

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON



LUIS M. PROENZA
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 24, 2012

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 14, 2012.

Presentation to the Board

Dr. Stephen Z. D. Cheng, dean of the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering, presented a summary of the college's international BS/MS partnership. After completing three years of undergraduate study at a partner institution, students in the program complete two years of graduate study in polymer science or polymer engineering at The University of Akron, bearing all costs and fulfilling all established degree requirements. Partner institutions are Beijing University of Chemical Technology, Shanghai Jiaotong University, East China University of Science and Technology at Shanghai, Donghua University at Shanghai, Soochow University at Suzhou, Sichuan University at Chengdu, and South China University of Technology at Guangzhou.

Finance & Administration Committee

1. Personnel Actions

The personnel transactions approved by Trustees as amended are posted online at <http://www.uakron.edu/bot/docs/personnel-reports/Personnel-transactions-March2012.pdf>.

2. Cumulative Gift and Grant Income Report for July 2011-January 2012

For July 2011-January 2012, giving totaled \$38.5 million, 61 percent more than the \$23.9 million received for July 2010-January 2011 and 88 percent more than the five-year average of \$20.5 million. The number of gifts decreased from 14,351 for July 2010-January 2011 to 13,830 for this fiscal year to date.

3. Quarterly Financial Report for Period Ended December 31, 2011

As of December 31, the overall year-to-date budget trailed estimates by \$4.1 million. Actual totals for spring 2012 enrollment were generally flat relative to spring 2011, resulting in projected tuition/fee income of approximately \$10 million below estimate. After positive offsets for State Share of Instruction and other activities, the projected net revenue shortfall was approximately \$8 million. Action has been taken to suspend some strategic investments, resulting in an additional \$4 million to apply against the deficit, estimated under-spending in payroll and other areas would cover the remaining shortfall. A dialogue is underway to encourage management of expenditures to ensure a healthy income statement.

4. Quarterly Investment Report for Period Ended December 31, 2011

The second-quarter rate of return was 0.45 percent with an annual return of 2.37 percent for operating funds. Those investments generated \$1.1 million in income for the first half of the fiscal year. The market value of endowments for the first half of FY12 fell nearly \$5.7 million. The portfolio composite of the pooled endowments increased 6.5 percent in the second quarter of the fiscal year, partially offsetting significant losses in the first quarter.

Academic Issues & Student Success Committee

1. Establishment of a National Center for Education and Research on Corrosion and Materials Performance

Faculty in the College of Engineering submitted a request to establish the National Center for Education and Research on Corrosion and Materials Performance within the college. The Academic Policies Committee reviewed and unanimously approved the proposal.

The Center will support the delivery of all degree programs in corrosion engineering; conduct research aimed at preventing and/or mitigating corrosion; deliver workforce training and certification programs supporting industry needs; and sponsor public awareness and policy events related to corrosion and materials performance. The motivating factors for the creation of the center are as follows: 1) The University will be establishing a pipeline of critical resources to ensure that future public and private investments in equipment and infrastructure are designed and implemented in a manner that minimizes the impact of corrosion and thus reduces the cost to sustain those assets. 2) More than \$20 million of investments and commitments by the U.S. Department of Defense and industry supporting this initiative result in the center being self-sustaining with no new funds requested from the University. 3) Collaborative relationships have been developed with the U.S. Department of Transportation and multiple industry partners (such as BP, Swagelok, Timken, Exxon Mobil and PPG etc.) providing research opportunities that will enable the program to recruit and retain the best and brightest faculty and students. 4) The Center will provide co-op and internship opportunities that will promote and ensure student success. 5) The Center provides the University the unique opportunity of forming partnerships with trade associations (such as NACE, SPC and ASM International) for corrosion training and certification.

Anticipated benefits of the successful operation of the Center include – 1) positioning the University to leverage relationships and shape national dialogue on the prevention of corrosion and degradation of materials, thus gaining recognition as a unique national and international program; 2) attracting future funding to support the center from a combination of public and private sponsors and through

a mix of sole-source and competitive activities; and 3) encouraging representation and participation across multiple colleges and being nurtured and fostered as a University asset, though housed in the College of Engineering.

2. Move of the Divisions of Child & Family Development and Clothing, Textiles & Interiors to Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty in the School of Family and Consumer Sciences have requested to move those divisions of the school that were not converged with the College of Health Sciences and Human Services to the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences. On November 28, 2011, the Academic Policies Committee unanimously recommended that the divisions of Child & Family Development, including its Center for Family Studies, and Clothing, Textiles & Interiors be moved to Buchtel College as a school or department of Family & Consumer Sciences. Anticipated benefits of the move include – 1) a more suitable academic fit between the divisions of Child & Family Development and Clothing, Textiles & Interiors with departments and schools in Buchtel College (such as Psychology, Sociology and Art) that will facilitate growth and development that have been hindered due to the current structure; and 2) enhanced intercollegiate and interdisciplinary collaboration while providing high-quality educational experiences.

3. Proposed Honorary Degree for Honorable Solomon Oliver, Jr., Chief Judge

At its February 2012 meeting, the faculty of the School of Law unanimously voted to propose bestowing an honorary degree on the Honorable Solomon Oliver, Jr., Chief Judge of the United States District Court Northern District of Ohio, at the 2012 Law Commencement Ceremony. Judge Oliver will be the keynote speaker for that ceremony.

4. Research Grants and Sponsored Programs Reports, July 2011-January 2012

For July 2011-January 2012, funding for externally funded research and other sponsored programs totaled \$45,191,098 for 292 projects. For July 2010-January 2011, funding was \$20,641,951 for 263 projects. For July 2011-January 2012, 6 new patents were issued, 21 patent applications were filed, and 33 disclosures were submitted—compared to 4, 15 and 39, respectively, for July 2010-January 2011.

Rules

1. Approved Revisions to University Rule 3359-11-03, Vacation Policy for Full-Time 12-Month Faculty, Other Than Bargaining Unit Faculty, Contract Professionals, and Unclassified Exempt Staff

This University rule indicated that full-time unclassified exempt staff positions (which include post-doctoral research positions) were eligible to earn 22 days of vacation per year. The revisions to the rule exclude the post-doctoral research positions from being eligible to accrue vacation time.

2. Revisions to University Rule 3359-11-15, Reemployment Procedures for Retirees Other Than Retirees Who Elected to Retire Under a University of Akron Early Retirement Incentive Program for all Employees Other Than Bargaining Unit Faculty

The revisions to this University rule operate to freeze the base salary of retirees who are reemployed and provide that any stipends or other payments made to the employee during the term of

reemployment shall not be added to or otherwise considered as part of the base salary of the individual. The Strategic Issues Committee of the Board discussed the revisions to this rule at its meeting on January 9, with referral to the Rules Committee at the March meeting.

New Business

1. Gratitude to Ms. Melissa Alford-Snyder

The Board recognized Ms. Melissa Alford-Snyder for her exemplary leadership in completing and implementing the University's new Student Code of Conduct in 2010 and thanked her for her four years of service to the University as director of the Department of Student Judicial Affairs.

Notes

1. President's Report

After welcoming newly appointed Student Trustee Bowdler, I reported that Dr. Harvey Sterns, chair of the Faculty Senate and director of the Institute for Lifespan Development, joined me in attending a meeting of the Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable at the National Academy of Sciences in February. The meeting covered challenges and opportunities of an aging population and featured a number of very important presentations. In light of the dynamic trends toward lifespan and career longevity, I have asked Dr. Sterns to consider inviting one of the speakers to campus for a similar presentation. Noting the high degree of respect that was evident for Dr. Sterns from his distinguished peers in the fields of gerontology and sociology, I acknowledged to Trustees the value for the University of the Institute for Lifespan Development and Gerontology in understanding aging and the resulting opportunities for achievement.

I reported that I had just returned from representing The University of Akron at an international conference on innovation in Prague, capital of the Czech Republic. I joined colleagues from Cambridge University, Johns Hopkins University and several universities in the Czech Republic for a panel on Innovation Lessons from Universities and Other Research Organizations. I noted that our participation further strengthened our relationship with the National Academies and the U.S. Navy, which helped to organize the conference. Participation in the conference led to an invitation by William Colglazier, science advisor to U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, to participate in a comparable, emerging endeavor with Canada.

I went directly from Prague to Washington, D.C. for the Ohio Birthday Party celebration. I thanked Trustees and others present who also participated, noting that more than 400 guests attended, including Senators Brown and Portman, dozens of congressional representatives and a large contingency of legislative staff. I recognized Vice President John LaGuardia and his staff for organizing that annual event, which has grown steadily since being initiated by the University nearly 14 years ago. I also thanked the many corporate and nonprofit sponsors.

I then reported the following recent developments:

- The STEM High School that is planned in collaboration with the Akron Public Schools to begin at the former Central-Hower High School building received a major boost last month when the GAR Foundation announced a \$150,000 award immediately and a \$650,000 challenge grant.

- One of the University's spin-out companies, ADAP Nanotech LLC, received \$250,000 in investment from JumpStart Inc. to begin pilot production of an advanced material based on gecko research here. Rather than an adhesive application, the product they seek to develop is a carbon nanotube pad that could provide heat dissipation properties for electronics.
- Akron SCORE, a business nonprofit that supports local entrepreneurs, has entered into an agreement with the Taylor Institute for Direct Marketing and the Suarez Applied Marketing Research Laboratories as venues for SCORE's workshops and counseling activities.
- Students in the College of Business Administration have won a number of business-plan competitions recently, and Dean Ravi Krovi soon will announce some new assessments of the college that place it in the top third of colleges of business.

Next, I acknowledged Zips athletics team for their recent achievements.

- Men's basketball attained the University's first Mid-American Conference regular-season championship and advanced to the final of the MAC Tournament and first round of the National Invitation Tournament.
- Men's track and field won its second-consecutive Mid-American Conference indoor championship before more than 1,000 spectators at the Stile Athletics Field House last month.
- Co-ed rifle earned the Master-Class Smallbore title at the Mid-Atlantic Conference championships in February.
- Swimming and diving for won the Scholar All-American Team award with a team grade point average of 3.43, which is the highest in the Mid-American Conference.

I encouraged all present to extend their congratulations prominently to those teams and coaches. I then highlighted a few significant events that would take place before the next Board meeting.

- On March 26, the University would co-host a National Academies conference on Diversity and Achievements: The Role of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) in the Midwest. The academy has been tasked by the National Institute of Standards and Technology to evaluate the MEP Program. The daylong conference would be held at our National Polymer Innovation Center.
- A talk by Jim Petro, Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents, was planned for April 12, pending confirmation.
- The annual Black Male Summit, which continues to grow in size and prestige, would be held on campus on April 13. I called on Associate Vice President Gill to comment on that event.
- On April 24, the University would host its annual Inclusive Excellence Forum. Dr. E. Gordon Gee, president of The Ohio State University, would give the keynote address.

I also reminded the Board that five commencement ceremonies would take place on May 4-6 and the School of Law commencement will be held on May 13. I encouraged Trustees to attend one or more of those ceremonies.

In closing, I shared news of recognition received by two Board members:

- Chair Ann Amer Brennan has been selected as the 2012 recipient of the Sir Thomas More Award, presented by the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland. The award is given each year in recognition of a member of the legal community who demonstrates outstanding personal integrity, community service and professional excellence. I could not think of a better description than that for Mrs. Brennan. She will receive the award from Bishop Richard Lennon on May 1 at a Red Mass at St. Bernard-St. Mary's Church in Akron.
- The American Red Cross of Cleveland will present its Humanitarian Award to Dick and Patricia Pogue at the Red Cross Ball at the InterContinental Hotel in Cleveland on June 23. The award is bestowed on individuals who embody the spirit of the American Red Cross through their contributions to the welfare and quality of life of the residents of Northeast Ohio.

2. Provost's Report

Dr. Sherman began by reporting on preparations for the Higher Learning Commission reaccreditation visit in March 2013. He said that regular progress reports would be provided.

After noting that the self-study process includes materials that serve as our student academic success framework, he said that the self-study committee already has been meeting regularly, and writing team leaders were forming teams to draft the self-study document over the next several months. In addition, he said, University-wide communications stressed the importance of the process and participation and requested additional support. A website dedicated to the reaccreditation process is in place. He added that wide participation across the University and within the community is key to a successful self-study. Board members will be asked to be available at appropriate points during the visit, March 3-6, 2013.

In response to a question from Judge Bond, Dr. Sherman said there is a component of the process to assess Board actions in support of institutional success. He added that the Academic Issues & Student Success Committee would be updated on the elements of the HLC reaccreditation report at its next meeting.

Following up to Dr. Proenza's comments earlier in the meeting, Dr. Sherman reiterated that, pursuant to Vision 2020, the FY2012 budget will be balanced without affecting open faculty searches. He said the administration is committed to completing the analysis needed to make decisions about allocation of institutional resources among and within academic and academic-support units. Dr. Sherman said that, for FY2013, the Board's instructions to assure strategic investment will be valued, particularly in the Achieving Distinction program that will focus on regional solutions, medicine and health, the human condition and innovative technologies. He said that the academic mission and the success of the academic units have top priority.

Dr. Sherman reported that a comprehensive, multi-media marketing strategy to promote summer 2012 enrollment began February 29 and would continue through April 18, as planned. He credited Wayne Hill and Eileen Korey for that effort, and he provided copies of the relevant materials.

Dr. Sherman said that a relentless focus on persistence will continue with regard to summer enrollment and fall 2012 yield (admitted students who actually enroll). He said the yield benchmarks are being monitored closely at important steps in the admission process, such as completing the FAFSA form, attending Senior Visit Day, confirming admission and registering for New Student Orientation.

He said the Admissions Office has met with every college to identify yield opportunities, and progress on those activities is being tracked. Examples include:

- A monthly communication plan for admitted students;
- Congratulation letters from deans to admitted students;
- Congratulation letters from deans to parents of admitted students;
- College visit days, including Saturdays, for admitted students to meet faculty, staff and students;
- Lab tours for STEMM disciplines, during which faculty, staff and students talk about current research;
- Targeted-group college visits, such as admitted Honors students, women in STEMM disciplines, and students of color; and
- A redesigned New Student Orientation that has more one-on-one faculty content.

Dr. Sherman added that a week of phone calls to admitted students who have not yet committed to enroll would be conducted to secure their attendance at this University.

Dr. Sherman said he would present the second State of Academic Affairs on March 21 at 3 p.m. in Simmons Hall. He invited all to attend and noted that the address would be streamed live on the Web and recorded.

3. Next Regular Meeting

The Board's next regularly scheduled meeting will occur on Wednesday, May 2, 2012 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. Committee meetings will be held on Monday, April 30, with a planned starting time of 7:30 a.m.

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