

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON



LUIS M. PROENZA
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 12, 2010

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 24, 2010, as well as an action taken at a special Board meeting on March 4, 2010.

Presentation to the Board

Dr. Todd Finkle, associate professor of management, and students Andrea Hinton and Kim Baitz made a presentation on their visit, along with other College of Business Administration students, with Warren Buffett.

Educational Policy/Student Affairs Committee

1. Designation of Two New Departments in Student Affairs

The Board approved two changes in the organizational structure of Student Affairs, creating the departments of Student Judicial Affairs and Off-Campus Student Services. Both departments will be staffed by current employees in Student Affairs.

2. Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to Zhou Qifeng

Trustees approved the awarding of an honorary doctor of humane letters degree to Zhou Qifeng, president of Peking University in China and a professor of polymer science and engineering.

3. Research Grants and Sponsored Programs Report, July 2009-January 2010

For July 2009-January 2010, funding for externally funded research and other sponsored programs was \$28.1 million for 275 projects. For July 2008-January 2009, funding was \$30.1 million for 267

projects. For July 2009-January 2010, two patents were awarded, 20 patent applications were filed, and 23 disclosures were submitted. For July 2008-January 2009, five patents were issued, 12 patent applications were filed, and 35 disclosures were submitted.

External Affairs Committee

1. Cumulative Gift and Grant Income Report, July 2009-January 2010

For July 2009-January 2010, total giving was \$25.2 million, 45 percent greater than the \$17.4 million received during the first seven months of FY2008-09 and 36 percent greater than the \$18.4 million average for the previous five years to date. UA received 13,912 gifts in the 2009-10 fiscal year to date, compared to 12,556 for the prior fiscal year to date.

Facilities Planning and Oversight Committee

1. New College of Education Building Design Services

After advertising for services and interviewing five firms, Burt Hill, Inc. was selected to provide professional design services for an academic building that will house classrooms, laboratories and administrative spaces for the College of Education. The design services contract award of \$690,599 was determined according to industry standard as a percentage of the estimated project cost of nearly \$13 million.

2. PFOC Cooling Tower and High Bay Roof Replacement

Trustees approved contracts for the replacement of the high bay roof in the Physical Facilities Operations Center and Cooling Tower #2. The successful low bidders were: J. Stanovic Roofing & Renovations, Inc. - \$95,235 for general trades; The C. D. Whitfield Company, LLC - \$366,712 for mechanical; and M & M Electrical Contractors, Inc. - \$30,331 for electrical.

3. Intercollegiate Soccer Stadium Improvements, Phase I

Contracts were awarded to low-bidders Cavanaugh Building Corporation (\$771,700 for general trades, turf and demolition) and Lake Erie Electric, Inc. (\$563,000 for electrical) to reconstruct the soccer field on Lee R. Jackson Field and provide sports lighting.

4. Perpetual License with the City of Akron

The license was approved to ensure compliance with Akron's ordinance on post-construction storm water quality in regard to 10 new storm sewer catch basins installed as a result of the construction of the South Campus Parking Deck on Exchange Street.

Finance, Fiscal Policy, and Investment Committee

1. Quarterly Report

Trustees reviewed the quarterly report for the first half of FY2010, covering July-December 2009. In that period, revenue for the Akron campus was \$191.9 million or about 0.2 percent less than what was estimated in the budget. Expenditures totaled approximately \$157 million for FY2010 to date, or about 0.2 percent less than what was budgeted. Revenue at Wayne College for FY2010 to date was \$7.2 million, or about 2 percent more than budgeted, and expenditures at Wayne totaled \$6.2 million, or about 10.3 percent less than budgeted. Investment income for the period was more than \$1 million under budget.

2. FY2010-11 Tuition

With the exception of the School of Law, undergraduate and graduate instructional (tuition), general and non-resident fees were increased by 3.5 percent, effective Summer Session 2010. The change affects fees for the Wayne and Medina campuses, as well as Akron. For the School of Law, instructional, general and non-resident fees were increased by 6 percent, effective Fall Semester 2010, with 5 percent of the total increase being set aside and held in a Board restricted account for capital improvements that may be expressly approved by the Board, including but not limited to a new School of Law facility.

3. Approved Purchase for More Than \$150,000

- The Board awarded a \$344,500 contract to NT-MDT America, Inc. for a Raman Atomic Force Microscope System requested by the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

4. Amendment to The University of Akron Alternative Retirement Plan

Board members authorized the administration to amend The University of Akron Alternative Retirement Plan (ARP) document to bring the plan into compliance with current Internal Revenue Service rules for qualified plans. Because the University's ARP is qualified by the I.R.S. as a volume submitter plan, it must be rewritten completely every six years to comply with I.R.S. rules for qualified plans.

5. Personnel Actions

The personnel transactions approved by Trustees as amended are posted online at <http://www.uakron.edu/president/docs/Personnel-transactions-March10.pdf>.

New Business

1. Support of State Issue 1

Noting that support from the Third Frontier program has enabled The University of Akron and its research foundation to partner with business and industry on more than 115 active sponsored

research projects and achieve significant gains in economic development for the region, the Board approved a resolution supporting and endorsing the passage of State Issue 1 and formally expressing its gratitude to the Ohio General Assembly for its support of university-based research and development.

2. President's Compensation

Trustees approved an increase in Dr. Proenza's base annual salary to \$385,000, retroactive to January 1, 2010, in recognition of his experience, accomplishments and national standing.

3. Recognition and Gratitude

The Board passed three resolutions to acknowledge and thank specific members of the University community for exemplary accomplishments:

- Head Men's Soccer Coach Caleb Porter became only the second coach in the University's history to earn national coach-of-the-year honors when he was named 2009 National Coach of the Year for NCAA Division I by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.
- Zips student-athlete LeVon Morefield won the 2009 College Football Rudy Award, which honors student-athletes who have overcome obstacles and been an inspiration to others, the same traits that were immortalized in the blockbuster film "Rudy," based on Daniel Ruettinger's experiences at Notre Dame University.
- Continuing a tradition of achieving national recognition in Student Affairs, several student groups and a Student Affairs professional garnered top national prizes for this academic year—Residence Hall Program Board and Zips Programming Network received Campus of the Year accolades; the National Residence Hall Honorary received the Central Atlantic Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls National Residence Hall Honorary Chapter of the Year Award, and now is a national finalist; and Associate Director of Residence Life and Housing Thomas Faessel was named Ernest C. Jones Advisor of the Year.

Notes

1. President's Report

I began my remarks by welcoming our new trustee, Mr. Nicholas York. I also congratulated outgoing Associated Student Government President Jason Zeigler on his tremendous work and welcomed Steven Sedlock as the incoming ASG president and Samantha Otis as vice president. I then introduced our incoming Senior Vice President, Provost and Chief Operating Officer Mike Sherman, his wife Betty Rider and their daughter, Lindsay. Lindsay, by the way, selected The University of Akron for her college career before Dr. Sherman had accepted his position here.

Dr. Sherman said that he was humbled to be selected. Noting that we have created a dynamic and very globally connected University that is on a wonderful trajectory of excellence, he said that he is thrilled to be able to help further that trajectory and looks forward to working with all of us.

I told Trustees that this year marks the 140th anniversary of The University of Akron's founding as Buchtel College, and I believe it marks the mid-point of our Third Cycle of Expansion, which began 10 years ago and will extend to our sesquicentennial, that is our 150th anniversary, in 2020. During the last decade, as you know, we have made tremendous progress that I firmly believe has put us on a continuing positive trajectory for years to come, a trajectory that could lead to the University growing to a \$1-billion enterprise, as I have said to many of you already. That figure illustrates the level of importance that I believe this University has for Northeast Ohio and will attain, and in many respects, already should have attained.

Let me describe just a few recent developments that illustrate this upward trajectory for The University of Akron as a key player regionally and on the national and international scale. In early February, we were included among a select group of universities that took part in a meeting convened by the Brookings Institution at Washington University in St. Louis, where a few university presidents gathered to discuss the role of universities in older industrial cities—more specifically, how universities can lead regional economic efforts and are doing so. Shortly thereafter, at the invitation of U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke, we were asked to describe the Akron model at a forum on Catalyzing University Research for a Stronger Economy in Washington, D.C. Now, we have partnered with the Council on Competitiveness and other distinguished organizations to host a roundtable on Accelerating Innovation by Enhancing University-Industry Collaboration and Optimizing Commercialization of University Innovations. The recommendations from that roundtable will be presented to members of Congress and federal and state agencies in late spring and will provide valuable input to new legislative and programmatic initiatives nationally. Just two weeks ago, the University and a number of partners from this area and throughout the state hosted a regional STEM conference on our campus.

In spite of the adage that one cannot gain recognition at home, both Mayor Plusquellic and County Executive Russ Pry have been very cognizant and supportive of the University and our efforts in economic development and community revitalization. Each of them has taken great pains to work with us and to advance The University of Akron, and so I want to take this opportunity to thank them publicly. Russ Pry, at his remarks last week at the State of the County, made some incredibly positive remarks, and I expect that the mayor will do so likewise when he presents his State of the City Address.

So I think that our positive trajectory is reflected also in our collaborative work on strategic planning that occupied us during this past year and moves us with an eye toward 2020. As I had mentioned in January and will share with the Board and others again in more detail later, we have been in the midst of tweaking the language of our mission and vision statements.

As a mission, we would propose something like this:

The University of Akron invents a better common future for individuals and communities by leveraging the region's unique strengths, by fostering economic, social and cultural vitality through strong collaborations and by pursuing entrepreneurial and innovative solutions to the world's major challenges through the creation, integration and dissemination of new knowledge.

As a vision statement, we would propose:

As the public research university for Northeast Ohio, The University of Akron would lead the development of regionally located, globally competitive clusters of excellence to

entrepreneurship and innovation. We will extend Akron's research legacy to catalyze emerging major industry clusters and positively impact the region's economic, social and cultural health with a broad commitment to inclusive excellence that permeates all of our programs.

Now, I believe that those few, brief words speak volumes about where we are headed and what we are doing to capitalize on all that we have achieved to date and to extend our momentum.

I concluded my remarks with three pieces of good news:

- You have probably read in the press that University of Akron student Judith Leffler won the national Adult Learner of the Year Award from the American Council of Education. Judith, who is a full-time student with a full-time job and four children, will graduate in May with a bachelor's degree in education, which she began in 1981. Her eldest son will receive his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, also in May.
- Women's Basketball Head Coach Jodi Kest was named Mid-American Conference Coach of the Year. She is the first Akron women's head coach to receive coach of the year accolades.
- Our School of Law has announced that its guest speaker for law commencement on May 16 will be the Chancellor of the University System of Ohio Eric Fingerhut.

2. Approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement with CWA Local 4302 (approved March 4, 2010)

Trustees unanimously approved the draft, three-year Collective Bargaining Agreement, including all of the tentative agreements and memoranda of understanding reached between the respective negotiating teams of The University of Akron and the Communication Workers of America, Local 4302.

3. Next Regular Meeting

The Board's next regularly scheduled meeting will occur on Wednesday, April 28, 2010, 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 a.m.

* * *