

December 4, 2006

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 meeting on October 25, 2006.

### **Presentation to the Board**

Jim Sage, vice president for information technology, presented "Enabling Innovation: Conception, Creation, Design and Implementation."

### **Educational Policy/Student Affairs Committee**

#### 1. Approval of New Degree in Biochemistry

Trustees approved a bachelor's of science degree in biochemistry, an interdisciplinary program that involves existing courses in the departments of chemistry, biology and others. The program has been approved by the Curriculum Review Committee and the Faculty Senate and will be submitted for approval to the Ohio Board of Regents.

#### 2. Approval of Center for Information Technologies eBusiness in College of Business Administration

Trustees approved the formation of the Center for Information Technologies eBusiness (CITe), a multi-disciplinary center within the College of Business Administration. The center seeks to advance information technologies, information systems and e-business curriculum, programs, research best practices and related activities at the University. The center will develop instructional materials for classroom use, provide faculty with training in the

technical and management aspects of information systems, and organize meetings and lectures by experts in information systems and eBusiness. The proposal was approved by the Academic Policies Committee and the Faculty Senate.

3. Criminal Background Checks for Residential Life and Housing Employees

Trustees approved a rule that subjects residence hall employees who have access to student living areas and common areas to criminal background checks on an annual basis. Individuals will be precluded from employment if they have pleaded to or have been found guilty of specified criminal offenses that fall within general criminal categories, such as felonies, sex offenses, offenses of violence, theft or drug abuse offenses.

4. Research Grants and Sponsored Programs Report – July-September 2006

For the first three months of the fiscal year, funding for externally funded research and other sponsored programs was \$9.97 million to support 145 projects. For the same period in the prior fiscal year, \$11.1 million was awarded to support 110 projects. In July-September 2006, three patents were awarded, nine patent applications were filed, and 19 disclosures were submitted. In July-September 2005, four patents were issued, seven patent applications were filed, and 15 disclosures were submitted.

**External Affairs Committee**

1. Cumulative Gift and Grant Income Report – July - September 2006

For the first two months of the fiscal year, total giving was \$2.4 million, about 27 percent more than was received for the same period in Fiscal Year 2006. During July-August 2006, 1,301 gifts were accepted, compared to 1,436 received during the same period last year.

**Facilities Planning and Oversight Committee**

1. Chiller Replacement, Phase II

Trustees approved contracts for \$669,177 as part of the second phase of the chiller replacement project at the Physical Facilities and Operations Center. The Trane Co. will provide the chillers, with mechanical service from S.A. Communale Co. and electrical work from Montecalvo Electric Co. Each was the low bidder.

2. Center for the History of Psychology

Trustees approved awarding \$240,000 to Creo Design, Inc. and Chaintreuil/Jensen/Stark Architects for design services for the Center for the History of Psychology. Eleven firms or collaborations responded to the request for proposals, three of which were interviewed. The joint venture was selected because of their presentation and their relevant experience on similar projects.

3. Purchases of Property

In separate votes, the Trustees approved the purchase of property at 229 Spicer Street for \$80,000; 406 Nash Street for \$87,750; and 487 Kling Street for \$48,000.

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

1. Financial Report for First Quarter of FY2007 – July-September 2006

To improve the financial reporting for the University, quarterly reports will be provided from now on. At the meeting, the Trustees reviewed the first-quarter financial results in this new format.

For the first quarter, revenue for the Akron campus was \$134.6 million, or about 4 percent above what was estimated in the budget. This primarily is the result of the increase in fall enrollment. Expenditures were \$65.7 million for the period, or about \$3.3 million less than what was budgeted, because of cost savings and because not all merit increases for bargaining-unit faculty members had been finalized.

Revenue for the first quarter at Wayne College was \$5.1 million, or about 0.6 percent below budget. Less-than-anticipated credit-hour production in the summer was the primary reason for the shortfall. Expenditures for the same period were \$2.2 million, or about 19 percent less than budgeted, in part because not all merit increases for bargaining-unit faculty members had been finalized.

**Investment Report for Endowments**— For the first quarter, The University of Akron Endowment Fund increased \$1.8 million to \$55.6 million, the result of gifts, fund transfers, endowment income and realized gains. Combined endowment assets— the University endowment plus The University of Akron Foundation endowment— now total \$190.6 million.

2. Personnel Actions (attached)

**Committee on Rules**

1. Access and Acceptable Use of University Computer and Informational Resources

Trustees approved revisions to the rule that define (1) the privileges and responsibilities of computer users, (2) the access and use standards, and (3) the procedures to be used in the event the standards are violated. The rule states that there is no guarantee of privacy for e-mail or other documents created on University systems and equipment. The change was recommended by the Information Technology Security Policy Committee.

2. Social Security Number Use Policy

This new rule sets as policy the University's desire to discontinue using Social Security numbers as a common identifier for people. Instead, employees and students will be assigned unique identification numbers. The rule also sets security and maintenance guidelines for Social Security numbers that the University is required to collect. The change was recommended by the Information Technology Security Policy Committee.

3. Privacy Policy

Trustees approved revisions to this rule to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations. The rule defines requirements for the University's collection, use and security of personal information, including names, home addresses, e-mail addresses, telephone numbers and credit card data. The change was recommended by the Information Technology Security Policy Committee.

4. Electronic Records Retention

Trustees approved a rule that sets requirements and responsibilities for the management and disposition of electronic records. The change was recommended by the Information Technology Security Policy Committee.

**Strategic Issues, Governance and Compliance Committee**

1. Resolution on Northeast Ohio Study Commission

The resolution acknowledges the Trustees' agreement in principle with a legislative proposal to create a Universities of Northeast Ohio Study Commission that would encourage greater cooperation among the five state institutions in the region — Cleveland State University, Kent State University, The University of Akron, Youngstown State University and Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine.

**Notes**

1. President's Report

I began by acknowledging the wonderful hospitality, as always, of our colleagues at Wayne College — in particular, of course, Dean Jack Kristofco and his staff. I asked Dean Kristofco if he would speak about changes at the college. Dean Kristofco welcomed the Board members and talked about the new education paraprofessional associate's degree (in partnership with the College of Education) and a plan to add more student and instructional space on campus. Both changes are designed to sustain the momentum created this fall by a 3 percent gain in enrollment and a slight gain in student credit hours.

Dean Kristofco then asked Phyllis Wiebe to stand and be acknowledged by the Board. Ms. Wiebe, who currently is the dean's senior administrative assistant, has been involved with higher education curricula and programming in the Orrville area since before Wayne College was established in 1972. She may be the first employee of the college.

I congratulated Ms. Wiebe, who has announced her plans to retire in February, and I related that the Board and I appreciate all of the advances that Dean Kristofco shared and so many others that consistently help Wayne College grow in excellence, in enrollment, and in its relationship to the larger community and to the University as a whole.

Turning to the University Park Alliance, I talked about Alberto Ibarguen, president of the Knight Foundation, who had announced days earlier a \$10 million grant to The University of Akron in support of the alliance. The grant is the largest ever given by the Knight Foundation and the largest ever in Akron. The University is extremely proud of that recognition and of the fact that the leadership of the Knight brothers will continue to live on in the efforts that all of our community continues to make. The University Park Alliance's efforts in these next five years of Knight Foundation support are expected to bring at least 400 new housing units, create 1,000 new jobs, attract new businesses and mixed-use developments, improve the neighborhood's infrastructure, and incorporate innovative approaches to health and community education.

The University expects to continue to leverage private sector investment. As I mentioned previously, the University thought it would be able to leverage \$50 million in the last five years. It actually leveraged in excess of \$150 million, and now our goal is the \$500 million to \$1 billion range. This is strategically important to Akron's economic development because University Park is becoming a hotbed of talent and innovation for Summit County and gives The University of Akron an opportunity to jointly discover the future of our larger community. University Park is, of course, home not just to The University of Akron, but to another world-class institution — Summa Health System.

In today's globally competitive economy, innovation and bold ideas are the necessary elements for success. But, together with our partners, we will continue to transform University Park into the centerpiece of Akron's transformation as a community in the 21st century. Economies today transcend the artificial political boundaries of the past. And the same can be said of our community as it continues to evolve. While we clearly have well defined boundaries and portals for our University that provide our campus with a renewed sense of identity, we will continue to work to create a sense of belonging, a sense of

engagement, a sense of transcendence, and of integrating our campus into the neighborhoods and into the larger community as we advance the common future of all.

I shared some language that I articulated during Convocation. I began by talking about the challenges that our University faces because it has become the place to be and the place that everyone is talking about. Our success is receiving increasingly a lot of attention, particularly, quite simply, from our competition. As I told the campus community, our challenge now is to demonstrate the capacity, not just to sustain our progress, but to enhance and build on the momentum and the success that we have gained. In my view, one of the biggest challenges that we face in continuing to progress as an institution during a time of extensive political transition and greatly increased public scrutiny is managing that transition both at the statewide and the national level. In very short order, we'll have a new governor and many new legislators in Ohio, and we are at a historical point in the national focus on higher education, as reflected in the recent report of Secretary Spellings' Commission on the Future of Higher Education. To me, this scrutiny of higher education will be similar in magnitude of that drawn to P-12 education following the 1983 report of the National Commission on Excellence in Education titled, "A Nation at Risk." This situation calls for bold ideas, innovation, and nothing short of a re-invention of many of the aspects of higher education.

I believe that's true for other industries, whether its health care or — as I discussed recently with two major newspaper publishers, including (the Akron Beacon Journal's) Ed Moss — the newspaper industry, both of which are undergoing a great deal of transition. I believe that America's national interest, as well as its security, are the issues that are at stake in the measure of our collective educational attainment and are what defines our ability to compete in this global marketplace. After all, we should remember that it is America's differential rate of learning among other countries that will continue to distinguish its ability to compete in a global economy. Yet, according to recent reports from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, America's educational standings have worsened since the release of "A Nation at Risk." Once the world leader in secondary and tertiary education, we now trail 18 other countries in secondary education and at least three in tertiary education. I would assert that today's crisis calls for rebuilding the productive human infrastructure of America because, anymore, secondary education is just a first stop on the road to a lifetime of learning.

As we transition further into the 21st century, I believe it is again time to advance our nation's educational requirements, just as we did at the turn of the 19th to the 20th century, when we asked for compulsory secondary education. Now, Americans must be so bold as to progressively embrace a college education for all of its citizens. Before we can even begin to generate the broad base of political will necessary to take that step, higher education must respond to the increasing call for change, as echoed in the Spellings Commission report. We must improve accessibility, affordability, and accountability, but I can tell you, ladies and gentlemen, that those three words will not be sufficient to compel Congressional action. They are important, but they alone are too weak. I would further argue that the current call to action is even more urgent and crucial for urban, metropolitan-sided universities, such as The University of Akron, because of the key roles we can play in shaping the talent needed to

meet workforce demands, in closing the health-care delivery gap in our cities, in meeting the needs of urban health-care professionals, and in strengthening the communities we serve. Remember that approximately 85 percent of all jobs and of the entire population of the United States resides in cities. We have great obligations.

I closed my remarks by noting that the University's research program received the Nortech Innovation Award for its development of nanofiber bandages that treat patients with slow-healing wounds more effectively. A nanofiber bandage releases nitric oxide, which kills the parasite that causes the condition and reduces inflammation, allowing healing to occur. In clinical trials, nanofiber bandages reduced healing times from months or even years to a few days.

I also announced that The University of Akron Steel Drum Band recently released a new CD. My good colleague Dr. William Demas (chairman of the Board) and I were invited to play with them a few months ago. We had a great deal of fun. I'm not sure we added much to the music. At least I know I didn't.

2. Next Regular Meeting

December 13, 2006, 10 a.m., Board Room, Third Floor, Student Union

With every good wish,

Sincerely,

Luis Proenza

**Personnel Transactions Approved by the Board of Trustees  
October 25, 2006**

**Appointments**

**Danielle M. Angott**, project director, Institute for Health and Social Policy, 09/18/06; **Carmen J. Bricillo**, athletics video operations technician, Athletics, 08/24/06; **Natalia Farkas**, postdoctoral research associate, Physics, 08/26/06; **Nicholas A. Fincham**, delivery worker, Mailing Services, 08/07/06; **John D. Hansen**, adjunct professor, Military Science, 12/01/06; **Christopher A. Lantz**, library specialist, University Libraries Circulation, 09/11/06; **Michael Macatangay**, assistant athletics trainer, Athletics, 10/10/06; **Fedearia Nicholson**, interim associate director, Multicultural Development, 08/28/06; **Jodi A. Ross**, project director, Institute for Health and Social Policy, 06/20/06; **Deepa Savant**, postdoctoral research associate, Chemistry, 09/01/06; and **Shiguo Sun**, research associate, Chemistry, 09/08/06.

**Changes**

**Sonia Alemagno**, associate professor, Public Administration and Urban Studies, director, Institute for Health and Social Policy, additional title of interim department chair, 08/28/06; **Dolores A. Awalt**, student loan specialist, Loans and Receivables, reorganization and title change from accounting clerk senior, status change from temporary to regular, 10/02/06; **Jason Bowling**, departmental systems administrator, Computer Science, job reclassification via job audit and title change from lead computer support specialist, 05/29/06; **Stephen C. Brooks**, associate professor, Political Science, acting director, Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics, title change from associate director, 09/01/06; **Bonita G. Byrd**, administrative assistant, Nursing, promotion and title change from grant administrative secretary, status change from temporary part time to regular full time, 09/18/06; **Ang Chen**, associate professor, Physics, additional title of associate professor, Chemistry, joint appointment Physics (primary) and Chemistry, 08/30/06; **Marlene Huff**, associate professor, Nursing, coordinator, progression and graduate programs, Nursing, title change from coordinator, education progression programs, basis change from 9 to 12 months, 08/28/06; **Michael B. Jones**, cashier senior, Cashier's Office, promotion and status change from part time to full time, 05/01/06; **Karl C. Kaltenthaler**, assistant professor, Political Science, fellow, Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics, additional title of director, Center for Policy Studies, 08/28/06; **Jungmee Kang**, research scholar, Institute of Polymer Science, status change from part time to full time, 09/20/06; **Valoree Lee**, administrative secretary, Purchasing, status change from temporary to regular, 10/02/06; **Deshaun O. Lyons**, general maintenance worker, Residence Life and Housing, status change from temporary part time to temporary full time, 06/26/06; **Carole Newman**, professor emeritus, Education, curricular and instructional studies, title change from professor, 12/31/06; **Nicole Petrarca**, accounting clerk, Central Stores, appointment status change from part-time temporary to full-time regular, 10/02/06; **Tammi Sawyer**, assistant director, Student Financial Aid, promotion and title change from student financial aid counselor, 11/01/06; **Suzanne Staats**, coordinator events, Law Dean's Office, reclassification via job audit and title change from secretary, 05/15/06; **Mrunal Thatte**, postdoctoral research fellow, Polymer Science, status change from part time to full time, 08/29/06; **Russell J. Tinkham**, assistant professor, Bibliography, interim chair, Cataloging,

interim chair, Circulation, University Libraries Collection Management, title change from interim chair, Access Services, 08/28/06; **John C. Tompkins, Jr.**, storekeeper senior, Physical Facilities, promotion and title change from part-time mover, status change from part-time temporary to full-time regular, 08/23/06; **Crystal L. Villers**, student loan specialist, Loans and Receivables, reorganization and status change from temporary to regular, 10/02/06; **Pingshan Wang**, senior research associate, Institute of Polymer Science, promotion and title change from research associate, 06/26/06; **Michael Warner**, master building services worker – certified, custodial superintendent, Physical Facilities, title change from custodial superintendent, 09/18/06; and **Sajit Zachariah**, assistant dean, administration and strategic initiatives, associate professor, Education, additional title of interim department chair, Counseling, Education, 08/28/06.

### Separations

**Sturgis Gregg Allen**, research and instructional support engineer, Physics, 09/15/06; **William Brittain**, professor, Polymer Science, 09/13/06; **Brian C. Collett**, facilities maintenance worker, Physical Plant – Wayne, 09/15/06; **Augustine Hammond**, research assistant II, Institute for Health and Social Policy, 08/14/06; **Dan W. Henderson**, building services worker, Residence Life and Housing, 09/18/06; **Brandi LaBanc**, senior associate director, Student Life, 09/06/06; **Claire C. Lerner**, regional coordinator, Institute for Health and Social Policy, 09/01/06; **Ali Luempert**, manager, aquatics programming, Recreation and Wellness Services, 09/15/06; **Barbara A. Meyer**, regional coordinator, Institute for Health and Social Policy, 09/01/06; **Carole Newman**, professor, Education, 12/31/06; **Marian Paluch**, visiting scientist, Institute of Polymer Science, 09/01/06; **Kerri Reichenbach**, telecommunications officer, University Police Department, 08/08/06; **Anthony Sellers**, master building services worker certified, Physical Facilities, 08/18/06; **Ken Smith**, custodial superintendent, Residence Life and Housing, 12/31/06; **David D. Stanifer**, regional coordinator, Institute for Health and Social Policy, 09/01/06; **Ann Thornton**, regional coordinator, Institute for Health and Social Policy, 09/01/06; **Aaron P. Tonkin**, research assistant, Institute for Health and Social Policy, 09/01/06; **Vidal Vega**, regional coordinator, Institute for Health and Social Policy, 09/01/06; **Ernie L. Weaver**, master painter, Physical Facilities, 09/21/06; **Jennifer Woytek**, coordinator, residence life, Residence Life and Housing, 08/28/06; **Jennifer B. Wilson**, regional coordinator, Institute for Health and Social Policy, 09/01/06; and **Regina L. Wilson**, building services worker certified, Physical Facilities, 09/21/06.