

March 15, 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 February 26, 2003, meeting of The University of Akron's Board of Trustees:

Educational Policy/Student Affairs Committee

1. New Degree Programs, Minors and Certificates; and Degree Program Name Changes

Acting on the recommendations of the Curriculum Review Committee and the Faculty Senate, the Board approved two new degree programs, seven new certificates, two new minors and name changes for several degree programs, as detailed below:

New Offerings

- Master of Science with Licensure Degree in Middle Level Education, College of Education
- Associate Degree in Office Technology: Business Office Manager option, Wayne College
- Minor in Philosophy of Science and Religion, Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences
- Minor in Environmental Health and Safety Technology, Wayne College
- Certificate in Victim Studies, Department of Sociology and School of Social Work
- Certificate in Transportation Planning, Department of Geography and Planning and Department of Civil Engineering
- Certificate in Health Selling, College of Business Administration
- Certificate in Heavy Construction, Community and Technical College
- Certificate in Mental Health Social Services, Wayne College
- Certificate in Environmental and Safety Management, Wayne College
- Certificate in Workplace Communication, Wayne College

Degree Program Name Changes

- Behavioral Health Nursing Track is the new name for the Behavioral Health Nurse Practitioner Track.
- Child and Adolescent Health Nursing Track is the new name for the Child and Adolescent Health Nurse Practitioner Track.
- Associate Degree in Office Technology is the new name for Wayne College's Office Administration program. The names of the attendant options have changed as follows: Office Administration: Executive Assistant Option is now Office Technology: Administrative Professional Option; Office Administration: Health Care Administration Assistant Option is now Office Technology: Health Care Administrative Assistant Option; and Office Administration: Legal Administrative Assistant Option is now Office Technology: Legal Administrative Assistant Option.

3. Continued Affiliation with the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools

Trustees approved a formal request for continued affiliation with The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Higher Learning Commission, at the doctor's (research and professional curricula) degree-granting level. The Board resolution further stated that the University welcomes the attention of the NCA during the April visit of its team to campus.

4. Honorary Certificates

The Board approved a request by the Bliss Institute of Applied Politics to award Honorary Certificates of Applied Politics to two prominent Ohio political party leaders – Republican James R. Tilling and Democrat James M. Ruvolo. Both have been involved with the Bliss Institute and are widely admired in Ohio and national politics.

5. Research Grants and Contracts Reports, July 2002 - January 2003

For July 2002-January 2003, the University received a total of \$14,329,171 to support 231 research projects and other sponsored programs.

External Affairs Committee

1. Cumulative Gift and Grant Income Report, July 2002 - January 2003

Total giving to the University for July 2002 through January 2003 was recorded at \$13,011,040 million, only 5 percent less than the year-to-date average of \$13,689,502 for the previous five years, due in part to the receipt of the University's first gift of more than \$1 million for the current fiscal year. Current fiscal year giving still lags 22 percent behind giving for July 2001 through January 2002, which totaled \$16,836,483 in gifts.

Facilities Planning and Oversight Committee

1. Ballet Center Windows

BSG Construction Services was awarded \$169,750 to replace deteriorated upper windows at the Ballet Center with new windows to match the existing openings. The bid was \$50,250 less than budget estimates.

2. Substation Renovation

Eaton/Cutler Hammer was awarded a \$202,954 contract for electrical work in the substation renovation. The bid was \$2,046 less than budget estimates.

Finance and Fiscal Policy Committee

1. Quarterly Financial Report, July-December 2002 (subject to audit)

Akron campus results were less than budget estimates by \$1,494,752, reflecting the summer and fall collections of tuition and fees. It is anticipated that the state funding – both State Share of Instruction and special line items – will be reduced by 2.5 percent, in addition to the reduction in SSI funding that occurred earlier in this fiscal year. Earnings on investments and endowments at the close of December exceeded budget estimates by \$1,166,099. Total expenses were less than budget by \$6,773,170 on December 31. Auxiliary Enterprises fund balances exceeded second-quarter budget estimates by \$457,579.

Investment income for FY2002-03 is budgeted at \$3.0 million, or \$750,000 per quarter. As of December 31, 2002, actual income amounted to \$1,062,889 – \$437,111 less than budgeted. The decreased revenue is in direct relation to low interest rates.

Tuition and revenues for the Wayne College branch campus were \$42,239 greater than budgeted. Expenses in the functional categories were less than budget by \$1,381,900 at the close of December.

2. Selection of Underwriter Team

The firms of Fifth Third Securities, Inc. (lead banker) and NatCity Investments, Inc. (co-manager) were selected to serve as underwriters for the University's upcoming bond issue.

3. General Fund Budget Revisions

The revenue and transfers-in budgets for the Akron campus have been adjusted downward by \$3,555,329, and selected expenditure budgets and transfers-out have been decreased by a like amount.

Noteworthy resource revisions

- A downward adjustment of approximately \$1,067,700 in combined undergraduate and graduate tuition and fee receipts to compensate for lower-than-budgeted student credit hour production. Lower-than-anticipated nonresident enrollments necessitated a reduction in nonresident surcharge collections of \$150,000.
- A decrease of \$200,000 in miscellaneous fee receipts, representing collections less than projections primarily related to selective service and late payment fees.
- First-round budget reductions in State Share of Instruction funding reflect the “compromise” amount (-\$639,334) while anticipated additional reductions in state funding, including Challenge and Institute for Global Business line items, exceed \$2.26 million.
- A decrease of \$1,000,000 in investment income earnings based on revised cash flow and rate of return estimates.
- Various adjustments to selected dedicated fee revenue budgets, including course fees and the engineering infrastructure fees. Expense budgets have been adjusted accordingly.
- Recognition of \$1,509,000 in additional revenues from newly established and adjusted existing Departmental Sales accounts. Expense budgets have been adjusted accordingly.

Noteworthy expenditure and transfers-out adjustments

- Various adjustments to selected expenditure budgets, mirroring the dedicated fee revenue adjustments above.
- A \$1,800,000 reduction in Information Technology expenditures to recognize postponement of various projects.
- An increase in bad debt expense of \$1,320,000, which is required to recognize the anticipated write-off of uncollected accounts as prescribed by the auditors.
- In anticipation of less-than-budgeted enrollment and reductions in state funding, early actions were taken as follows:
 - the 20 percent tax assessed to departmental carryovers yielded a reduction in budgeted expenses of \$2,500,000; and
 - the decision to require forfeiture of vacancy savings is anticipated to net approximately \$2.3 million.

Both revenues and expenditures for Wayne College were increased by \$309,666 over the approved 2002-03 original budget.

Noteworthy revenue revisions

- An increase of approximately \$245,000 in combined tuition and fee receipts derived from the student credit hour production, course fees, and miscellaneous fees exceeding original budget projections for the fiscal year.
- A reduction of \$92,246 in the State Share of Instruction and Access Challenge subsidies, reflecting the governor's proposal for FY2002-03.
- An increase of \$156,912 in Other Sources, as the result of decreasing the Continuing Education budget to reflect actual activity and adding the projected revenues for the Holmes County Higher Education Center.

Noteworthy expenditure revisions

- An approximate \$53,000 increase in the instructional support budgets, resulting from increased enrollments.
- Adjustments to Instruction (\$256,862) and Public Service (-\$99,950), corresponding to the revised revenue estimates for the Holmes County facility and Continuing Education, respectively.
- A \$65,000 increase to transfers-out to provide support funds for the Campus Master Plan (\$40,000) and scholarships (25,000).

4. Personnel Actions (attached)

New Business

1. Summer 2003 Tuition and Fee Rates

In light of the current budget situation within the University and the State of Ohio, and with little prospect for marked improvement in the State Share of Instruction in the foreseeable future, tuition and general fees for the Akron campus, the Community and Technical College, and Wayne College will be increased by 9.9 percent, effective summer 2003. The facilities fee will increase by 1.9 percent.

2. Health Insurance Portability and Accounting Act Compliance

The president has been authorized to designate an individual who will be responsible for coordinating the University's compliance with the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accounting Act (HIPAA) and its corresponding regulations.

Notes

1. President's Report

I began my report by introducing and welcoming Dr. George Haritos, the new dean of engineering. Dean Haritos came from the United States Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. In addition to his work with the Air Force, he has an exceptional working relationship with NASA.

Noting that these are not good times for America and certainly not for Ohio, I reported that the University is working very hard to educate the public and the legislature to position us in as strong a manner as possible. I told Trustees that, to that end, I have been meeting with the faculty to gain their input, insights, and suggestions toward a publication that explains the University's vision and its benefits to our various constituencies.

I was very pleased to report that, in addition to implementing significant steps to increase effectiveness and efficiency, the University has been seeking to be of greater service and to develop new revenue streams, including line-item appropriations from both the state and the federal government. Through those efforts, the Medina County University Center received \$750,000 in a special appropriation in the community component of the state capital budget, and the federal government announced the award of \$1.5 million toward the beginning of the project through the efforts of Representative Ralph Regula. In addition to that appropriation, Congressman Regula and Senators DeWine and Voinovich secured \$500,000 for Exercise in Hard Choices, an Internet-based program that helps Congress teach private and public organizations, students, and other citizens about the federal budgeting process. The University also received federal monies of \$500,000 to fund research on job-related stressors that contribute to the shortage of qualified hospital nurses and a \$250,000 appropriation to support the Center for Emergency Management and Homeland Security Policy Research. I thanked Representatives Regula, Brown, and LaTourette, other members of the Ohio delegation, Senators DeWine and Voinovich, and former Representative Sawyer, who worked on the current budget.

I also shared with Board members three additional items of note:

- United Way has honored the University for a very special achievement. At a recent Summit County United Way luncheon, the University was recognized as a Most Improved Campaign for 2002. The University set a record of annual donations by collecting \$128,000 and surpassed its own aggressive expectations with a 28.3 percent increase to the previous year. I acknowledged Dr. Roney for her leadership.
- The University has been recognized nationally as one of the leaders in the production of significant Ph.D.s in chemistry. According to the February 10 issue of *Chemistry and Engineering News*, The University of Akron is tied for 12th in the nation, sharing that position with Michigan State University and the University of California Davis. The strength of Ph.D. production is testament to the strength of the faculty and to the

institution in a particular discipline, giving us significant visibility to that domain. The Ohio State University ranks below us at 17th, and the University of Georgia and the University of Massachusetts - Amherst are rated 25th.

- John Kristofco, Dean of Wayne College, has been awarded the 2002 Chaffin Award for Fiction for his essay entitled “October 1962.” The short story is about the Cuban Missile Crisis and the times surrounding it.

I ended my report by highlighting the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the first phase of the new Student Union. The new facility will be much larger than the previous one, and both phases will have been accomplished within three short years. The Gardner Student Center began its history in 1939 and grew during a span of 50-plus years.

2. Next regular meeting

April 23, 2003, 10 a.m., Bulger Residence Hall 16th floor meeting room

With every good wish,

Sincerely,

**Personnel Transactions Approved by the Board of Trustees
February 26, 2003**

Appointments

Dana S. Atkinson, enrollment services associate, Registrar, 1/13/03; **Joelle D. Elicker**, assistant professor, Psychology, 8/25/03; **Dominic L. Falcione**, 3-D technician, Art, 12/16/02; **Bonnie L. Filer-Tubaugh**, college lecturer, Developmental Programs, 1/13/03; **Sharon L. Johnson**, associate vice president and dean of student life, part-time 2/04/03-4/20/03 and full-time effective 4/21/03; **Darren Jones-Baker**, assistant groundskeeper, Physical Facilities, 1/13/03; **Bala T. Kasibhatla**, research scholar, Institute of Polymer Science, 12/23/02; **Dong Youl Kim**, visiting scientist, Mechanical Engineering, 12/28/02; **Sikyung Kim**, visiting scientist, Electrical Engineering, 1/02/03; **Brian S. Lewis**, director, Student Recreation Center, 2/03/03; **Gaurab Mahapatra**, instructor, Statistics, 1/13/03; **Christopher N. Sanders**, Gold Bar recruiter, Military Science, 1/10/03; **Aaron M. Schmidt**, assistant professor, Psychology, 8/25/03; **Craig Simpson**, director, Center for Career Management, 1/21/03; and **Xin Weng**, postdoctoral research scientist, Institute of Polymer Science, 1/01/03.

Changes

Christine Bates, assistant general counsel, Office of the Vice President and General Counsel, title change from assistant to the general counsel, 3/01/03; **Ben Campbell**, interim patrol sergeant, University Police, temporary reclassification and title change from patrol officer 2, 1/13/03; **Beth Chonko**, assistant director, career services, Center for Career Management, title change from interim director, 1/21/03; **Julia A. Gammon**, associate professor, Bibliography, and head, Acquisitions Department, relinquish title of marketing manager, University of Akron Press, 1/01/03; **Robert H. Gordon**, assistant director, Greek Life, title change from coordinator, Greek Affairs, 2/01/03; **George Hruby**, instructor, Finance, additional title of program director, Building Bridges, 2/01/03; **Linda McNulty**, master food service worker, Dining Services, title change from food service worker, 12/19/02; **Melinda Newman**, assistant professor, Finance, additional title of program director, Building Bridges, 2/01/03; **Claire M. Oberst**, coordinator, projects, Education Dean's Office, change in appointment basis from part-time to full-time, 1/01/03; **Elizabeth Papania**, administrative secretary, Nursing, change from part time to full time, 1/06/03; **Megan Richardson**, senior enrollment services associate, Registrar, promotion and title change from enrollment services associate, 12/23/02; **James Stewart**, maintenance repair worker, Residence Life and Housing, transfer from Physical Facilities and title change from HVAC technician, 1/13/03; **Timothy Vierheller**, professor, Physics and director, adjunct faculty, title change from director, faculty, Wayne College, 1/01/03; and **Margaret N. Wineman**, director, Nursing Research and Scholarly Activity and professor, Nursing, change from teaching faculty to administrative faculty with rank, 5/11/02.

Separations

Willie Clepper, building services worker, Residence Life and Housing, 12/27/02; **Chris Karas**, regional coordinator, Institute for Health and Social Policy, 1/06/03; **Tong Lin**, postdoctoral research fellow, Polymer Engineering, 1/12/03; **Prabhu P. Mohapatra**, postdoctoral research associate, Office of the Vice President for Research and Graduate School, 1/31/03; **Richard S. Simons**, postdoctoral research fellow, Chemistry, 12/31/03; and **Carol Storey**, food service worker, Dining Services, 12/31/02.