

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON



LUIS M. PROENZA
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 13, 2011

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 15, 2010.

Presentation to the Board

Dr. Hendrik Heinz, Assistant Professor of Polymer Engineering and a recent recipient of an NSF CAREER Award, discussed his work in biomineralization in collaboration with other research groups in the U.S. and in the U. K. Dr. Heinz's research is focused on the design of biomolecules for specific binding to inorganic surfaces and the understanding of biomineralization by molecular simulation.

Finance, Fiscal Policy and Investment Committee

1. Quarterly Report, July-September 2010

Accumulated summer and fall student revenues exceed the first-quarter projections by \$3.5 million as enrollment is up by 4 percent. The state has announced a planned withholding of 90 percent of its 12th payment, or \$7.2 million. That revenue shortfall will be overcome using the budget stabilization fund and vacancy savings dollars in excess of the planned \$3 million savings. Expenditures remain in line with budget projections.

2. Approved Purchases for More Than \$150,000

- Cedar Crestone was awarded an \$185,000 contract for consulting services related to an assessment and implementation of the Oracle-PeopleSoft Recruiting Solutions module.
- Bruker Nano, Inc. was awarded a \$393,000 contract for the purchase of two scanning probe microscopes.

- Horiba Automotive Test Systems was awarded a \$600,000 contract for the purchase of a 150kW electric/hybrid vehicle electric motor drive testing dynamometer.
- Highmark Insurance Group (HMIG) was approved as the University's specific and aggregate stop-loss-insurance provider, based upon the relative financial competitiveness of the vendor's response to an RFP. Initial annual premiums to provide specific medical and prescription drug stop-loss coverage of \$250,000 per individual, with an unlimited lifetime maximum per individual, are approximately \$785,000. Initial annual premiums to provide aggregate medical and prescription drug stop-loss coverage, with a 125-percent claims corridor and a \$1 million maximum aggregate annual benefit, are approximately \$30,000.

3. Personnel Actions

The personnel transactions approved by Trustees as amended are posted online at <http://www.uakron.edu/president/docs/Personnel-transactions-December2010.pdf>.

Educational Policy/Student Affairs Committee

1. Naming of the Newly Created Akron Functional Materials Center

The Academic Policies Committee of the Faculty Senate has approved the request submitted by the faculty in the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering to officially name the newly created Akron Functional Materials Center (AFMC). The AFMC will be a joint venture between the University and the Austen BioInnovation Institute, the latter of which has agreed to provide \$1.6 million over two years to launch this initiative. The AFMC will be a unique, national resource focused on elevating the technology readiness level of research discoveries and new polymeric materials. Its use will be open to faculty and students from throughout the University who are doing research in those areas, and it will attract numerous industrial organizations to interact and work with those researchers.

2. Curriculum Recommendations

AS-10-029: Five-year BA/MA in History

This proposal creates an accelerated five-year BA/MA program. Under the supervision of faculty advisors in history, a student in the program will finish the core course requirements and most of the electives for the bachelor's degree in the first three years. During the third year of the baccalaureate degree, a student will formally apply to the program through the Graduate School. Upon acceptance, a student will be cleared to complete the remaining electives of the bachelor's degree and 30 credits of graduate work for the master's degree in the last two years. After successfully completing this program, a student will receive both a bachelor's and a master's degree in history.

ED-06-06 B.S. in Postsecondary Technical Education Online

This proposal enables the College of Education to offer the B.S. in Postsecondary Technical Education online.

Faculty Senate approved these recommendations.

3. Approval of the Graduation List and Statistics for Fall 2010

Candidates for a total of 1,453 degrees were deemed eligible to participate in the University's Fall 2010 Commencement ceremonies. Twenty doctoral, 29 Juris Doctor, 350 master's and 1,054 undergraduate degrees were conferred on December 11 and subsequently ratified by the Board.

4. Research Grants and Sponsored Programs Report, October 2010

For July-October 2010, funding for externally funded research and other sponsored programs was \$13,511,053 for 163 projects. For July-October 2009, funding was \$21,156,213 for 188 projects. For July-October 2010, four patents were issued, nine patent applications were filed, and 24 disclosures were submitted. For July-October 2009, one patent was issued, 14 patent applications were filed, and 13 disclosures were submitted.

External Affairs Committee

1. Cumulative Gift and Grant Income Report, October 2010

For July 2010-October 2010, total giving was \$13.2 million, 2 percent less than the \$13.4 million received for the first four months of FY2010 and 28 percent more than the five-year average of \$10.2 million. The number of gifts increased, from 7,798 for July 2009-October 2009 to 8,237 gifts for this fiscal year to date.

Facilities Planning and Oversight Committee

1. Capital Request Prioritization – Academic Facility Enhancement Initiative

The University of Akron's strategic plan, Vision 2020, will be enhanced by prioritizing projects to efficiently create a vibrant and engaging campus environment (Goal 5), including appropriate combinations of new construction, renovation and infrastructure improvements through a process called the Academic Facility Enhancement Initiative (AFEI). Because requesting capital funding for specific individual projects risks missing opportunities for synergies and efficiencies through a more comprehensive university-level approach, the AFEI will help to determine necessary capital projects through 2020. Components of the AFEI include — continuing the objectives of the 1999 Campus Development Guide Plan; ascertaining and providing optimal amounts of appropriate types of spaces while also providing flexibility, efficiency and appropriately high space utilization; and reducing deferred maintenance significantly. For the FY2011-2012 biennium, the University has recommended a capital allocation of \$11.5 million to the AFEI. The exact allocation of state capital funding still is to be determined.

Rules Committee

1. Rule 3359-1-03, Committees of the Board

The revision to this rule was proposed by the Board's Strategic Issues, Governance and Compliance Committee and its Chair, Trustee Pogue. It consists of changing that committee's name to Strategic Issues Committee.

New Business

1. Revision to Contract Professional Rules

Under this rule change approved the Board, most contract professionals now will benefit from continuous employment without the need for the issuance of annual contracts. Contract professionals who are to be separated without cause from service with the University will continue to be given either six months' or three months' notice, depending upon their length of UA service. A significant difference from previous practice is that notice now can occur at any time, rather than being dictated by the term of an annual contract. This rule change became effective prior to the end of calendar year 2010. If you have any questions about this change, please contact Human Resources.

2. Real Estate Purchases

Trustees approved two purchases of real estate – 233 Spicer Street for \$97,500, and the combination of 478 Orchard Court and 503 Vine Street for \$1,575,000.

3. Public-Private Partnership for the Wheeler/Grant Residence Hall Development

Board members authorized the administration to finalize and execute project contract documents and to seek all necessary, additional approvals – subject to review and approval by the Offices of General Counsel, Capital Planning and Facilities Management, and President – to move forward with a public-private partnership agreement with Signet Development Group for the development of a residence hall in the Wheeler/Grant area for occupancy by August 2012. The administration's authority to execute the project contract documents is conditioned upon the sufficiency of the room rental income generated by the new residence hall using the University's standard room fee structure to cover the annual rental cost paid by the University for the project.

Notes

1. President's Report

I reported that, in reviewing the quantitative indicators, awards, news coverage and community expressions of support and admiration for the University during the year that is coming to an end, 2010 may have been the best ever in the University's 140-year history. Certainly, it has been the best year of accomplishments in my 12-year tenure here.

In the words of the AK-Rowdies, I said, "I believe that we have won!" referring of course to the College Cup victory by the Zips men's soccer team on December 12 in Santa Barbara, resulting in the University's first national championship in a current team sport. Reiterating Mrs. Brennan's earlier comments, I said that Head Coach Caleb Porter, his staff and the student-athletes have brought a major title to the University, to our community, to Northeast Ohio and to our state. I reported that the team readily acknowledged the wonderful support received and the energy derived from the community and the fans, hundreds of whom traveled to California to be part of the College Cup. Throughout the playoffs, Akron's winning goals were made in the net behind which the AK-Rowdies were stationed, a fact that one of the opposing coaches lamented on national television.

As an insight to what the Zips have accomplished, I shared an excerpt of an article by Maria Burns for College Soccer News:

“The University of Akron’s Men’s Soccer team leaves Santa Barbara as more than national champions. They head home to Ohio a changed program. The Zips’ 1-0 win over Louisville in the College Cup final at Harder Stadium marks the official end of Akron’s steady climb to become a national powerhouse. History has shown us the road to the College Cup does not begin at the playoffs or the preseason or during the spring. That process is built on years of recruiting and experience. The teams that capture the College Cup rarely shock the soccer world. Instead the title ends up in the hands of a well-deserving team that’s been knocking on the door for some time.”

Community engagement and support, strategic planning and diligent implementation have enabled your entire University to rise to a new level. As a result of national and global appointments and activities, The University of Akron’s stature and visibility have increased significantly at regional, national and international levels. We need not look further back than the past few weeks for ample evidence.

In the days leading up to the College Cup, Trustees Pogue and York joined me in attending the annual meeting of the Council on Competitiveness. I invited them to share their observations.

Mr. York commented that the University was well represented both in the formal program and in networking among the individuals in attendance. He said that it is clear that The University of Akron has gained a national reputation as a model for other urban universities in how to use the university system to improve the economic climate of a region.

Mr. Pogue said that the Council is comprised of CEOs of major U.S. companies, college presidents and some labor leaders. He agreed with Mr. York’s observation that The University of Akron is recognized prominently in this competitive field and said he hopes that a summary of the high points of that event can be circulated.

I concurred and thanked Trustees Pogue and York. I said that I expect Northeast Ohio to have a special role in the work of the Council’s current initiative, which is manufacturing competitiveness.

I mentioned also that the University had been part of an invited group representing Northeast Ohio at the Brookings Global Metro Summit in Chicago. Once again, the University and Northeast Ohio were prominently featured among three other United States regions and four global regions relating to economic development.

Both the Council on Competitiveness meeting and Brookings Global Metro Summit illustrate how your University increasingly is being seen as an exemplar institution for metropolitan, community and civic engagement, economic development and innovation.

The amazing success that the University has enjoyed in this milestone year is possible only through the efforts of our talented team of faculty, students, support staff, leadership team, our constituents and collaborators, community supporters and, of course, the Board’s fine and dedicated leadership, which I value deeply.

In closing, I congratulated Vice Chair Bittle for being named Executive of the Year by Rubber and Plastics Magazine. It is very special to see his labors recognized nationally. I thanked all of the Trustees, University colleagues and the community for benefitting our students in so many ways and wished all the happiest of holidays and a bountiful 2011.

2. Provost's Report

Dr. Sherman reported that there was an article recently in the Chronicle of Higher Education that clearly illustrated the limitations of the six-year graduation rate as a metric for success of colleges and universities. He said that the article highlighted some of the initiatives undertaken and perspectives adopted at The University of Akron to improve not only retention and graduation rates, but, most important, each student's Akron experience.

Dr. Sherman reminded Trustees of the University's objective to increase the number of full-time faculty in the classroom. He reported that he and his staff recently have interacted with the deans to develop their proposals to do that and to increase the University's research profile. He said he anticipated receiving the deans' proposals in the next week for his review with his staff and, in consultation with the deans and others, making decisions by the end of January.

Regarding Vision 2020, Dr. Sherman reported having reviewed emerging strategies associated with its goals and objectives with the Educational Policy/Student Affairs Committee. He said that the Office of Academic Affairs has been working to refine and simplify those strategies so that they are easier to understand, undertake and complete. Timelines are being developed, and responsible parties and necessary resources are being identified to ensure successful implementation. He said he is looking forward to interacting with the Board in the near future to finalize Vision 2020.

Dr. Sherman reported also having presented to the Educational Policy/Student Affairs Committee a college-readiness-based approach to providing wrap-around services for students with different college-readiness characteristics and, overlaying on that approach, a scholarship-distribution strategy that will link to possible enrollment strategies. He indicated that presentations on those initiatives to the Board would be forthcoming.

Dr. Sherman said that he has scheduled regular meetings with the executive committee of the AAUP to further develop and enhance that relationship, which the Board facilitated through the recent successful negotiations.

In conclusion, Dr. Sherman recognized the men's soccer team for their success. He said that, clearly, those individuals are exceptional students; certainly, they are outstanding athletes and coaches; but more importantly, they are true ambassadors for this University.

3. Next Regular Meeting

The Board's next regularly scheduled meeting will occur on Wednesday, January 19, 2011, 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.

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