

# THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON



LUIS M. PROENZA  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

September 22, 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 September 9, 2009.

## **Presentation to the Board**

Dr. Lisa Park, professor of geology and environmental science, gave a presentation on the Research Experience for Undergraduates Site: Field Research on the Bahamian Lakes—Exploring Records of Anthropogenic and Climate Change. The project received funding from the National Science Foundation for three years.

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

### 1. Research Grants and Sponsored Programs Report – July 2009

For July 2009, funding for externally funded research and other sponsored programs was \$7.1 million for 63 projects. For July 2008, funding was \$4.4 million for 63 projects. For July 2009, no patents were awarded, eight patent applications were filed, and four disclosures were submitted. For July 2008, one patent was issued, one patent application was filed, and 17 disclosures were submitted.

## **External Affairs Committee**

### 1. Cumulative Gift and Grant Income Report – July 2009

For July 2009, total giving was \$1.6 million, 35 percent less than the \$2.5 million received during the first month of FY2008-09 and 7 percent greater than the \$1.5 million average for the previous five years. UA received 1,115 gifts in the 2009-10 fiscal year to date, compared to 1,115 for the prior fiscal year to date.

**Facilities Planning and Oversight Committee**

1. National Polymer Innovation Center—Laboratory Casework

A contract for the project was awarded to the low bidder, ThermoFisher Scientific, for \$252,444.

2. Olson Air Handling Systems Renovation

The low bidder, The K Company, Inc., received a contract for \$261,600.

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

1. FY 2009-10 Budget

The University of Akron's approved general-fund budget for the fiscal year that began July 1, 2009, based on estimated revenues, will be \$354.9 million for the main campus – a 6 percent increase from the FY2008-09 budget of \$334.5 million. The Wayne College budget also increased by 6 percent, from \$12.5 million to \$13.2 million. Auxiliaries are budgeted at \$77.9 million for FY2009-10. University budget assumptions included—continued enrollment growth, undergraduate tuition and fee increases not effective until Spring Semester 2010, graduate and law tuition increases effective Fall Semester 2009, employee group insurance contract renewal effective January 2010 at an estimated cost increase of \$2.6 million, avoidance of employee downsizing or furloughs, no university-wide merit increase pool, planned scholarship increases of \$4.3 million, and departmental reductions averaging 2 percent in academic units and 6 percent in non-academic units, among others.

2. Personnel Actions

The personnel transactions approved by Trustees as amended are posted online at <http://www.uakron.edu/president/docs/Personnel-transactions-Sept09.xls>.

**Notes**

1. President's Report

I began my abbreviated report by stating that we clearly have a number of very exciting opportunities as we begin this new academic year. Those opportunities include—the ongoing development of our strategic plan; the opening of InfoCision Stadium-Summa Field; the hiring of a new director of athletics, Tom Wistrick, and of James Boyes, who is now heading up the Medina County University Center; the recent announcement of the appointment of Dr. Frank Douglas as the President/CEO of our collaborative BioInnovation Institute; the groundbreaking for the new polymer innovation center; the dedication of the new Student Life Building at Wayne College just a few weeks ago; and, of course, the exciting continued news about our enrollment increases.

While there was not ample time to review all of those achievements in detail, I discussed our emerging official enrollment data for the fall semester, which shows a 7.6 percent gain over last year, including a 6.4 percent rise in new freshmen enrollment and an 8.4 percent increase in

student credit-hour production to set a new record. Our development of the Medina County facility is paying dividends itself with student enrollment there jumping by 35 percent, and Wayne College up by eight percent. The University's total student enrollment for fall 2009 is almost 28,000. To be specific, it is 27,911 students.

In relation to strategic planning, I asked Trustees to please note that we would be welcoming on September 16 and 17 Dr. Michael Crow, the president of Arizona State University. He is a leading figure in the transformation of higher education. I invited Board members to attend his presentations and to participate in Student Appreciation Day following the Board meeting.

I then shared a bit of news about InfoCision Stadium, including the very nice section that was published by the *Akron Beacon Journal* on September 7. The pictures are superb and give anyone who looks at them a sense of the stadium. Fox News also produced a 30-minute video segment on the stadium. I informed the Board that, in addition to the tour in which they participated following our last Board meeting, we held a tremendously successful Employee Appreciation Day on August 16, which was attended widely by a number of staff. On August 29, the stadium was open to the general public and drew another very large crowd and, on September 15, we welcomed the Chamber of Commerce and a good cross section of local CEOs.

Though we accurately predicted a sellout for the inaugural football game at the stadium, thanks in part to a record level of season ticket holders, we must remember that the stadium has important academic and community functions. Several high schools and other organizations in town will be holding special events within the stadium over the next few weeks and months, and next year the College of Education's Sports Science and Wellness Education Program will move into the lower levels of the facility's west tower.

## 2. Next Regular Meeting

The Board's next regularly scheduled meeting will occur on Wednesday, October 7, 2009, in the Board office on the third floor of the Student Union, with an executive session to begin between 7:30 a.m. and 8 a.m. and the public session to begin no earlier than 10 a.m.

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