

# THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON



**LUIS M. PROENZA**  
**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

November 4, 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 October 6, 2010, and at its special meeting on November 3, 2010. The three items approved on November 3 are listed under New Business and are labeled appropriately.

## **Presentation to the Board**

Dean of the College of Nursing Margaret Wineman and Dean of the School of Law Martin Belsky made a presentation on the University's efforts to become Ohio's leading institution for higher education for veterans. Student veterans Ashley Freeman and James Mace described their successful experiences with UA's veterans' services.

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

1. Approved Purchases for More Than \$150,000
  - Apex Benefit Services, a wholly owned subsidiary of SummaCare, was awarded a one-year contract as the University's Preferred Provider Organization for medical beginning January 1, 2011, with the option to renew for up to two additional one-year periods.
  - Delta Dental of Ohio was awarded a one-year contract as the University's Preferred Provider Organization for dental beginning January 1, 2011, with the option to renew for up to two additional one-year periods.
2. Board-designated Endowment Fund: Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences Scholarship

The Board approved a request by the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences to use excess revenue from the English Language Institute to establish a \$100,000 University endowment fund that will be used to secure matching funds in support of the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences Scholarship.

3. Personnel Actions

The personnel transactions approved by Trustees as amended are posted online at <http://www.uakron.edu/president/docs/Personnel-transactions-October2010.pdf>.

4. Amendment to The University of Akron 403(b) Retirement Plan

Trustees authorized the administration to amend The University of Akron 403(b) Plan and related agreements to permit eligible employees to make after-tax Roth 403(b) employee contributions, effective January 1, 2011. This amendment is being made to provide an additional retirement planning opportunity for eligible University employees. The Ohio Attorney General's office has contracted with the Columbus office of Schottenstein, Zox & Dunn Co., LPA to provide outside legal counsel to the University in connection with the 403(b) Plan.

**Educational Policy/Student Affairs Committee**

1. Graduation List for Fall 2010

Degree candidates must be approved for graduation by their college faculty, Faculty Senate and the Board of Trustees, and the Board is not scheduled for another regular meeting prior to commencement ceremonies on December 11, 2010; therefore, Trustees authorized the senior vice president and provost/COO in consultation with the president to waive the requirement for Board approval in accord with University Rule 3359-60-03.6(F) if the Board does not have a special meeting before December 11 but after Faculty Senate takes action. In the event that the waiver is exercised, the graduation list and statistics for the fall 2010 candidates will be presented to Trustees at the Board's regular meeting on December 15, 2010.

2. Research Grants and Sponsored Programs Report, August 2010

For July-August 2010, funding for externally funded research and other sponsored programs was \$7.9 million for 102 projects. For July-August 2009, funding was \$12.8 million for 122 projects. For July-August 2010, two patents were issued, six patent applications were filed, and six disclosures were submitted. For July-August 2009, one patent was issued, eight patent applications were filed, and five disclosures were submitted.

**External Affairs Committee**

1. Cumulative Gift and Grant Income Report, August 2010

For July-August 2010, total giving was \$4.9 million, 28 percent more than the \$3.8 million received for July-August 2009 and 71 percent more than the five-year average of \$2.8 million. The number of gifts decreased, from 2,263 for July-August 2009 to 2,080 gifts for July-August 2010.

2. Honorary Doctorate for Mr. Ward J. "Tim" Timken

The Board approved the awarding of an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree to Mr. Ward J. "Tim" Timken, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Timken Company. Mr. Timken

leads one of the nation's oldest and most respected brands—a company that employs approximately 430 University of Akron alumni, participates in a robust co-op program with the University and financially supports its College of Engineering. Mr. Timken, who has enhanced the continuing spirit of partnership between The Timken Company and the University by supporting The Timken International Scholarship, is a respected community leader and is involved personally in supporting the University and sharing his knowledge with its students.

### **Facilities Planning and Oversight Committee**

1. Bierce Library Learning Commons, Phase 1A-Second and Third Floors

This project will renovate existing spaces to relocate first-floor operations and make room for the Learning Commons. Contracts were awarded to The K Company, Inc. (\$59,700 for HVAC) and Coastal Quality Construction (\$179,855 for general trades, plumbing/fire protection and electrical).

### **Rules Committee**

1. Rule 3359-2-01, Officers of Academic Administration

The revisions to this rule were proposed by Dr. Sherman in order to establish the Office of Academic Affairs. The current rule will be rescinded, and two new rules will be enacted: (1) Rule 3359-2-01, The Office of Academic Affairs and (2) Rule 3359-2-01.01, Deans of the Degree-Granting and Professional Colleges and Schools.

2. Rule 3359-20-03.10, Guidelines for Initial Appointment, Reappointment, Tenure and Promotion of Full-time Faculty in the School of Law

This new rule was proposed by Dean Belsky to clarify guidelines for the initial appointment, reappointment, tenure and promotion of full-time faculty in the School of Law. In addition, this rule will authorize the appointment of Clinical Professors of Law and Legal Writing Professors in a manner consistent with the accreditation standards of the American Bar Association (A.B.A.) and consistent with the increased recognition of clinical and legal writing instruction as vital components of legal education.

3. Rule 3359-9-02, General Academic and Administrative Personnel Matters

The revisions to this rule were proposed by the Provost's Office to provide greater flexibility for recruitment efforts, particularly for research faculty.

4. Rule 3359-24-01, Bylaws of the Graduate Faculty

The revisions to this rule address the membership size of standing committees of the Graduate Council as a result of the division of the former College of Fine and Applied Arts into the College of Creative and Professional Arts and the College of Health Sciences and Human Services. The proposed revisions were approved by the Graduate Faculty at its April 14, 2010, meeting.

5. Rule 3359-60-06.1, Graduate Student Admissions Requirements

The revision to this rule changes the length of time for which a graduate student's admission is valid from two years to one year, per the rationale included, and it adjusts the application fee for the Graduate School. The proposed revisions were approved by the Graduate Faculty at its April 14, 2010, meeting.

6. Rule 3359-46-01, Motor Vehicle, Traffic and Parking Regulations

The changes to this rule were proposed by Parking Services to require all persons who wish to utilize disability or general parking with their state-issued disability placard to acquire and display a University disability parking permit. The purpose of this policy is to help to identify where disability spaces are needed, regulate the use of these spaces to ensure that they are available for those who need them, and to discourage abuse by people using a state placard issued to another person.

**New Business**

1. Expression of Appreciation to Mr. Zia Ahmed

Board members acknowledged the accomplishments of Mr. Zia Ahmed, an employee of the University during 1998-2010 and the holder of two UA degrees, as Director of Dining Services and Administration since 2005. Ahmed's outstanding record of success at Akron earned him an appointment as Senior Director of Dining Services at The Ohio State University.

2. Ratification of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with Akron-AAUP (**Nov. 3, 2010**)

The Board approved the draft of the Collective Bargaining Agreement presented by The University of Akron's negotiating committee and containing all of the tentative agreements and memoranda of understanding reached between the respective negotiating committees of The University of Akron and the American Association of University Professors, University of Akron Chapter (Akron-AAUP), effective upon ratification by Akron-AAUP membership for an initial term ending on December 15, 2012, which will be extended for an additional period of time until December 15, 2013, including a wage-only re-opener for July 1- December 15, 2013.

3. Closing the University on December 28-30, 2010, and Granting Paid Leave to Contract Professionals and Staff (**Nov. 3, 2010**)

Trustees approved the recommendation of President Proenza that the University be closed December 28-30, 2010—with the exception of facilities and personnel required to conduct previously scheduled events and maintain essential physical infrastructure and safety—and that three days of paid leave be granted to contract professionals and staff for that period.

4. Appointment of Dean, Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences (**Nov. 3, 2010**)

Board members approved President Proenza's recommendation for the appointment of Dr. Chand Midha as Dean of the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences, as discussed in executive session.

Notes

1. President's Report

After reiterating that the key leadership initiatives of the University continue to build very positive momentum and are being recognized nationally as the Akron Model, I reported that, more and more frequently, we are being asked to describe this model to national audiences, as was the case on September 23 when Trustee York and I attended a national regional development conference on Clusters of Economic Activities. The event was hosted in conjunction with The White House by the Brookings Institution, the Council on Competitiveness, the Center for American Progress and the National Association of Development Organizations — with The University of Akron as the only program participant from a university. The program focused on the significance of regional economic clusters to the future of the American economy, and it began with welcoming remarks and a keynote address by Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke.

I was delighted to report Secretary Locke's announcement at the conference that The University of Akron Research Foundation in partnership with the Austen BioInnovation Institute in Akron was the winner for the Chicago region of the i6 Challenge, a competition to identify and support the nation's best ideas for technology commercialization and entrepreneurship in six different regions of the U.S. The Akron project is titled, Innovation Solutions for Invention Xceleration. Each of the six regional winning teams will receive a \$1 million grant from the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration and will be eligible for additional awards from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

Following Secretary Locke's opening keynote, there were two panel discussions. The first included another participant from Northeast Ohio, the CEO of Kent Displays, in a discussion of Clusters as Job Creators. The second discussion, in which I represented universities, examined How Regional Actors Strengthen Clusters, a topic for which the Akron Model was a fine example. Following the luncheon keynote by Eli Lilly and Company CEO Dr. John Lechleiter, a panel discussed Federal Cluster Policies and Initiatives, and the meeting was closed by an address by Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack.

I then invited Trustee York to share his impressions of the conference. He expressed appreciation for the opportunity to participate and his pride to be from The University of Akron, not only in light of the announcement of the i6 grants, but also because of the recognition and acknowledgements of the University's accomplishments by national leaders in regional economic development. Mr. York said that The University of Akron plays a central role as a convener of this consensus-building model of regional development, and he expects that the Akron Model will be emulated around the country. Looking forward, Mr. York encouraged participation and sharing of ideas among the entire University and community toward continued progress.

I thanked Trustee York and encouraged him, as well as others who wish to do so, to join Trustee Pogue and me in attending the upcoming annual meeting of the Council on Competitiveness. I reported also that the University has been invited to participate in a Great Lakes meeting of the Brookings Institution in December.

I then recognized Dr. Newkome and his team, who worked with the Austen BioInnovation Institute in preparing the winning proposal for the i6 Challenge. I noted that a significant report by Dr. Maryann Feldman, the S. K. Heninger Distinguished Chair in Public Policy at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, was released at the conference. That report deals with Northeast Ohio, and Dr. Feldman relied very strongly on interviews with Dr. Newkome and his colleagues. Her report addresses how companies rely on federal programs for cluster development, and the information that Dr. Newkome and his colleagues provided was central to completion of that project.

I then told Trustees that the president of one of the most respected universities in the Netherlands has asked personally to visit our campus. Dr. Bert VanderZwaan, the Rector Magnificus of the University of Utrecht, is interested in learning about our collaborations and spin-offs.

I said that we were in the midst of celebrating one of our newest and most far-reaching collaborations through China Week. As you know, we host a Confucius Institute here and have active partnerships with several notable Chinese universities. On the previous Monday, renowned Chinese scientist Dr. Yuefan Deng lectured on the Chinese Contribution to the World of Science During the Last 100 Years. He is internationally known for developing the parallel computing algorithms that are used universally in scientific applications. On the day prior to the Board meeting, Senior Vice President for Technology at The Timken Company Doug Smith talked about Living and Working in China: An Expatriate's Perspective. That night, New York Times columnist and Pulitzer Prize winner Thomas Friedman would be our guest speaker at E. J. Thomas Performing Arts Hall. The author of several best sellers, including "The World is Flat: A Brief History of the 21st Century," he would discuss recent trends in globalization as the keynote speaker for China Week. I anticipated discussing with Mr. Friedman the fact that more than half of the world's populations are living in cities, and that is projected to increase. I said that China Week activities would continue through Friday evening, when the University would host an Evening Chinese Film Festival.

In conclusion, I shared two significant, related highlights and two reports:

- The University again has been recognized as one of the 99 best places to work in Northeast Ohio by the Employers Resource Council. We were honored at a September 14 banquet, along with other NorthCoast 99 Award recipients, including—InfoCision Management Corporation, the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, Akron Children's Hospital, Akron General Medical Center Healthcare System, Summa Health System and the Cleveland Clinic.

Then, we were informed that the University was selected to receive the Ohio Psychological Association's Healthy Workplace Award. That award comes as a result of a rigorous process that included an in-depth application, a survey of University employees and then a site visit and employee interviews by a team of psychologists.

It is gratifying, indeed, to see the evidence that The University of Akron has become both the university of choice for students and a top-rated employer of faculty and staff.

- I pointed out to Trustees their copies of the executive summary of an update to the report, “Rising Above the Gathering Storm,” by the National Academy of Sciences, noting in particular the factoids listed on page six.
- I then presented to Board members copies of a report on the work that we have been doing with the Urban Serving Universities Coalition titled, “Urban Universities: Anchors Generating Prosperity for America’s Cities.” The report provides examples of ongoing work and the federal agenda that we have been developing in conjunction with our colleagues, which now is being heard in the Congress and potentially will result in significant legislation. One of the pending items is a national Urban Renaissance Act.
- Finally, I invited Trustees to join us on Tuesday, October 26 at 2 p.m. for the annual State of the University Address in the Student Union Ballroom. In addition to some remarks by me, the event would feature live demonstrations by students and faculty about their work from each of our degree-granting colleges.

## 2. Provost’s Report

Dr. Sherman reported to the Board that he began making college visits the previous week, and by the end of this semester, will have visited every college. He said that the purpose of these visits is to meet with faculty and staff to answer their questions, hear their concerns and ideas, and, importantly, incorporate and act upon those ideas if possible. He promised to report a synthesis of that information in the future, but said it is clear from the visits he has made that our faculty and staff are dedicated, conscientious professionals who are here for the students. He said that the greatest opportunity during this interaction is being able to thank those colleagues for making this institution a great place to teach, learn, do research and serve our community. He said that this wonderful opportunity to get to know the colleges continues to affirm that The University of Akron is the right place at the right time and, together, we share a wonderful trajectory.

Dr. Sherman said that we continue to evolve the Office of Academic Affairs, noting that the idea for the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences endowment, which Trustees approved earlier in the meeting, is an example of a new way of thinking, of leveraging and aligning resources to support our students. As you know, student success is our success.

The Provost said that he would be realigning and expanding the activities of two associate provosts. Dr. Rex Ramsier will become the vice provost for academic operations, and a vice provost for academic planning, which is an extension of a previous appointment held by interim dean Chand Midha, is being established. He reiterated that the Office of Academic Affairs was created to stimulate and enable academic excellence and the academic enterprise.

Dr. Sherman then acknowledged Director of Multicultural Development Fedearia Nicholson and Associate Vice President Inclusion and Equity/CDO Lee Gill and their colleagues for their work that led to the University’s receipt of a \$425,000 grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation to focus on recruitment, retention and graduation rates of all students, particularly those of black males. The proposal was called, Rising to the Occasion, and the grant will provide funding to hire a coordinator to support academic achievement and create opportunities for leadership and

student life engagement for all of our students, with a focus on the African American male. This approach is, obviously, linked to our objective to be an exemplary university of inclusive excellence, whereby we will be known by those whom we accept into our learning environment and the value we add for them. That will differentiate us from other universities.

Dr. Sherman reminded the Board that he had reported previously on activities of the Student Success and Retention Group. He informed them of that group's preliminary work last spring to evaluate a software program called MapWorks, an enterprise-wide early intervention system. MapWorks allows students to provide feedback to the University advisors about their academic progress and their sense of community on this campus. Based upon this information and faculty feedback on student performance, academic advisors can proactively advise and address emerging student issues, before those become major and potentially un-resolvable. We have decided to invest in this system for deployment campus wide on the basis of our preliminary study last year that suggested there was increased retention of students who had received support from academic advisors that the system had alerted to issues and concerns.

Dr. Sherman said that it has come to his attention that a number of students have accumulated more than 180 credit hours in their undergraduate careers, a cause for concern. We are working with the deans to examine each of those students' records to determine how we might address their needs to facilitate their graduation.

Dr. Sherman congratulated Holly Harris Bane, Kim Haverkamp and Dr. Yang Lin for putting together a great China week. He acknowledged in particular the faculty who arranged the panels, lectures, art and food exhibits that provided a cultural experience and wonderful opportunity for us to learn more about ourselves from a global perspective. He added that it is important to note that faculty have spent the last 10 or 11 months anticipating China week, and they have involved these principles and perspectives in their courses this semester.

### 3. Next Regular Meeting

The Board's next regularly scheduled meeting will occur on Wednesday, December 15, 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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