relating to a revised fee structure and the tuition plateau. Previously, two groups including administrative and academic representatives provided recommendations in those areas. Board members approved the group's recommendations, which are as follows:

(a) Undergraduate Tuition Plateau—Beginning with Fall Semester 2009, the University will charge the same tuition rate for 12-16 undergraduate credit hours, rather than the current 12-15 credit hours plateau. This recommendation is made in response to concerns of the Board of Trustees, Associated Student Government, and other University of Akron students. This change is projected to result in a revenue shortfall of about \$1,735,000 in FY 2010.

(b) Two-Tier Rate Structure—To simplify the overall tuition structure, the University will eliminate its two-tier rate structure under which undergraduate students who enrolled before Summer Semester 2002 and Summit College baccalaureate students who enrolled before Fall Semester 2005 paid a lower, grandfathered rate. Affected students will be notified of the elimination of the two-tier rate structure during the coming several months, and the two-tier rate structure will be eliminated effective Fall Semester 2009. The estimated revenue effect of this change in FY 2010 is an increase of \$600,000.

The net projected impact of both changes on the FY 2010 budget is a revenue reduction of \$1.1 million.

4. Midpoint Center Tuition and Fee Proposal

Because Midpoint Center is operated as a satellite of the Medina County University Center, tuition and fees at Midpoint will be identical to those at MCUC. Tuition costs \$215.50 per credit hour for Medina residents and \$245.50 per credit hour for others. The administrative fee is \$12 per semester, general services fee-\$6.43 per credit hour, technology fee-\$13.20 per undergraduate credit hour and \$16.25 per graduate credit hour, developmental course fee-\$7 per credit hour, and special or course fees as determined by course. There also is an optional \$18.55 per credit hour facilities fee for Midpoint students who want to come to Akron for activities in the Student Recreation and Wellness Center and the Student Union.

5. Extension of Use of Facilities Agreements – Wayne Campus

Wayne College is authorized to extend its long series of annual agreements with Glenn Burkholder and Davel Farms, Inc. to occupy and use some property on the Wayne campus for farming. The official Use of Facilities Agreements will be extended through June 2010 with optional one-year renewals for the three following years.

6. General Receipts Bonds, Series 2009

The Board authorized the conversion of the interest rate on the Series 2008C Bonds, in whole or in part, from a weekly rate to a fixed rate, if the Vice President for Finance and Administration/ CFO determines that it is in the best interests of the University. Alternatively, or additionally in the event of a partial conversion of the Series 2008C Bonds, Series 2009 Bonds may be issued to refund the Series 2008C Bonds in whole or in part. The Series 2009 Bonds also may be issued to refinance or refund any outstanding general receipts obligations, only if the CFO determines that such action will result in debt-service cost savings to the University.

7. Personnel Actions

The personnel transactions approved by Trustees as amended are posted online at <http://www.uakron.edu/president/docs/Personnel-transactions-March09.xls>.

**New Business**

1. Procurement of Energy Resources

Because University energy contracts are expiring soon, Trustees authorized the administration to procure natural gas from Dominion as a backup energy service for August 2009-December 2010 for a total approximate cost of \$385,692, as submitted in response to a Request for Proposal. The Board also authorized the Vice President for Finance and Administration/CFO—with the approval of the President, the Chairman of the Board, and the General Counsel—to procure future primary energy services for the same contract period either through – (a) a one-year renewal or new one-year agreement with Akron Thermal; (b) procurement of additional natural gas by agreement with Dominion; or (c) procurement of other energy services. The CFO will report back to the Board at its next regular meeting regarding the final University decision for the procurement of energy services.

Notes

1. President's Report

I began my remarks by recognizing Zips Men's Basketball Head Coach Keith Dambrot, who made brief remarks to the Trustees and received their congratulations for the team's recent accomplishments. The kind of recognition to which Coach Dambrot alluded and that our student athletes reflect underscores the fact that we have put other universities on notice that we are engaged in the process of creating a new gold standard for a great American university, a new model of University performance. I have shared other highlights of the success we are enjoying, but national recognition has a bit of a downside attached to it, because it places our talented faculty, staff and administrators on the radar screen of other colleges and universities.

I know that all of you are now aware that our dear colleague Beth Stroble has recently been selected to lead Webster University, effective July 1, and we recognize that her tenure here has been marked by many significant initiatives and great achievements. On behalf of this grateful University, I applaud Dr. Stroble's accomplishments and her much-deserved appointment at Webster. As we move through the process of identifying her more-permanent successor, we certainly have an accomplished interim appointment to carry on her work. David Baker will assume the role on June 1. He has a lengthy record of achievement as a scholar and as an administrator and is highly respected by his peers on campus and across the nation. During his tenure here, Dr. Baker has served in leadership roles as the interim dean of university libraries; interim associate provost for teaching, learning, and faculty development; and as the director of the Institute for Teaching and Learning. He is a professor of psychology and the Margaret Clark Morgan Director of the Archives of the History of American Psychology. His work in that regard has placed the archives as a Smithsonian affiliate and attracted more than \$4 million to help advance the archives into a greater place of national and international prominence.

After calling Trustees' attention to two publications—a very nice book celebrating our beloved and most adorable mascot Zippy and a folder from the Inter-University Council that outlines the strategic importance of higher education to the state of Ohio—for their later review, I tried to provide some context of our University's place in regard to the most prominent challenge facing our state, and the world. That is, of course, the economy.

Despite the ongoing economic upheaval, our success during the past 10 years has placed us in a somewhat better position than other universities, and we do not anticipate needing to take the kind of severe actions that others have had to take. Still, I know you understand that we also cannot reasonably expect to escape this economic downturn and the widespread fiscal turmoil that has ensued unscathed. As many of you may have heard me say before, opportunity favors the prepared mind and, thus, I have asked our budget committee—Dr. Case, Dr. Stroble, and others—to project a conservative budget and to plan for the budget shortfalls that may ensue with sensitivity to our faculty, staff, and contract professionals, but most important, with our students and constituents foremost in our minds.

I believe it is obvious that we should plan to spend less due to the different economic situations that the world faces and that we are likely to continue to face for some time into the future. Further, I think we need to accept that, in many respects, we are an “industry” in transition, that there are many other industries experiencing similar or even more challenging difficulties, and that it will not be possible for us to enjoy the gains that we have made without doing things differently.

In that realization, I see the opportunity for all of us to consider how we might want to adjust our practices and our organization so The University of Akron can continue in the promising path that it has most successfully begun. To that end, I know that you are aware that we have begun a strategic thinking process in which many of our colleagues are participating and in which I will enjoin our Board members shortly. We also have formed various groups to study how we might become more effective and efficient throughout the institution, a process that we began leading nine years ago and which was clearly demonstrated during the proceedings of the Northeast Ohio Universities Collaboration and Innovation Commission. While some recommendations are coming forth, none have been accepted or rejected at this point, and the process is still very much in the early stages.

I am interested, particularly, in the suggestions that will come from every corner of the University through our budgeting exercises, and I encourage all of you to share ideas that will enhance the quality of the student experience here while helping us to move the University forward as it has been moving. Please become involved in this regard.

In addition to the wonderful success of our student athletes and some of the other student accomplishments that were reported by our Student Trustees, I shared that *Business Week* recognized our College of Business Administration with top 100 in the undergraduate programs. We also received great news in the most recent survey of the Association of University Technology Managers, which showed that, in 2007, The University of Akron produced the most revenue and technology licensing in its history and more than all other Ohio public universities and without question the most per unit of dollar input.

Our latest accolade came when our Department of Residence Life and Housing received the 2009 Student Leadership Development Award from the Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities. That award recognizes our Emerging Leaders Program as the best in the nation in creating opportunities for leadership and engagement in the university environment. I offered the heartiest congratulations to all those involved and recognized for the Board that this is not the first honor that that group has gained. They are routinely recognized best in state, best in region, and best in nation for a number of things.

## 2. Next Regular Meeting

The Board will reconvene on Wednesday, April 29, 2009, in the Board office on the third floor of the Student Union, with an executive session to begin at 7:30 a.m. and the public session to begin no earlier than 10:30 a.m.

\* \* \*