

December 17, 2003

Members of the University Community

I am pleased, Dear Colleagues . . .

. . . to forward for your information the following summary of actions that were approved at the December 10, 2003, meeting of The University of Akron's Board of Trustees:

Educational Policy/Student Affairs Committee

1. Tentative Graduation List and Statistics for Fall 2003

Board members approved a list of approximately 1,316 candidates for commencement on December 13. The degree total includes 48 doctorates, 28 juris doctorates, 305 master's degrees, 765 bachelor's degrees, and 170 associate degrees.

2. Recreation Facility Name

The University's new recreation facility, to be completed in spring 2004, has been named the Student Recreation and Wellness Center.

3. Research Grants and Contracts Reports – October 2003

For July-October 2003, total funding for externally funded research and other sponsored programs was \$14,152,298 to support 151 projects. Comparable totals for the last fiscal year to date were \$10,788,675 for 158 projects.

External Affairs Committee

1. Cumulative Gift and Grant Income Report – October 2003

Total giving to the University for July-October 2003 was \$5.3 million, 3 percent more than last year's comparable total of \$5.1 million, but 36 percent less than the year-to-date average for the previous five years of \$8.3 million. Nearly 5,400 gifts were received during the first quarter of this fiscal year, compared to less than 5,100 gifts for July-October 2002.

Facilities Planning and Oversight Committee

1. Olson Research Center Renovation

Meccon Inc. was awarded \$366,000 to provide mechanical work for the Olson Research Center renovation project.

Finance, Fiscal Policy, and Investment Committee

1. Four-month Financial Report – July-October 2003

Akron campus tuition and fee receipts, which are a function of generated student credit hours, fell short of budget estimates by \$649,866 through October 2003, reflecting summer and fall collections. Earnings on investments and other sources at the close of October exceeded budget estimates by \$1,265,179. Total expenses in the functional categories were less than budgeted by \$9,389,126.

Tuition and fee receipts through October 2003 for the Wayne College branch campus exceeded budget estimates by \$602,768. Revenue from other sources was less than budgeted by \$70,858; however, that shortfall is a function of timing and is offset by spending that was \$103,027 less than budgeted. Expenses in the functional categories were less than budgeted by \$1,055,178.

Investment income for FY2004 is budgeted at \$1.5 million, or \$375,000 per quarter. As of September 30, 2003, actual income amounted to \$354,051.

2. Purchases for More Than \$150,000

- Farris Disposal was awarded a \$164,805 contract for removal and disposal of campus refuse. The initial contract will be for a six-month period, January-June 2004, with options to extend the agreement for up to three additional years, one year at a time.

3. Name Change for the VPCIO Division

To reflect its increased focus on an information-technology-specific mission, the VPCIO Division has been renamed Information Technology Services.

4. Personnel Actions (attached)

Included in personnel actions that were approved by the Board was notice that Theodore Curtis, vice president for capital planning and facilities management, intends to be retired and re-employed into the same position, pursuant to the retirement/re-employment provisions of O.R.C. 3307.353. Formal action will be taken at a future meeting of the Board.

New Business

1. Revision to Operating Investment Policy

To allow the University to effectively manage interest-rate changes as they occur, the Board approved a minor change to the University's Operating Investment Policy. The revision will allow the University to have 100 percent of its investments in principal, secure investments.

2. Expression of Appreciation to Zips Men's Soccer Team

In a formal resolution, Trustees acknowledged the success of the 2003 Zips men's soccer team and expressed thanks to the players and coaches "for their exemplary accomplishments, which have brought continued recognition and respect to their University and their community."

3. Creation of Summit College

The Board has directed the administration to immediately consult with appropriate individuals and groups so as to effect the necessary actions for transitioning the current Community and Technical College and Division of Workforce Development and Continuing Education into The University of Akron Summit County Community College. Preparations will include the necessary academic and curricular planning, along with financial, staffing, space, and other related planning.

The college, which is expected to enroll its first entering students for the 2005 fall semester, will be a new dedicated enrollment unit that can provide the needed support for students whose success requires focused resources. Other defining characteristics of the college will be close partnerships with area high schools and community entities, and a mix of traditional and cutting-edge academic programs that are most responsive to changing community needs and market demands. Plans also will include exploring innovative models for program delivery such as early college. Early colleges permit high school students to earn associate degrees while completing their high school diplomas.

Notes

1. President's Report

In the interest of time, I abbreviated my remarks but requested that the long list of faculty and student accomplishments that I intended to report be read into the record and made available for the Board's review. Those extended remarks are included below.

I began my report by introducing Candace Campbell Jackson, who has just joined my office as Assistant to the President. She comes to us from Buckingham Doolittle and the GAR Foundation. She will have the opportunity to continue some work with GAR, and I am very pleased because of the important role that that Foundation plays within our community and for the University.

Second, as I had pledged earlier, I presented Chair Patricia Graves with a check in the amount of the raise that the Trustees so kindly offered me earlier. I asked that my donation be used for the Purnell-Fort scholarships.

Third, I have been privileged to represent the University on the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology. PCAST has just published a series of six reports, which I shared with the Board. The Council is now engaged in an additional set of assignments for the President. We met with him one week after Thanksgiving, and the thing that was most prominent on his mind was the trip that he had just made to Iraq. It was quite an emotional experience for him and for us to hear him in that regard.

A report entitled "Sticker Shock" – from the *Education Life* supplement of the November 9, 2003, New York Times – was distributed to Board members for their attention. It contains several articles that I asked them to read, in particular, the lead article, which is entitled "Five Truths About Tuition." It is very important in this time of considerable fiscal constraints and some degree of criticism of higher education that all of us better understand the issues underlying how we operate as public institutions of higher education. The set of articles that was given to Trustees does a very good job of outlining some of the key current items.

Other highlights of my report are as follows:

- The year-long NCAA Division 1 athletics recertification process for the University will begin on January 27, when NCAA representatives will visit our campus for a full-day orientation. Our steering committee for the process is being chaired by Dr. Karla Mugler, dean of University College and associate provost for student academic success.
- The Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority, the Akron Public Schools and the Greater Akron Chamber are joining the University Park Alliance.
- The University is part of a 15-university alliance that received a \$3.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation to significantly increase the number of minority students who earn bachelor's degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields. Serving as the project's principal investigators for the University are Dr. Jeffrey Wallace, professor of social science and coordinator of our Math and Science Initiative, and Dr. Paul Lam, associate dean of undergraduate students and diversity program in the College of Engineering.
- Several of our esteemed faculty received the 2003 Excellence in Education Award by *Ohio* magazine and were featured in its December issue. They are – Dr. Kathleen Ross-Alaolmolki, Nursing; Dr. Shelley Baranowski, History; Dr. J. Thomas Duke, English; and Dr. Paul C.D. Han, Polymer Engineering
- *PR News*, a national magazine for the public relations industry, has named Dr. David Ritchey as the "PR Professional of the Year" in its education category.
- *Foodservice Equipment and Supplies* magazine is presenting to Dining Services its 2003 Catering/Banquet Tabletop Award.
- Dr. Ira Sasowski, associate professor of geology and director of the center for environmental studies, recently joined an elite group of geology professionals as a fellow in the Geological Society of America.

- Dr. Haridutt Ramcharran, professor of finance and international business, won the best paper award at the 2003 International Business & Economics Research Conference.
- Our School of Law's team has won one of the leading mock trial competitions in the nation, besting 15 other law schools in the annual National Invitational Trial Tournament. One of our team members, Stuart Baker was chosen Best Advocate.
- James Malone, Jr., a Spring 2003 mechanical engineering graduate, has been honored statewide for his top score on the state Fundamentals of Engineering Exam.

I closed my remarks by wishing all in the University family, including the Board of Trustees, seasons greetings and much success for the coming year. I hope that you are as excited about the progress that we have made as a University during the past few years as I am. We will continue to press forward to capture the destiny that rightfully belongs to The University of Akron, so we look forward to a successful and exciting 2004.

2. Next regular meeting

January 28, 2004, 10 a.m., Bulger Residence Hall, 16th floor meeting room

With every good wish,

Sincerely,

**Personnel Transactions Approved by the Board of Trustees
December 10, 2003**

Appointments

Leigh A. Beisler, office assistant, Office of Accessibility, 10/01/03; **Stacey Lowery Bretz**, adjunct associate professor, Chemistry, 8/25/03; **Lani L. Brown**, assistant director, career development, Center for Career Management, 10/22/03; **Kirk E. Buckley**, housekeeping worker, Residence Life and Housing, 9/27/03; **Jackie I. Cory**, housekeeping worker, Residence Life and Housing, 9/27/03; **Mark Deering**, environmental compliance officer, Environmental Health and Safety, 10/27/03; **James Elder**, general maintenance worker, Wayne College, 9/29/03; **Michael B. Greer**, general maintenance worker, Residence Life and Housing, 9/27/03; **Shuwen Hu**, research associate, Institute of Polymer Science, 10/13/03; **Jennifer L. Hull**, housekeeping worker, Residence Life and Housing, 9/27/03; **Tracy D. Hull**, housekeeping worker, Residence Life and Housing, 9/27/03; **Jae-Hyeuk Jeong**, research associate, Polymer Engineering, 9/15/03; **Theresa A. Mountel**, account clerk 2, Wayne College business office, 10/13/03; **Vladimir Novikov**, visiting scientist, Institute of Polymer Science, 9/29/03; **Lamont D. O'Neil**, general maintenance worker, Residence Life and Housing, 9/27/03; **Anthony S. Ross**, telecommunications administrator, Telecommunications, 9/29/03; **Leo L. Smith**, housekeeping worker, Residence Life and Housing, 9/27/03; **John T. Shelton**, Gold Bar recruiter, Military Science, 10/15/03; **Sharon L. Sirpilla**, assistant director, Development, 10/31/03; **Barbara A. Turner**, office assistant, Academic Achievement Programs, 10/07/03; **Catherine E. Ware**, office assistant, Controller's Office, 9/29/03; and **Juanita F. Ward**, office assistant, Developmental Programs, 9/29/03.

Changes

Monique Beauvais, assistant to the dean, University College, title change from applications system analyst/programmer and change from staff to contract professional and transfer from Department of Development, 11/17/03; **Kevin Butler**, coordinator, instructional technology support, Learning Technologies and Scholar Learner Services, reclassification via job audit and title change from senior applications system analyst, 2/18/02; **Cher Deeds**, coordinator, media support technology, Wayne College Developmental Programs, reclassification via job audit and title change from media support technician, 7/28/03; **Ann Fleming**, visiting instructor, Marketing, correction in title from visiting professor, 8/25/03; **Nancy K. Grant**, professor, Public Administration and Urban Studies and fellow, Institute, Life-Span Development and Gerontology, additional title of co-director of Center for Emergency Management and Homeland Security Policy Research, 6/12/02; **Robin Hadnett**, interim manager-food services, Dining Services, temporary assignment and title change from chef, 9/08/03; **Amy M. Haynes**, account clerk 2, Wayne College business office, promotion and status change from temporary to regular and title change from account clerk 1, 10/06/03; **Becky Hoover**, executive assistant to the president, organizational development, additional title of Title IX coordinator, 12/28/01; **Perry R. Knuckles**, executive chef, Dining Services, temporary assignment and title change from chef, 9/29/03; **Benjamin Lohrum**, patrol officer 2, University Police, promotion and title change from

patrol officer 1, 7/15/03; **Connie Murray**, assistant to the associate provost - systems, title change from assistant to the dean, University College, due to reorganization, 8/25/03; **Lee Owens**, assistant to the vice president, Public Affairs and Development, title change from head football coach and transfer from Athletics, 11/17/03; **Lee Owens**, visiting instructor, Education, title change from assistant to the vice president and transfer from Public Affairs and Development, 1/01/04; **Jim Oziomek**, visiting scientist, Institute of Polymer Science, 10/03/03; and **Craig Simpson**, director, Center for Career Management, transfer to Office of Vice President for Student Affairs, 10/31/03.

Separations

Ibrahim Bekar, postdoctoral research associate, Mechanical Engineering, 10/13/03; **Nan Dunning**, systems analyst/programmer, Application Systems Services, 2/01/03; **Debra Gardenhire**, academic adviser 2, Wayne College student services, 10/10/03; **Jason A. Haas**, research assistant, Bliss Institute of Applied Politics, 10/17/03; **Bala T. Kasibhatla**, research scholar, Institute of Polymer Science, 10/31/03; **Lubna Khatri**, postdoctoral research associate, Chemical Engineering, 10/15/03; **Anthony J. LaSalvia**, assistant professor, Criminal Justice Technology, 5/31/04; **Marian A. L. Miller**, associate professor, Political Science, 11/02/03 (deceased); **Christine Ridga**, assistant professor, Bibliography, 11/14/03; **David Stephen**, director, Residence Life and Housing, change resignation date from 12/01/03 to 10/24/03; **Craig Simpson**, director, Center for Career Management, 6/30/04; and **C. Michael Walsh**, director, Trial Litigation Clinic and staff attorney, Law, 10/24/03.