

October 23, 2008

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 the regular meeting on September 3, 2008, held at UA's Medina County University Center.

Presentation to the Board

Susan Louscher, director of the Medina County University Center, provided the Trustees with an overview of the center.

Educational Policy/Student Affairs Committee

1. Honorary Degree to Dr. William F. Demas

The Board approved a resolution to confer an Honorary Degree of Doctorate of Humane Letters upon Dr. William F. Demas, chairman of the board emeritus. Demas, the chief of radiotherapy at Summa Health System, was appointed to the Board by Governor Bob Taft in 2000. Demas served as chairman from 2006-08. His term expired July 1, 2008.

2. Honors Complex Name

Board members voted to accept the proposed signage for the Honors College Complex to be formally named the Honors Complex.

3. Research Grants and Sponsored Programs Report – July 2008

For the first month of the 2008-09 fiscal year (covering July 1, 2008 to July 30, 2008), funding for externally funded research and other sponsored programs was \$4.35 million to support 63 projects. For the same period in the prior fiscal year, funding totaled \$2.98 million for 50 projects.

For July 2008, one patent was awarded, one patent application was filed, and 17 disclosures were submitted. For the prior fiscal year, no patents were issued, 3 patent applications were filed, and one disclosure was submitted.

External Affairs Committee

1. Cumulative Gift and Grant Income Report – Fiscal Year 2007-08

Between July 1, 2007, and June 30, 2008, total giving was \$41 million, or about 27 percent more than the \$32.4 million received during the prior fiscal year. UA received 18,156 gifts in the 2007-08 fiscal year, compared to 16,521 for the year prior.

Facilities Planning and Oversight Committee

1. Multiplex Football Stadium – Sports Lighting Package

Board members authorized the administration to enter into a \$731,350 contract with low bidder Lake Erie Electric to supply the lighting for the multiplex football stadium.

2. Multiplex Football Stadium – North End Zone Building

Board members authorized the administration to enter into \$1.93 million in contracts with low-bidders Dauer Construction Company (masonry), E.P.I. of Cleveland (structural steel), DSV Builders (general), D&A Plumbing and Heating (plumbing), S.A. Comunale (fire protection, HVAC) and Thompson Electric (electrical). This work is related to the construction of the North End Zone Building, part of the multiplex football stadium.

Finance, Fiscal Policy, and Investment Committee

1. Fiscal Year 2008 Financial Report

The Board reviewed the year-end fiscal report for Fiscal Year 2008, which ended on June 30, 2008.

On the Akron Campus, tuition and fee revenues exceeded the budgeted amount by \$300,000 or about 0.2 percent. State appropriations, however, came in about 2.8 percent less than budget, contributing to an overall revenue shortfall against the budget of about \$650,000 or 0.2 percent. Educational and General (E&G) expenditures at the Akron Campus were \$7.1 million (or 2.5 percent) less than what was budgeted. Total expenditures, including transfers out, exceeded the annual budget by \$900,000.

At the Wayne Campus, tuition and fee revenue exceeded the budget by about \$250,000 or 3.1 percent. State appropriations were 1.1 percent less than budget. Overall revenue at Wayne was nearly 1 percent or \$100,000 greater than what was budgeted. E&G expenditures on the Wayne Campus were 13 percent or 1.51 million less than what was budgeted.

The University's combined endowments – comprised of the University's endowment and the UA Foundation's endowment – ended the fiscal year with a value of \$196.6 million, down 7.3 percent from close of the 2007 fiscal year. The decline is attributed to the turmoil in the financial markets.

2. Purchases of more than \$150,000

Board members approved the \$173,500 purchase of LED displays from Daktronics Inc. by the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics.

3. Roo Express Special Events Rate

UA departments and affiliated organizations will be able to use the Roo Express shuttle service for special events at a cost of \$60 an hour. The charge will cover the hourly rate paid by UA to the outside operator, fuel expenses and maintenance costs.

4. Personnel Actions (appended as amended)

Committee on Rules

1. Bylaws of the Faculty Senate

The Trustees approved a series of changes to the Faculty Senate bylaws. In general, the changes:

- redefine the rules of the chair, giving him or her a voting, ex-officio role in the Senate and as a member of the executive committee for the year after their term as chair have expired;
- revise the responsibilities of the Student Affairs Committee;
- eliminate term limits for senators; and
- clarify the elections process.

The changes were previously endorsed by Faculty Senate.

New Business

1. NEOUCOM appointment

Trustees approved the appointment of Dr. Chander Mohan as The University of Akron's Community Representative Trustee on the Board of Trustees of the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine. He replaced former Trustee Dr. William F. Demas, whose term expired.

2. Amendments to Orthopaedic Research Institute of Northeast Ohio Documents

The Board approved several amendments to the governing documents for the Orthopaedic Research Institute for Northeast Ohio. One amendment established financial contributions for each of the founding members – UA, Summa Health System, Akron General Medical Center, Akron Children’s Hospital and NEOUCOM. Another expanded the institute’s board to nine people, with two of them elected or appointed separately by the chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents and the Knight Foundation, and two of them elected by a majority vote of the other seven directors.

Notes

1. President's Report

I began my remarks by noting the leadership of Sue Louscher, who is director of the Medina County University Center, where the September Board meeting was held. Louscher also is supporting the University in a major effort to develop, in conjunction with the National Association of Corrosion Engineers, a corrosion-engineering curriculum.

Turning to the University’s fall enrollment numbers, I noted that this is the third consecutive year that our enrollment has increased, driven largely by a healthy and significant boost in incoming freshmen and, in particular, increases within our Honors College and Graduate School. Our enrollment now stands at about 26,000 students, and we are very proud to include in that tally 258 students at the Medina County University Center, where enrollment has more than doubled from the spring semester.

The Medina County University Center is one of the premier public/private educational partnerships of its kind, and it provides University courses and programs as well as professional development workshops and workforce training opportunities in one of the fastest-growing counties in Ohio. The programmatic foundations of the Medina County University Center align very nicely with the strategic priorities not only, of course, of The University of Akron but also the new University System of Ohio as outlined through the Governor’s and Chancellor’s higher education and economic development initiatives.

I want to congratulate my colleagues in the Department of Development, Mr. John LaGuardia and company, for an outstanding year in fund-raising. For the second straight year, financial gifts to The University of Akron are at an all-time high. The University recorded total giving of more than \$41 million for 2007-08. That is a 26.5 percent increase over the previous year. Obviously, this means that your University is consistently among the top Ohio universities, typically ranking third or fourth in annual fund-raising, just behind Ohio State, Cincinnati and/or Miami.

I reported that, three weeks after the Board meeting, the University would take the next step in building another University community partnership in the broadest sense of the word

“community.” Board Chairman Phil Kaufmann, Provost Beth Stroble, and I would lead a University delegation to China as the first step in The University of Akron hosting what is referred to as a Confucius Institute to promote Chinese language and culture. We will be the 42nd such institution in the United States and only the third in Ohio to host such an institute, joining Cleveland State and Miami University.

The Ministry of Education in the People’s Republic of China is covering the costs of the trip because it believes that relationship-building trips such as this are important to the sustainability of our partnership and contribute not only to the founding of a successful institute, but also to demonstrate to the Ministry of Education of the Chinese universities we would visit how serious we are about our engagement with China. I noted that Dean Stephen Cheng would be joining us, and he was developing for Mr. Kaufmann, the Provost and me a parallel schedules focusing on our opportunities in Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering.

I concluded my remarks by thanking the Provost and Holly Harris Bane, the associate vice president for strategic initiatives and engagement, for leading an effort to put together the University’s application for recognition by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning in the community-engagement classification. This is a new elective category designed to recognize those universities engaged with their communities.

We are interested in pursuing this designation for several reasons. We would value Carnegie’s worldwide recognition, of course, and the acknowledgement of the good work by our faculty and staff. In our cover letter to the Carnegie Foundation, I stated that engagement and reciprocity have quite simply been part of the fabric of this institution since its founding in 1870, enabling us to pursue innovative solutions to complex regional, state, and national challenges, demonstrated quite literally by hundreds of collaborative initiatives, more than any other comparable institution in Ohio. This process also has been a very good self study -- the application itself allows us to analyze what we do and see how we compare against national standards. At the same time, however, we are introducing to the Carnegie Foundation what we consider to be a highly engaged university already. We will learn the results at the end of the year, and I trust that we will be successful.

2. Personnel Transactions

The Personnel Transactions for September are posted at <http://www.uakron.edu/info/docs/Personnel-transactions-Sept08.xls>.

3. Next Regular Meeting

The Board met Oct. 8 at Wayne College. The Board will reconvene on Wednesday, December 10, in the Board office on the third floor of the Student Union, with an executive session to begin at 8 a.m. and the public session to begin no earlier than 10 a.m.