

# THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON



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

October 22, 2009

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 October 7, 2009.

## **Presentations to the Board**

Mr. Aram Nerpouni, vice president of BioEnterprise, presented an update on the progress of the Austen BioInnovation Institute in Akron.

Summit College Dean Stanley Silverman, Professor of Surveying and Mapping Larry Shubat, and several students who are studying surveying and mapping gave a presentation on their recent work with Habitat for Humanity of Summit County.

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

### 1. Graduation List for Fall 2009

Degree candidates must be approved for graduation by their college faculty, Faculty Senate and the Board of Trustees, and the Board is not scheduled for another regular meeting prior to commencement ceremonies on December 12, 2009; therefore, Trustees authorized the senior vice president and provost/COO in consultation with the president to waive the requirement for Board approval in accord with University Rule 3359-60-03.6(F) if the Board does not have a special meeting before December 12. In the event that the waiver is exercised, the graduation list and statistics for the fall 2009 candidates will be presented to Trustees at the Board's regular meeting on December 16, 2009.

2. Research Grants and Sponsored Programs Report – August 2009

For July-August 2009, funding for externally funded research and other sponsored programs was \$12.8 million for 122 projects. For July-August 2008, funding was \$7.4 million for 122 projects. For July-August 2009, one patent was awarded, eight patent applications were filed, and five disclosures were submitted. For July-August 2008, two patents were issued, two patent applications were filed, and 19 disclosures were submitted.

**External Affairs Committee**

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

For July-August 2009, total giving was \$3.8 million, 19 percent greater than the \$3.2 million received during the first month of FY2008-09 and 53 percent greater than the \$2.5 million average for the previous five years. UA received 2,263 gifts in the 2009-10 fiscal year to date, compared to 2,216 for the prior fiscal year to date.

**Facilities Planning and Oversight Committee**

1. Wolf Ledges Engineering Building

A contract for professional design services for the project was awarded to DLZ Ohio, Inc. for \$272,800. DLZ Ohio, one of five firms chosen to be interviewed for the project, was selected based on the company's presentations and relevant experience on similar projects.

2. Real Estate Purchases

Trustees approved the purchase of five parcels of real estate at prices based on professional MAI appraisals in the following four separate actions:

- 327 Spicer Street - \$134,500
- 382 Kathryn Place - \$55,000
- 485 & 501 East Exchange Street - \$1,170,000
- 514 Nash Street - \$120,000

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

1. Quarterly Report – July 2008- June 2009

Trustees reviewed the finalized financial report for the 2008-2009 fiscal year, covering July 1, 2008- June 30, 2009. In that period, revenue for the Akron campus was \$334.3 million or about 0.1 percent less than what was estimated in the budget. Expenditures totaled \$302.6 million for FY2009, or about 1.3 percent less than what was budgeted. Revenue at Wayne College for FY2009 was \$12.5 million, or about 0.3 percent more than budgeted, and expenditures at Wayne totaled \$10.5 million, or about 5.9 percent less than budgeted.

2. Purchases for More Than \$150,000

The Board awarded the following contracts for purchases exceeding \$150,000:

- To OARnet/Ohio Super Computer, \$168,958 for institutional membership which provides Internet and Internet2 access to the University's main, Wayne and Medina campuses;
- To Desire2Learn, Inc., \$158,000 to renew maintenance and licensing fees for the University's existing learning management software system;
- To Motorola, \$198,835 (\$124,236 of which is funded by a Homeland Security grant) for radio equipment upgrades that will enable seamless radio communication between University safety personnel and other police agencies such as the Akron Police Department and Summit County Sherriff; and
- To Laerdal Medical Corporation, \$166,154.70 for a SimMan 3G patient simulator for the College of Nursing.

3. Personnel Actions

The personnel transactions approved by Trustees as amended are posted online at <http://www.uakron.edu/president/docs/Personnel-transactions-Oct09.pdf>.

**Notes**

1. President's Report

After welcoming a number of students from our Higher Education Administration graduate program, I began my remarks by noting that, over the last several weeks, I had been privileged to represent The University of Akron at two major national and international meetings. On September 30, I was pleased to represent the University at the meeting of CEOs for Cities Urban Leader Summit in Washington, D.C. where I served on a panel discussing "Pushing the Limits of Talent." I know you are aware that talent in the United States' workforce is a key concern, and that is an area in which we are very actively engaged and gaining considerable national reputation for our efforts in talent development, the concept of talent supply chain management, and in community engagement. On September 23-24, I was privileged to be with the Council on Competitiveness, for which I serve on the executive committee. The organization held a national summit and a global dialogue on energy and sustainability, and I participated in the closing panel along with the CEO of the Council, the CEOs of DuPont and CH<sub>2</sub>M HILL, and the president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Internationally, as a result of the work of our Confucius Institute and the travel that the Chairman and I did at their invitation last year, I have been invited to be a participant in the 2009 Beijing Forum on November 6-8. This annual, international forum is endorsed by the State Council of the People's Republic of China and co-hosted by Peking University, the Beijing Municipal Commission of Education, and the Korean Foundation for Advanced Studies. You may recall that we were privileged to host the President of Peking University here a few months ago. I have been asked to participate in a panel discussing "Higher Education under Financial Crisis: Strategies and Development." In addition to Cornell University President David Skorton and Marshall Smith, who is Senior Counselor to the U.S. Secretary of Education, other forum participants include higher-education leaders from the United Kingdom, Mexico, Australia, Japan, Pakistan, Mongolia, Thailand and Saudi Arabia, as well as Korea and, of course, China.

The same week as that of the Board meeting marked China Week, which Student Trustee Joe Rich discussed in detail, and another major event on campus, Homecoming Week. Festivities included concerts, a parade, a dance, and multiple reunions. The week was capped off Saturday at InfoCision Stadium-Summa Field with the first Homecoming football game on campus, in which we hosted Ohio University with kickoff slated for 6 p.m. Like Akron, Ohio University has a large alumni base in Northeast Ohio, and we expected a very good turnout. Not only does Homecoming Week allow us to renew old friendships, it provides an opportunity for alumni, retirees, and friends of the University to experience the many changes that have taken place on campus, changes that we could not showcase when the games were played at the Rubber Bowl. What we are seeing, quite simply, is that those who have not visited the campus lately, or who are visiting for the first time, are just amazed. They are discovering an energized metropolitan university that has been physically transformed, and an academic community sharing powerful and ambitious goals.

Some of our ambitious work has been receiving national attention, including our recent recognition for our diversity and inclusive excellence. Minority Access Incorporated, a national organization, has named The University of Akron among an elite group of only 43 colleges and universities nationwide as a role model institution for promoting diverse, academic environments.

The University also recently received a NorthCoast99 Award as one of the best, finest places to work in Northeast Ohio. This is the second time in recent years that we have been so recognized.

Clearly, this kind of acknowledgement challenges us to maintain and build on our excellence, and certainly that is applicable to our continuing search for a new vice president and provost and chief operating officer. The process has begun. The quiet phase was conducted by Baker and Associates, and we will be working with Trustees soon to identify those who will be invited to campus for an interview. I have communicated both to the chair of the Faculty Senate and the chair of the Akron-AAUP to provide the names of their recommended participants in the interview process, which hopefully might begin as soon as the early part of November and should be concluded during this academic year. The Board and I serve as the formal search committee with input from a wide variety of groups including, of course, our faculty, staff, and students.

I concluded my report by saying that we have been spending the full year in our strategic planning renewal, and it is coming to closure. We have a beginning draft that will be available by mid-October, and on Tuesday, October 27, at 3 p.m. I will be doing my annual State of the University address at E.J. Thomas Performing Arts Hall using its Stage Door venue. At that time, I will provide a preliminary summary of the progress to date. I am in the midst of going around to every school, college, department, and administrative unit to gain additional input to ensure full participation as we seek not only to introduce these ideas that have come forward to date but as we explore the strategies that will lead to the University, as I like to say, capturing its rightful destiny.

## 2. Next Regular Meeting

The Board's next regularly scheduled meeting will occur on Wednesday, December 16, 2009, 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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