The University of Akron  
Provost Remarks  
Faculty Senate  
October 2, 2014

Census Information:

- We had the highest number of applications in our history; more than 18,700 compared to the previous year.
- Overall freshmen enrollment held relatively steady at 4,131 students (compared to 4,177 last year). This 1.1% decline is a significant improvement over enrollment declines for the last two years (freshmen enrollment was down 8.6% in 2012 and down 9.4% in 2013).
- Among first-time full-time freshmen on main campus pursuing a bachelor's degree, (the cohort traditionally used to compare universities), enrollment is up 8% from a year ago, and the average GPA -- the best predictor of college success -- is up slightly.
- The Honors College had record enrollment of 578 new freshmen students (compared to 354 last year) and an increase in minorities enrolled, from 4.2% last year to 9.0% in this year’s entering Honors freshman class. The overall enrollment of all Honors students is a record 1,833. Entering Honors freshmen in 2014 average a 3.92 GPA and a 28.9 ACT.
- Minority students comprise one-quarter of the entering class, and nearly 7% of the entering class comes from outside the state of Ohio.
- Retention rates are much improved:
  - Eligible students entering fall 2013 have been retained at a rate of 67.5%, up 9% from last year.
  - Minority students entering fall 2013 have been retained at a rate of 63.9%, up 15% compared to last year.
  - African American students entering fall 2013 have been retained at a rate of 55.9%, up 15% from last year.
  - African American male students entering fall 2013 have been retained at a rate of 58.8%, up 15.7% compared to last year.
  - First generation students entering fall 2013 have been retained at a rate of 66.6%, up 8.8% compared to last year.
- Student credit hours of instruction were down 2.5%; the University Council Budget Committee is reviewing to understand the effect this may have on the actual budget.

General Education Curriculum

- I am looking forward to working with the Faculty Senate to support the revision of our general education curriculum, especially linked to an enhanced and robust learning outcomes assessment process that improves student learning and enhances the ability of faculty to teach for improved learning outcomes.

Strategic Planning Process
• Each dean put together a packet of information for the President that reported the college’s points of pride and progress towards Vision 2020 goals