

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON



LUIS M. PROENZA
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 5, 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 December 16, 2009.

Presentations to the Board

Dr. George Haritos, dean of the College of Engineering, and Associate Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Edward Evans presented information on the college's corrosion engineering program.

Educational Policy/Student Affairs Committee

1. Naming of Multiplex Phase I Student Housing

The Board approved naming the first phase Multiplex residence hall as Spicer Residence Hall, following an administrative recommendation that the name would reflect "both a former student services building on a nearby site, as well as the street intersection."

2. Graduation List for Fall 2009

Trustees ratified the graduation list and statistics for 1,206 fall 2009 candidates. The total includes candidates for 25 doctoral, 25 juris doctor, 273 masters, 738 baccalaureate and 141 associates degrees.

3. Research Grants and Sponsored Programs Report – July-October 2009

For July-October 2009, funding for externally funded research and other sponsored programs was \$21.2 million for 188 projects. For July-October 2008, funding was \$21.8 million for 196 projects.

For July-October 2009, one patent was awarded, 14 patent applications were filed, and 13 disclosures were submitted. For July-October 2008, four patents were issued, seven patent applications were filed, and 28 disclosures were submitted.

External Affairs Committee

1. Cumulative Gift and Grant Income Report – July-October 2009

For July-October 2009, total giving was \$13.4 million, 78 percent greater than the \$7.5 million received during the first four months of FY2008-09 and 51 percent greater than the \$8.9 million average for the previous five years to date. UA received 7,798 gifts in the 2009-10 fiscal year to date, compared to 7,576 for the prior fiscal year to date.

Facilities Planning and Oversight Committee

1. Authorization to Proceed on Capital Projects

Board members authorized the administration to proceed with three capital projects: (1) E.J. Thomas Performing Arts Hall Deferred Maintenance Including Building Envelope, \$2.3 million; (2) Intercollegiate Soccer Stadium Improvements – Phase I (lighting and playing field reconstruction to maintain playability during seasonal weather conditions), \$1.7 million; and (3) Whitby Hall 107/110 and Olson Hall 302/303 remodeling for the College of Engineering, \$700,000. Funding for the projects is from restricted bond revenue sources.

2. New Law School Building Design

A contract for professional design services through the design development phase for the project was awarded to URS for \$504,000. In addition, if the state provides \$13.6 million in capital funding for the project and another \$10 million is raised for the project through a combination of donations and School of Law revenues, URS will be paid \$936,000 more to complete the facility design. URS, one of four firms interviewed, was selected based on its presentations and relevant experience.

3. Auburn West Tower Rehabilitation—Controlled Environmental Rooms

Trustees approved a \$244,750 contract with Diversified Piping & Mechanical, Inc., for flooring materials in environmental rooms.

Finance, Fiscal Policy, and Investment Committee

1. Quarterly Report – July-September 2009

Trustees reviewed the preliminary quarterly financial report for July-September 2009. In that period, revenue for the Akron campus was \$160.1 million or about 0.9 percent more than what was estimated in the budget. Expenditures totaled \$83.2 million for the quarter, or about 1.5 percent less than what was budgeted. Revenue at Wayne College for the quarter was nearly \$6 million, or about 1.9 percent more than budgeted, and expenditures at Wayne totaled \$2.7 million, or about 3.8 percent more than budgeted.

2. Purchase for More Than \$150,000

The Board awarded Frontline Logic, Inc., a \$389,854 contract to complete the Design and Implementation Phase (Phase II) and College Level Curriculum Proposal Review Process Improvement Project (Phase IIIa).

3. Personnel Actions

The personnel transactions approved by Trustees as amended are posted online at <http://www.uakron.edu/president/docs/Personnel-transactions-Dec09.pdf>.

Rules

1. O.A.C. 3359-11-22, Criminal Background Checks for University Employees

Revisions to this Rule were approved in order to both clarify the intent and the language of the current University Rule and avoid any real or perceived conflict with the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA).

2. O.A.C. 3359-11-24, Effort Commitment and Certification

This new Rule will establish University policy for the certification of effort expended on sponsored project awards administered by the University. The policy is designed to insure that effort certifications are accurate and reasonably reflect the levels of effort expended in support of the sponsored project, consistent with the requirements of Circular A-21.

3. O.A.C. 3359-60-03.6, Graduation

The revisions to this Rule were proposed by the Academic Policies Committee of the Faculty Senate. Faculty Senate approved the rule change at its May 7, 2009, meeting. The approved revisions to this Rule allow students to receive honors with second and subsequent degrees.

4. O.A.C. 3359-60-04.2, Regulations Regarding Refunds: Credit/Noncredit

Approved revisions to this Rule conform the Rule to the current refund policies utilized by Student Accounts for credit courses and by Workforce Development and Continuing Education for noncredit courses.

5. O.A.C. 3359-60-06.5, Graduate Fees and Refunds

Approved revisions to this Rule conform the Rule to the current refund policies utilized by Student Accounts for credit courses.

New Business

1. 2009 Men's Soccer Team Acclamation

Both the Board and President Proenza issued expressions of appreciation to Head Men's Soccer Coach Caleb Porter, his staff and the student-athletes of the 2009 team that advanced to the NCAA College Cup and finished second in the nation with a 23-1-1 record. The historic season included a NCAA record-tying 23 consecutive wins, 19 shut outs encompassing all five tournament matches, top national season rankings in scoring and goals against, five school records, continued conference dominance in the MAC, and numerous individual honors, including three NSCAA All-Americans and two Academic All-Americans.

2. SAS70 Audit Contract

Board members approved a recommendation of the Audit Committee to award a SAS70 audit contract to SS&G Financial Services, Inc., for a five-year period at an average annual cost of \$27,000. The SAS70 audit is needed to provide assurances to Lorain County Community College and its external auditors regarding the sufficiency of the University's processing of LCCC data on Akron's information system as part of our shared services project.

3. One-time Lump Sum Payment

Trustees approved the recommendation of President Proenza to grant all full-time employees a one-time payment amounting to 2 percent of their current base salary by the end of 2009 for non-unionized employees and, for unionized employees, upon negotiation and execution of a collective bargaining agreement for each respective employee union. The one-time payment will not be added to base salaries.

Notes

1. President's Report

I began my report by suggesting that, as we prepare for the holidays, I hoped we could take some time and reflect on this year's accomplishments and the opportunities before us. Indeed, there are many exciting things that have happened this year. We have demonstrated significant achievements on our ambitious, shared goals—in research; scholarly activity; teaching; community, university, and professional service; and in so many other ways.

Probably nothing exemplifies the excellence that we saw during the year and puts an exclamation point on the year's accomplishments more so than the success of our men's soccer team. We will deal with that formally in a few moments, but let me just say a couple of words now. After playing to a scoreless tie through 110 minutes of play and as a result of penalty kicks, the team earned second place in national competition at the NCAA College Cup. Clearly, the Zips Men's Soccer Team put together the greatest season in program history. The team matched the NCAA single-season record for most consecutive wins while setting five school records, which is a significant accomplishment given the proud history of men's soccer here. There is only one word to convey our pride and gratitude to Head Coach Caleb Porter, his staff, and his outstanding student-athletes for

the way they have represented The University of Akron, and that is WOW! I informed the Board that, on December 18, the Cleveland Cavaliers would be honoring our men's soccer team during their game against Milwaukee.

Next, I told Trustees that, in a few weeks, we would be entering a new year and a new decade with significant momentum, great pride, and the true confidence that is born of the success that we have earned, not without challenges of course. We will now have a new blueprint for action – a new strategic plan that will shape our future through 2020 – a plan that will allow this institution to make additional historic strides. In January, we will be moving toward the implementation phase, fully cognizant of the current challenges and demands facing higher education yet, we believe, bold enough to accept and act upon the opportunities such a change brings.

I then shared a couple of other highlights of the recognition that your University is gaining in a variety of ways.

In November, I had the opportunity to present some of our strategic thinking to an international audience as an invited participant in the prestigious Beijing Forum. My remarks were built around a three-part theme of Relevance, Connectivity, and Productivity. As one of only two United States university presidents invited to speak and attend as guests of the Chinese government (the other being David Skorton of Cornell)—I felt that not only I, but The University of Akron as well, were singled out and honored by their invitation. As you know, our collaboration with China is expanding. It now includes the Confucius Institute, annual trips by our students, agreements with Shanghai Jiao Tong University and Soochow University in Suzhou, and, as of this last trip, a joint Ph.D. program with Peking University, China's leading university. It also was most rewarding to see how many alumni we have there that are welcoming this growing participation, and it is very much with their investment that it is happening.

Following the China trip, I was invited to tell The University of Akron's story at two national forums. I moderated a discussion at the annual meeting of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities during which members of the panel, including Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic and senior officials from the National Science Foundation and the National Governors' Association, talked about what it is that the public is asking from higher education. I noted that Mayor Plusquellic also was presented with APLU's 2009 Urban Hero Award. Shortly thereafter, I participated in National Academies of Science International Conference on Science, Technology and Innovation to address the topic of "Building Regional Strength: The Akron Experience."

I shared with Board members copies of this year's annual report to the community and told them that we are being prudent in the cost of that publication by printing it in limited quantities and using a Web-based version. The report is a summary of the progress made during the past decade, an accounting of most of our recent academic year, and an indication of our plans to address the challenges and opportunities of the near future as boldly as we can.

I concluded my report by thanking all who have made possible our success during the past nearly 11 years as we now enter the second decade of the 21st century. I am confident that together we will continue to invent a bright future for our region, our state, and, of course, The University of Akron. It is in that spirit that, with confidence and anticipation for our future, I wished all season's greetings and a Happy New Year.

2. Next Regular Meeting

The Board's next regularly scheduled meeting will occur on Wednesday, January 20, 2010, in the Board office on the third floor of the Student Union, with an executive session to begin at 7:30 a.m. and the public session to begin no earlier than 10 a.m.

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