

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON



LUIS M. PROENZA
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 13, 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 April 28, 2010.

Presentation to the Board

Ms. Fedearia Nicholson, director of Multicultural Development, and students Mr. Kevin Watloski, president of the Student African American Brotherhood, and Ms. Daina Irby, president of the Student African American Sisterhood, made a presentation on diversity support groups.

Educational Policy/Student Affairs Committee

1. Department Name Change in Student Affairs

The Board approved renaming the Center for Career Management as the Career Center. This change, which is consistent with national trends, will provide clarity and improved name recognition to the campus and the employer community regarding the all-encompassing programs and services provided by the department.

2. Creation of the Center for the History of Psychology and the Renaming of the Department of Classical Studies, Anthropology and Archaeology

Trustees approved the creation of the Center for the History of Psychology. The Archives of the History of American Psychology was founded at The University of Akron in 1965 and has grown to become the largest collection of its kind in the world. Designation of the AHAP as a center will provide recognition of its expanded role as it moves into a new and larger facility. The Center will provide increased space for students, researchers and visiting scholars, a museum and an archival data center.

The Board also approved renaming the Department of Classical Studies, Anthropology and Archaeology as the Department of Anthropology and Classical Studies to more accurately reflect both faculty areas and student interest. There are more faculty and students in anthropology than in classical studies and, in most North American colleges, archaeology is part of anthropology departments.

Both recommendations were made by the Academic Policies Committee of the Faculty Senate.

3. New Minors in the College of Creative and Professional Arts, and Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences and Certificate Programs in the College of Education and Summit College (as recommended by Faculty Senate)

CPA-010-054, Minor in New Media

This new interdisciplinary minor in New Media involves all of the schools in the College of Creative and Professional Arts. This minor incorporates existing courses from each of the schools and four new interdisciplinary courses to be taught by existing faculty in the college.

AS-10-014, Minor in Philosophy of Science

The Minor in Philosophy of Science adopts an interdisciplinary approach to the study of the justification of scientific theories, the relationship between natural systems and the models used to study them, and the status of facts and values within scientific investigation. Because it requires a mix of relevant Department of Philosophy classes and offerings from other departments in the natural and social sciences, the minor should have broad appeal.

AS-10-015, Minor in Environmental Ethics

Environmental ethics is the study of the ethical relationship of humans to, and the moral status of, the natural environment and its inhabitants. The Minor in Environmental Ethics would adopt an interdisciplinary approach to these and related issues. It also complements the University's certificate program in environmental studies.

ED-10-38, Certificate Program in Assessment and Evaluation

This new certificate program is geared toward current or future classroom teachers and other educators who want to expand their knowledge of the basic principles and applications of assessment and evaluation. This program will reside in the Department of Educational Foundations and Leadership.

SC-10-28, Certificate Program in Construction Estimation

The Certificate Program in Construction Estimation is needed to provide an avenue into entry-level positions in construction. This certificate also will complement the credentials of degree-seeking students pursuing an A.A.S. degree or the B.S. degree in Construction Engineering Technology. It is also obtainable by individuals who may not be seeking a degree. This program will reside in the Department of Engineering Science and Technology.

4. Approval of Spring 2010 Graduation Candidates

Trustees approved the granting of some 2,581 degrees during the University's Spring 2010 Commencement ceremonies, pending the candidates' completion of degree requirements. The tentative total includes 50 doctoral, 114 Juris Doctor, 634 master's, 1561 baccalaureate and 222 associate degree candidates.

5. Research Grants and Sponsored Programs Report, July 2009-February 2010

For July 2009-February 2010, funding for externally funded research and other sponsored programs was \$30.3 million for 301 projects. For July 2008-February 2009, funding was \$35.6 million for 286 projects. For July 2009-February 2010, three patents were issued, 20 patent applications were filed, and 25 disclosures were submitted. For July 2008-February 2009, six patents were issued, 12 patent applications were filed, and 40 disclosures were submitted.

External Affairs Committee

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

For July 2009-February 2010, total giving was \$25.7 million, 45 percent more than the \$17.8 million received for the first eight months of FY2009 and 34 percent more than the five-year average of \$19.2 million. The number of gifts increased, from 13,223 for July 2008-February 2009 to 14,953 gifts for the current fiscal year to date.

Facilities Planning and Oversight Committee

1. Ocasek Natatorium Lighting Improvements

A contract for \$166,609 was awarded to low-bidder M & M Electrical Contractors, Inc. to replace light fixtures in the swimming pool area to meet competition requirements and improve safety.

2. Auburn West Tower Rehabilitation, Phases I-III, Phase II Tower Abatement and Demolition

Trustees approved contracts for Phase II Tower hazardous material abatement and selective demolition work for this multi-phase project for Biology and Engineering facilities. The successful low bidders were: Cardinal Environmental Services - \$384,695 for asbestos abatement and demolition; Seese/Sveda Construction Company - \$104,830 for general trades; Emery Electric, Inc. - \$59,900 for electrical; and Bassak Brothers, Inc. - \$53,272 for mechanical.

3. Intercollegiate Soccer Stadium Improvements, Phase II

This phase of the project consists of constructing two locker rooms, a new press box and one-third of the proposed additional seating for the soccer facility on Lee R. Jackson Field. Pending the receipt of sufficient donated funds, contracts will be awarded to low-bidders Cavanaugh Building Corporation (\$771,000 for general trades and site work); Lake Erie Electric, Inc. (\$76,900 for electrical); and ABC Piping Company (\$74,200 for plumbing).

4. New College of Education Building Construction Management Services

After advertising for services and interviewing four firms, The Apostolos Group DBA Thomarios was selected to provide professional construction management services for an academic building that will house classrooms, laboratories and administrative spaces. The construction management services award of \$319,192 was determined according to industry standard as a percentage of the estimated project cost of nearly \$13 million.

5. Multiplex Stadium Team Shop Basic Build-out

The Board approved the purchase of construction trades for the basic build-out of the team shop area in InfoCision Stadium, provided that the aggregate successful bids total no more than \$306,000. Bids will be received on June 17, 2010, and work will need to begin soon thereafter to meet deadlines.

Finance, Fiscal Policy, and Investment Committee

1. Fiscal Year 2010-2011 General Fund and Auxiliary Budgets for Akron and Wayne

Trustees approved a balanced and conservative budget, predicated on a 4-percent enrollment increase for Fall Semester 2010, that enables the University to meet its financial obligations, provide a modest compensation increase and create a budget-stabilization fund, while maintaining essentially flat operational funding. The budget also includes modifying the undergraduate non-resident tuition surcharge to provide the same 12-16 credit-hour payment plateau as is offered to in-state students. More detail on the budget is available from Dr. Baker's April 28 memorandum at <http://www.uakron.edu/edigest/index.php?id=2279> and an executive summary at http://www.uakron.edu/information/docs/Executive_summary_of_2011_budget.pdf.

2. 2010-2011 Course and Miscellaneous Fees

Among the revisions to course and miscellaneous fees approved by the Board are the following significant changes:

- The Transportation Fee will increase by \$35 per semester starting this fall, when the South Campus Parking Deck will open. Faculty and staff rates will not change. The fee is charged to students enrolled in more than five credit hours. The increase will generate \$1.8 million annually, about \$100,000 less than the cost of debt service on the new deck.
- Rates for housing will increase by 6 percent.
- Dining rates will increase an average of 3.5 percent to offset inflationary increases in food and labor.
- For the first time, students who are found responsible for misconduct through Student Judicial Affairs will pay fines.

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

- The Department of Purchasing will buy office supplies through the Inter-University Council Premier Contract Office Supplies Program. The total annual price for office supplies from Office Max via Guy Brown Express through this program is approximately \$470,000. The program offers very competitively priced supplies, a certified minority enterprise option (Guy Brown Express) and a scholarship of \$8,000 per year. In addition, the University intends to process all payments for the program through the JP Morgan Chase procurement card which will provide the University with an approximately 1.65% rebate and should streamline the overall payment process.

- Oracle Corporation will be awarded contracts totaling approximately \$1,489,659.52 for annual maintenance on all PeopleSoft software modules, as recommended by the Department of Information Technology Services and required by Oracle.
- The University in conjunction with the E-group, its long-term campus energy management partner, solicited proposals from 14 potential suppliers for its 75 natural gas Choice accounts, 14 Gas Transportation Service (GTS) accounts, and 1 Large Volume GTS/Steam account. The CFO was authorized to contract with Dominion Retail, Inc., as the preferred provider and lock in gas prices based on the following estimates: Choice accounts at NYMEX plus \$1.13 per MCF burner tip for 23 months, GTS accounts at NYMEX plus \$0.35 per dekatherm for 23 months, and Steam account at NYMEX plus \$0.36 per dekatherm for 18 months. Based on past gas consumption, anticipated usage for August 2010 through June 2012 is estimated to be 888,668/MMBTUs, for a total approximate cost of \$5.6 million.

4. Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Holiday Schedule and 2010 Summer Hours

Trustees approved the following holiday schedule for July 2010-June 2011:

- Independence Day, Monday, July 5, 2010
- Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 6
- Veterans Day, Thursday, Nov. 11, staff holiday; classes will be held
- Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 25
- Friday, Nov. 26, in lieu of Columbus Day, Monday, Oct. 11, 2010
- Christmas, Friday, Dec. 24
- Monday, Dec. 27, in lieu of Presidents' Day on Monday, Feb. 21, 2011
- New Year's Day, Friday, Dec. 31, 2010
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Monday, Jan. 17, 2011
- Memorial Day, Monday, May 30

Summer hours will be observed from Monday, May 10, through August 20, 2010. The summer schedule includes a 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. work day with a 30-minute lunch break.

5. Personnel Actions

The personnel transactions approved by Trustees as amended are posted online at <http://www.uakron.edu/president/docs/Personnel-transactions-April10.pdf>.

Committee on Rules

1. Revisions to Rule 3359-1-02, Officers of the Board and Their Duties

The revisions to this Rule eliminate the title of Vice President of Board Operations.

2. Revisions to Rule 3359-11-07, Sixty Plus Program

Changes to this Rule were recommended by the Office of Student Accounts/Bursar to clarify that students in the Sixty Plus Program will not incur charges for any fees that are not charged to all students in the same course.

3. Revisions to Rule 3359-60-03.6, Graduation

The revisions to this Rule were approved by Faculty Senate at its December 3, 2009, meeting. Graduation with honors requirements has been modified to include that grade-point averages will be rounded to the nearest hundredth.

New Business

1. Expressions of Appreciation to Dr. David B. Baker and Marcus V. Phelps

Trustees passed resolutions honoring two individuals for their service—Dr. David Baker, whose appointment as interim senior vice president, provost and chief operating officer is ending, and Marcus V. Phelps, who is concluding his two-year appointment as a Student Trustee.

Dr. Baker’s resolution said that he “provided more than a decade of exceptional service and achievement, most recently serving as Interim Senior Vice President, Provost and Chief Operating Officer in 2009-2010, in addition to fulfilling his duties as Margaret Clark Morgan Director of the Archives of the History of American Psychology and a senior faculty member in the Department of Psychology.” Noting Dr. Baker’s scholarly productivity and success in growing AHAP, the resolution also noted that he has filled “previous critical interim appointments as Dean of University Libraries in 2004-2005 and, in 2005-2006, Associate Provost for Teaching, Learning and Faculty Development and Director of the Institute for Teaching and Learning, thus enhancing stability and progress during challenging transitions.” It concluded by stating that the Board expressed its “gratitude, respect and ongoing support to Dr. David B. Baker for his exceptional contributions, great professionalism, and selfless and dedicated service beyond the call of duty.”

The resolution honoring Marcus V. Phelps discussed his exceptional level of service as a Board member, as well as his reputation of being a “respected student leader who serves on various campus committees such as the Diversity Council, actively engages with Associated Student Government, and works as a resident assistant in the Exchange Street Residence Hall.” It chronicled his many academic honors, including—earning first place in a statewide DECA business plan competition, receiving the University’s Diversity Award, being recognized by Golden Key International Honour Society and the University’s Office of Multicultural Diversity, and participating on the forensics team and becoming a national qualifier in several speech events and state champion in novice poetry. The resolution ended by expressing the Board’s sincere appreciation to Mr. Phelps “for the leadership, concern and dedication he has shown in fulfilling his duties to the Board, The University of Akron and all of its constituents, especially the students.”

Notes

1. President's Report

I reported to the Board that, being cognizant of the economic challenges that are facing higher education across the nation and in order to better position The University of Akron for fiscal and programmatic success, we have been focusing our attention on three key areas during this fiscal year. Those are what I call the “three Rs”—Retention and Student Success; Revenue Enhancement, Increasing Efficiency and Shared Services; and Reorganization/Restructuring, both administrative and academic.

I reminded Trustees that we began our work in the latter area following my State of the University Address last fall, when I sent a letter to the campus about these issues and then asked Vice President Borgemenke to lead our efforts in administrative restructuring. In January, Dr. Baker asked the Faculty Senate to provide a report by mid April, with some ideas on how we might optimize our academic structure.

I told Trustees that the Faculty Senate Ad-hoc Committee on Organizational Structure and Organizational Effectiveness recently had submitted a report that provided valuable thinking and a proposed process to further engage the University community in discussion and action. For those efforts, I offered my formal thanks to Committee Chair Julia Beckett and the members of that committee, as well as to all Faculty Senate members, for their collaboration in this ongoing initiative.

I also expressed my gratitude to the more than 200 faculty and staff who participated in a series of forums with me over the last several months to explore ideas on how we might serve our students and other constituents even better, and to the many who discussed and worked toward finalizing our strategic plan. Such a high degree of cooperative engagement is becoming more and more evident throughout the University, in both our internal and our external relationships.

I reported that The University of Akron joined with the Council on Competitiveness to present a national roundtable in Washington, D.C. on April 27. The roundtable explored Accelerating Innovation by Enhancing University-Industry Collaboration and Optimizing Commercialization of University Innovations. It was very well attended, with contributions from industry, federal agencies, universities and other important organizations, like the National Academy of Sciences, and will result in formal recommendations to Congress and federal agencies on how best to optimize the economic value of university innovation.

If you happened to glance at the April 27 Plain Dealer, you may have read about another very different cooperative venture in which the University is involved. Along with partners from the Akron Summit Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission and Kent State University, we were trying to bring to Northeast Ohio the Ohio High School Athletics Association Football Finals, possibly in fact to the Greater Akron region in 2012 through 2014. You may know that, for the past few years, our city has hosted the Ohio high school softball state championships, and the University has hosted regional games for high school softball and boys' basketball, as well as regional finals and state semi-finals for football. Also in partnership with the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission, we are in our fourth year of hosting the Cadet and University

Nationals in wrestling at the Stile Athletics Field House. These types of partnerships, along with the many special events that are now being hosted in InfoCision Stadium, are bringing recognition to the area and to the specific sites they are held, adding to the usefulness of our athletic facilities and drawing thousands of people to local hotels, restaurants and other businesses.

On April 9 and 10, the University drew more than 1,000 participants to its third-annual Black Male Summit, which brings together community leaders and nationally recognized educators to address one of the most significant achievement gaps facing higher education. I thanked Associate Vice President for Inclusion and Diversity and Chief Diversity Officer Lee Gill and his staff for that stunning success.

Before offering closing thoughts, I shared three pieces of exciting news.

- On April 19, Governor Strickland and Chancellor Fingerhut visited our campus to announce Ohio's Centers of Excellence in Enabling Technologies: Advanced Materials and Sensors. The University of Akron is home to one of the five centers announced. More specifically, our center for Globally Distinctive Polymer Sciences and Engineering Applied in Regional Industry Clusters was named along with the Austen BioInnovation Institute and others.
- In late March, our School of Law won first place, competing against 16 other schools in the Fifth Annual National Moot Court Competition in Child Welfare and Adoption Law. Akron captured the title by defeating Loyola University Chicago School of Law. Akron law student Emily Trettel was named Best Oralist for her compelling arguments.
- Bloomberg BusinessWeek ranked our College of Business Administration as the best value in Ohio and among the top 40 nationally for giving students the biggest return on their tuition dollars in terms of their earnings after graduation. It is a real credit to our colleagues. You may recall that a similar honor had gone to our law school as best value nationally in public institutions and one of the top few in either public or private institutions.

I then closed with a bit of lightheartedness, sharing a few humorous insights offered by Chairman and President of FirstMerit Corporation Paul Greig when he spoke to our students a few weeks ago during the Seventh Annual Donald Kaufman Lecture. After his providing insightful and entertaining remarks on the topic, Journey into the Workforce, Mr. Grieg concluded with the Top 10 Dumbest Questions he has heard from prospective employees. With his kind permission, I read a few of those:

“If you hire me, can I wait four weeks to start the job?

Can I start my work day 30 minutes later because I sleep late?

How soon can I transfer to another position?

What does your company do?

How many warnings will I get before being fired?”

2. Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Schedule of Board Meetings

The regular meetings of The University of Akron's Board of Trustees are scheduled for the following Wednesdays for Fiscal Year 2010-2011:

- August 4, 2010
- September 8, 2010
- October 6, 2010
- December 15, 2010
- January 19, 2011
- March 23, 2011
- April 27, 2011
- June 15, 2011

All meetings will be held in the Student Union, Board Room 339. Executive session usually will begin at 7:30 a.m. Although the length of executive sessions varies, it is anticipated that the open session of meetings the Board or its committees will begin no earlier than 10 a.m.

3. Next Regular Meeting

The Board's next regularly scheduled meeting will occur on Wednesday, June 16, 2010, in the Student Union, Board Room 339, with an executive session to begin at 7:30 a.m. and the public session to begin no earlier than 10 a.m.

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