

# THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON



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

June 7, 2011

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 27, 2011.

## **Presentation to the Board**

The presentation was on the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program by the University's COFSP Program Director Adam Smith. He was joined by one his Educational Specialists and two students. The goal of the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program at The University of Akron is to produce 800 additional graduates in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. It targets full-time students who would most likely not have the opportunity or desire to pursue a STEM degree, whether they are currently in high school, early in their college careers or in the present workforce.

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

1. Approved Purchases for More Than \$150,000
  - Ciber, Inc. was awarded a \$283,820 contract for consulting services for the review and implementation of the currently owned Oracle-PeopleSoft Time and Labor and Absence Management modules.
  - The blanket purchase order limits for The Douglas Stewart Company and SHI International were increased from \$150,000 each to \$225,000 each in order to extend those blanket orders for the remainder of 2010-2011. Those companies supply Computer Solutions with hardware and software for resale on-campus and to faculty, staff and students.

2. Purchasing Bid Limits and Board of Trustees Pre-approval Limit

In response to a request by the Finance, Fiscal Policy and Investment Committee, the Department of Purchasing conducted a survey of competitive bid limits and reporting requirements among the University System of Ohio institutions and found Akron's limits to be substantially more restrictive than most. A majority of the other institutions have higher bid limits for services and construction, thereby enabling them to respond more quickly to market conditions, opportunities, and immediate needs. Many of the other schools have a Board of Trustees approval limit of \$500,000 or greater, with some only receiving approval during the budgeting process. To align Akron's bid limits more closely with those of the other state institutions and to enable a more agile response to market conditions and opportunities, the Board approved raising the purchasing bid limit from \$25,000 to \$50,000 for services and construction and increasing the Board of Trustees' pre-approval limit from \$150,000 to \$350,000.

3. FY2011-12 Room and Board Rates

Proposed Room and Board rates for FY2011-12 were approved. On average, dining service for student meal plans is increasing by 3.5 percent to cover increased food and labor costs. Residence Life and Housing room rates will increase 5 percent, with the exception of Grant and Gallucci Halls with no rate change. Demolition of the Townhouses for new construction has eliminated 91 beds with no corresponding offset for the revenue stream. In addition, significant increases in personnel expenditures, overhead costs and debt service necessitate an increase to create a balanced budget without use of reserve funds.

4. Holiday Schedule 2011-12 and Summer Hours 2011

Trustees approved the proposed University holiday schedule for FY2011-12 as given below. In addition, summer hours were proposed to run May 9-August 19, 2011, with a work day from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. including a 30-minute lunch break.

Independence Day	July 4, 2011
Labor Day	September 5, 2011
Veterans' Day	November 11, 2011 (Staff holiday; classes held)
Thanksgiving Day	November 24, 2011
In lieu of Columbus Day	November 25, 2011
Christmas Day (observed)	December 26, 2011
In lieu of Presidents' Day	December 27, 2011
New Year's Day (observed)	January 2, 2012
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	January 16, 2012
Memorial Day	May 28, 2012

5. Personnel Actions

The personnel transactions approved by Trustees as amended are posted online at <http://www.uakron.edu/president/docs/Personnel-transactions-April2011.pdf>. The appointment of Fellows of the Institute for Life-Span Development and Gerontology was approved separately from other personnel transactions.

6. Parking Deck 2011 Repair Project

The Board approved awarding contracts within budget for miscellaneous repairs to all campus parking decks in order to complete those repairs in time for the start of the fall 2011 semester. As the University would not have a selection for the Board's approval at its April meeting, the work needed to begin in May to minimize disruption of services and the next regular meeting of the Board was scheduled for June 15, 2011, the administration received Board authorization to enter into contracts once the evaluations were complete, contingent upon (1) the bids coming in at or below the aggregate estimated cost of \$1,595,640 and (2) the individual bids being acceptable to the President, Provost, CFO, Vice President for Capital Planning and Facilities Management, and the Chair of the Finance, Fiscal Policy and Investment Committee of the Board.

**Educational Policy/Student Affairs Committee**

1. Curriculum Recommendations in the College of Education

ED-10-40 Create Certificate Program for Teaching Chinese

The Certificate Program for Teaching Chinese is a 12-month intensive certificate program with 27 credit hours of graduate-level coursework with the long-term goal to enable mid-career professionals to become effective teachers of foreign languages by teaching them best practices in foreign language education.

ED-10-41 Create Certificate Program for Teaching Arabic

The Certificate Program for Teaching Arabic is a 12-month intensive certificate program with 27 credit hours of graduate-level coursework with the long-term goal to enable mid-career professionals to become effective teachers of foreign languages by teaching them best practices in foreign language education.

Faculty Senate approved these proposed new Certificate Programs.

2. Honorary Degree for Spring Commencement Speaker, School of Law

The Board approved the bestowing of an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree upon Law commencement speaker Dr. Francis Gurry, Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization, during the spring 2011 commencement ceremony. Dr. Gurry, an Australian national, was elected as the Director General of WIPO in October 2008. Prior to his election, he served in a number of senior management positions, including deputy director of WIPO from 2003 to 2008. Prior to joining WIPO in 1985, Dr. Gurry practiced law in Australia and served as a Professor of Law at the University of Melbourne and the University of Dijon. He holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Master of Laws from the University of Melbourne and a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Cambridge. His acceptance to be our commencement speaker represents recognition within the international intellectual property community of the many achievements and initiatives of The University of Akron in connection with the promotion of innovation, as well as of the law school's intellectual property program.

3. Recommendation to Merge the Maurice Morton Institute of Polymer Science and the Institute of Polymer Engineering

The College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering requested the approval of the merging of the Maurice Morton Institute of Polymer Science and the Institute of Polymer Engineering. The new name of the Institute would be the Maurice Morton Institute of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering. The Academic Policies Committee of the Faculty Senate recommended approval of the merger.

4. Tentative Graduation List and Statistics for Spring 2011

The tentative graduation statistics for spring and a list of prospective graduates from the Office of the Registrar, as of mid-April 2011, were approved, pending candidates' completion of requirements. Included in the report were the names, listed by college and degree, of candidates eligible to participate in the University's spring 2011 commencement ceremonies. Tentative totals of 2,760 degrees conferred included—37 doctoral, 101 Juris Doctor, 664 master's, 1658 baccalaureate and 300 associate.

5. Lease for University of Akron Presence in Lakewood, Ohio

A proposed six-year lease of the Lakewood Education Center in Lakewood, Ohio in the historic Bailey building in downtown Lakewood was approved. The proposal was made with reliance on the following steps:

- the completion of a thorough market analysis of the community and surrounding employers, which confirms that the potential enrollment population aligns with University enrollment goals in the intended academic areas; and
- the development of a comprehensive business and marketing plan and a six-year budget pro forma, which demonstrate that revenue generated by the Lakewood Education Center will recoup the initial build-out costs and cover all operating expenses by year two and three of the initial lease term and that, by year six, the Lakewood Education Center will generate net marginal revenue; and
- the completion of Letters of Understanding between the Office of Academic Affairs and the colleges of nursing and education, in which the colleges pledge to meet their respective enrollment goals with the understanding that, if they fail to do so, adjustments will be made in the college's share of the revenue generated from the Lakewood Education Center. (Subsequent participating colleges also will be required to enter into a Letter of Intent with the Office of Academic Affairs); and
- the completion of a business plan, which includes market research, a six-year budget plan, political assessment, marketing plan, a Memorandum of Understanding with the city of Lakewood, and architectural renderings developed in consultation with the participating University colleges and University Information Technology Services.

6. Research Grants and Sponsored Programs Report, March 2011

For July 2010-March 2011, funding for externally funded research and other sponsored programs was \$26,002,289 for 337 projects. For July 2009-March 2010, funding was \$33,295,939 for 331 projects. For July 2010-March 2011, five patents were issued, 20 patent applications were filed, and 53 disclosures were submitted. For July 2009-March 2010, four patents were issued, 22 patent applications were filed, and 31 disclosures were submitted.

7. Administrative Convergence of the College of Creative and Professional Arts and the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences

With the approval of the faculties of both colleges and Faculty Senate, the College of Creative and Professional Arts and the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences will converge administratively into the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences. The administration has committed to establish three committees, each composed of faculty from both colleges, to consider and make recommendations regarding the implementation of academic convergence, specifically regarding – (1) college governance, including curriculum and Dean’s Advisory responsibilities, (2) reappointment, tenure and promotion, and (3) opportunities, with subcommittees on interdisciplinary work and global studies; and those committees will bring their recommendations to the appropriate governing bodies, including the Faculty Senate if necessary, during the spring 2012 semester.

**External Affairs Committee**

1. Cumulative Gift and Grant Income Report, July 2010-February 2011

For July 2010-February 2011, total giving was \$24.6 million, 4 percent less than the \$25.7 million received during the first eight months of FY2010 and 10 percent more than the five-year average of \$22.3 million. The number of gifts increased, from 14,957 for July 2009-February 2010 to 15,167 gifts for this fiscal year to date.

**Facilities Planning and Oversight Committee**

1. JAR Basketball Team Facility Improvements Funds

Contracts were awarded to DSV Builders, Inc. - \$226,230 for general trades; D & A Plumbing & Heating Co., Inc. - \$19,199 for plumbing/fire protection; The K Company, Inc. - \$26,400 for HVAC; Speelman Electric, Inc. - \$100,400 for electrical; Environments 4 Business, LLC - \$42,664 for furniture; My Office Products - \$2,170 for equipment; and Industrial Video - \$53,252 for audio visual.

2. Wolf Ledges Engineering Building Bid Event B

Contracts were awarded to Valentine Contractors, Inc. - \$1,107,900 for masonry and precast planks; DSV Builders, Inc. - \$571,322 for general trades; Cardinal Maintenance Roofing, Inc. - \$150,325 for roofing; Hughes Glass Company, Inc. – \$199,500 for glass and glazing; Sona Construction, LLC - \$98,000 for elevator; Fire Protection, Inc. \$87,750 for fire protection; D & A Plumbing & Heating Co., Inc. - \$319,854 for plumbing; Prout Boiler Heating & Welding, Inc. - \$1,483,500 for HVAC;

J.W. Didado Electric, Inc. - \$671,100 for electrical; and Stone Creek Interior Systems - \$278,300 for lab equipment and casework.

3. Bierce Library Learning Commons, Phase 1B – Electrical Re-Bid

A contract was awarded to M & M Electrical Contractors, Inc. - \$620,573 for electrical.

**New Business**

1. Expression of Appreciation to the 2010-2011 Zips Men's Basketball Team and Head Coach Keith Dambrot

The Board formally honored the Mid-American Conference Champion 2010-2011 Zips men's basketball team and thanked Head Coach Keith Dambrot, his staff and the student-athletes of the men's basketball program for the enviable record and tradition of success they have built and for the valuable recognition that the program has brought to the University. The team finished the season with a 23-13 record, becoming the only MAC program among only 19 of 345 Division I teams to post six consecutive seasons of 20 or more wins.

2. Pertaining to Public-Private Partnership for the Wheeler/Grant Residence Hall Development

Having previously authorized the University's administration to negotiate with the Signet Development Group for the construction of a student residence facility pursuant to Resolutions 8-4-10 and 12-16-10, the Board was asked to authorize three additional separate but related actions to enable the project to be completed. The specific actions were (1) a development agreement between the University, Signet and the Summit County Port Authority, pursuant to which the Port Authority will issue bonds to fund the project; (2) a ground lease between the University and the Port Authority; and (3) a facilities lease between the University and the Port Authority.

**Notes**

1. President's Report

I began my report by adding my congratulations and thanks to Head Men's Basketball Coach Keith Dambrot and the 2010-2011 MAC Championship team for their exceptional season. I then introduced Dr. Becky Hoover as the University's new Vice President for Talent Development and Human Resources, and I offered best wishes to departing Chief Communications Officer Barbara O'Malley, who recently accepted a similar position at Webster University.

With regard to one of the primary goals of Vision 2020, Student Success, I reported that a number of developments had taken place during the past month, some of which I summarized:

- On April 25 and 26, the University co-hosted a National Academy of Sciences symposium titled, Building the Ohio Innovation Economy, at the Inter-Continental Hotel in Cleveland. Co-organizers of the event were Vice Chair Pogue, a consultant with Jones Day as well as a University Trustee; David Morgenthaler, founding partner of venture capital investment firm Morgenthaler Ventures; Barbara Snyder, president of Case Western Reserve University; and Rebecca Bagley, CEO of NorTech. Trustee York also had attended.

Mr. Pogue and Mr. York shared observations that the University was well represented, that the Akron Model had been received with great interest, and that the University continues to act as an effective convener on state, national and international levels. A book-length publication will summarize the discussions from the conference for further sharing of best practices.

- On April 14, representatives from seven states visited campus for a closer look at the University's shared-services initiative with Lorain County Community College, led by Vice President Jim Sage. The visit was part of an arrangement with the Lumina Foundation, which approved a joint \$1-million grant application on behalf of the initiative in 2009. As part of that arrangement, the University agreed to host site visits for institutions seeking best business practices. The April 14 visit included senior university administrators from California, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio, West Virginia and Washington state.
- On that same day, the University of Akron Research Foundation hosted a workshop for the six winners of the 2010 i6 Challenge Award from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, an initiative of the U.S. Department of Commerce to promote innovation and commercialization through entrepreneurship. In that first year of the competition, UARF in partnership with the Austen BioInnovation Institute in Akron was the winner of the Chicago region \$1-million award. The workshop was attended by Paul Corson, acting director of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, as well as representatives of other winning regions.
- On April 6, I testified before the Ohio House Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education in Columbus to share the University's approach to economic development and technology transfer.

I said that those items demonstrate the University's collaborative efforts to advance innovation and economic development, but there are many other special activities, including the following:

- On April 9 and 10, approximately 1,000 people attended the fourth annual Black Male Summit. The two-day event attracted participants from around the country. The summit focuses on issues impacting college retention, graduation and engagement. Trustee Woolford commented that he had attended and had enjoyed the event.
- Although the men's basketball team is well appreciated, as acknowledged in the Board's earlier resolution, I shared some additional observations. It is generally understood that tournament and post-season play garner national media exposure. Less well known, perhaps, is the scope and value of that exposure as shown in these statistics from the Nielsen Company:
  - About 270,000 households watched the MAC men's basketball championship game on ESPN2.
  - More than 1 million homes viewed the Akron/Notre Dame game in the NCAA Tournament.
  - Additional references to The University of Akron through game highlights and other stories were broadcast to about 29 million homes.

It is estimated that advertising expenditures to reach similar audiences would exceed \$8 million. Add to those calculations the media attention generated by student-athletes in men's soccer, and track and field, and one begins to appreciate the substantial return on investment that our Athletics colleagues bring to the University.

Consider too the less-quantifiable but no-less-important linkage of community pride to our institution. Every student, parent or fan that sports a Zips hat or T-shirt is a walking billboard for the University. The more the community continues to grow in its pride and identifies with the institution, the stronger our position grows.

I noted that, in the coming weeks, there will be additional opportunities to raise community awareness and pride in our institution:

- More than 2,650 undergraduate and graduate degrees would be conferred at the University's commencement ceremonies on May 6, 7, 8 and 15.
- On May 9, ground would be broken for the new Wolf Ledges Engineering Building, which will house operations that have the potential to become a model of seamless interaction between scholarship, research and commercialization.
- On May 11, Henry Cisneros, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under President Bill Clinton, would join the University Park Alliance for its annual luncheon on campus.

Finally, I reported that I would to promote the University's good work by representing our institution at three significant events:

- on May 3, at the Milken Institute Global Conference in Los Angeles on the topic of business models in higher education;
- on May 16, in a conference at Northeast Ohio Medical University (formerly NEOUCOM) on building Ohio's economy and health through medical research; and,
- on May 24-25, at the request of the National Academy of Sciences, to share the Akron Model with colleagues in Berlin, Germany.

## 2. Provost's Report

Provost Sherman said his update would follow the three Rs—Retention, Revenue and Reorganization. He made the following points:

### RETENTION

- Summer enrollment is up slightly compared to the same time last year, and the deans are acting to ensure that their course offerings are strategic from the perspective of degree completion, persistence and bridging the transition to college from high school to further increase summer enrollment.
- Fall enrollment is projected to increase in both headcount and credit hours of instruction.

- Admissions and New Student Orientation are focusing on increasing application-to-enrollment yield, especially as additional scholarship funds now are available for next year's entering students and, in particular, to support new college-ready students.
- Similarly, student orientation has been redesigned to improve direct enrollment of students into academic majors.

## REVENUE

- We are working to improve student persistence toward degree. This will result in an increase in revenue. In addition, as persistence increases, so does the graduation rate; therefore, over time, the University will realize an improved graduation rate.
- Additional revenue also is anticipated as the University reaches more students through collaborations with Stark State University, Lorain County Community College and possibly others. The University's Organizational Supervision undergraduate major, which will be delivered primarily via distance but in a "hybrid" mode, is a prime example.
- Following up on an issue reported last fall regarding approximately 200 students that had high numbers of credit hours yet had not graduated, Dr. Sherman said that the deans and advisors have been interacting with those students. As a result, approximately 70 percent of them will graduate by the end of 2011 and, by spring 2012, approximately 90 percent are projected to graduate.

## REORGANIZATION

- The initiative previously reported to undertake interactions with deans, department chairs and school directors to optimally align course offerings to a consistent schedule and with a different priority perspective on classroom scheduling beginning in fall 2011 will increase classroom utilization efficiency and effectiveness by at least four percent, if not more. Fewer courses will require space outside of the general-purpose classrooms, allowing more individual attention to students in instructional space assigned to units.
- Noting that the Board would be asked later in the meeting to endorse the proposed administrative convergence of the College of Creative and Professional Arts and the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Sherman expressed his appreciation to the faculty and staff of those colleges for their participation in the shared governance and deliberative process to reach this step. He recognized in particular Dean Chand Midha and his leadership team for facilitating this very quick, collaborative step. He also extended gratitude to the Faculty Senate and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee for the advice they provided during the process.
- Looking forward, a Board proposal is anticipated for June that would create a new health college into which the health-related programs will have the opportunity to move. That step will set the stage for yet-unrealized leveraging opportunities that exist with the three local hospital systems, Northeast Ohio Medical University, Austen BioInnovation Institute in Akron, and others.

- Dr. Sherman reported that, during the prior week, he had delivered the first State of Academic Affairs Address to the University, which he pointed out, was really a “future” State of Academic Affairs address as its objectives project the University’s future academic state. Noting that some of the items mentioned in the address were covered in this progress report, he reiterated for Trustees four remaining points from that speech:
  1. We will be ready to pursue proactively Vision 2020 goals beginning next academic year, with the support and endorsement of the Board.
  2. We must and we will reform our general-education curriculum over the next academic year to ensure that our academic undergraduate programs are globally relevant and generate productive citizens of tomorrow.
  3. We will devise a budget strategy that supports investment in centers or clusters of innovation, for which initial seed funding and cash will lead to sustainability of those centers from external sources.
  4. We will devise a strategy to add 200 new faculty members during the coming nine years to increase the number of full-time faculty on this campus and to realize our research goals and aspirations.

Dr. Sherman assured Trustees that opportunities presented by reorganization will be optimized by ensuring that student progress and faculty development are not impaired and savings are reinvested into academic programs.

Dr. Sherman apprised Trustees of his agenda for his upcoming travel to Asia, noting that the trip originated with an invitation to address graduates at SIAS University, with which UA has an established and growing relationship. College of Education faculty will be there at the same time, working to further develop that relationship by devising approaches to bring SIAS students to The University of Akron in coming years.

Dr. Sherman said the trip also would include visits to:

- Henan University, with which the University is affiliated through the Confucius Institute, where he will again meet with faculty to further establish ties, particularly with UA’s College of Nursing and College of Business Administration ;
- Beijing Institute of Science and Technology, where he and Dean Stephen Cheng will meet with faculty and leadership to further establish relationships and opportunities to bring students from there to the University for training in polymer sciences;
- UA’s first alumni association in Taiwan;
- Yonsei University in Korea, and with UA alumni who are vice presidents in the business and industry sector in South Korea.

Dr. Sherman will update the Board on the success of this trip at its next meeting.

In closing, Dr. Sherman expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to update Trustees on matters related to academic support units, enabling academic accomplishment, academic accomplishment itself, and matters related to gaining increased operational effectiveness. He said that all of these actions are predicated from the perspective of our number-one goal, that student success is our success.

3. FY2011-2012 Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule

Regular Board meetings will be held in the Student Union Board Room on the following dates:

Wednesday, August 3, 2011  
Wednesday, September 21, 2011  
Wednesday, October 26, 2011  
Wednesday, November 30, 2011  
Wednesday, January 18, 2012  
Wednesday, March 14, 2012  
Wednesday, May 2, 2012  
Wednesday, June 13, 2012

4. Next Regular Meeting

The Board's next regularly scheduled meeting will occur on Wednesday, June 15, 2011 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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