

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON



LUIS M. PROENZA
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 20, 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 December 10, 2008.

Presentation to the Board

Ms. Holly Harris Bane, associate vice president for strategic initiatives and engagement, and Dr. David Ayers, director of international programs, presented information on the University's new Confucius Institute.

Educational Policy/Student Affairs Committee

1. Name Change and Division of the College of Fine and Applied Arts

The Board approved a proposal, which was approved by Faculty Senate on October 2, 2008, to divide the College of Fine and Applied Arts into the following two colleges:

College of Creative and Professional Arts

- School of Music
- School of Dance, Theatre, and Arts Administration
- Myers School of Art
- School of Communication

College of Health Sciences and Human Services

- School of Social Work
- School of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
- School of Family and Consumer Sciences

2. Undergraduate Curriculum Proposals

Trustees authorized the following undergraduate curriculum changes, all of which were approved by Faculty Senate on November 6, 2008:

SC-08-40 B.S. MET Program Update

The changes bring the Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology in line with the University's general education requirements and provide for technical diversity and/or specialization with additional technical elective course opportunities.

SC-08-45 Paralegal Studies

The additions and deletions bring this program's curriculum in line with the technological advancements in the field while maintaining well-rounded instruction in areas of substantive law.

SC-08-46 Paralegal Studies Certificate

The certificate has been changed to incorporate changes made to the associate degree program.

SC-08-54 Respiratory Care

Courses specific to the A.A.S. Degree in Respiratory Care are being removed, because the AAS program has been replaced by a B.S. degree which has the needed courses specific for it. These courses are being removed to eliminate any confusion.

SC-08-55 B.S. Respiratory Care

The changes in the program will provide more time to cover several critical topic areas without increasing the total credits necessary for completion. These changes were initiated by the change in the credit hours for the 2235:450 class.

AS-07-048 Undergraduate Certificate in Cross-Cultural Negotiation

This certificate proposal has emerged from the Global Studies Initiative Working Group. This is a campus-wide collaborative effort to support faculty efforts to build a more internationalized curriculum that will prepare our students to compete globally, focusing on creating programs that will engage our students in the serious study of strategic languages and cultures and studying abroad.

3. Restructuring Athletics Academic Services; Creating Center for Silver Therapeutics Research

The Board approved the following changes that were approved by Faculty Senate on November 6, 2008:

Restructuring of Academic Services in the Department of Athletics

This restructuring will allow for more efficiencies and effectiveness, and will address issues that impact graduation and academic progress rates.

Center for Silver Therapeutics Research

The purpose for the creation of a Center for Silver Therapeutics Research is to recognize officially the already assembled consortium of UA researchers whose focus is the advancement of silver-based components as potential cures for a variety of human diseases.

4. Curricular Changes in School of Law

Trustees authorized the following curricular changes in the School of Law:

LS-08-01 Advanced Legal Applications

Adds a criminal law/writing lab course that serves as an early intervention program geared toward student success.

LS-09-02 Property (9200:613) and Air & Space Law (9200:624)

Removes courses that have not been offered in several years.

5. Tentative Degree Recipients – Fall 2008 Commencement

The Board approved a list of prospective graduates for participation in Fall 2008 Commencement Ceremonies, subject to completion of degree requirements. The list included candidates for 34 doctoral, 30 Juris Doctorate, 307 masters, 763 baccalaureate, and 177 associate degrees.

6. Academic Calendars – 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012

The following 2009-2010 academic calendar was approved along with tentative calendars for two subsequent academic years:

FALL SEMESTER	
Day and Evening Classes Begin	Mon., August 24
Labor Day *	Mon., September 7
Veterans' Day	Wed., November 11
Veterans' Day Observed	Wed., November 11
Thanksgiving Break **	Thurs.-Sat., November 26-28
Classes Resume	Mon., November 30
Final Instructional Day	Sat., December 5
Final Examination Period	Mon.-Sat., December 7-12
Commencement	Sat., December 12
Fall Semester Grades Due	Tues., December 15
Spring Intersession (Winter Recess)	Sat.-Sat., December 19-January 9
SPRING SEMESTER	
Day and Evening Classes Begin	Mon. January 11
Martin Luther King Jr. Day *	Mon., January 18
Presidents' Day Observance *	Tues., February 16
Spring Recess	Mon.-Sat., March 15-20
Classes Resume	Mon., March 22
Final Instructional Day	Sat., May 1

Final Examination Period	Mon.-Sat., May 3-8
Commencement	Sat.-Sun., May 8-9
Spring Semester Grades Dues	Tues., May 11
Law School Commencement	Sun., May 16
SUMMER SESSION I	
Day and Evening Classes Begin for First 5-week (5WI) and First 8-week (8WI) Terms	Mon., May 17
Memorial Day *	Mon., May 31
Final Instructional Day for First 5-week (5WI) Term	Sat., June 19
SUMMER SESSION II	
Day and Evening Classes Begin for Second 5-week (5WII) and Second 8-week (8WII) Terms	Mon., June 21
Independence Day Observance *	Mon., July 5
Final Instructional Day for First 8-week (8WI) Term	Sat., July 10
SUMMER SESSION III	
Day and Evening Classes Begin for Third 5-week (5WIII) Term	Mon., July 12
Final Instructional Day for Second 5-week (5WII) Term	Sat., July 24
Final Instructional Day for Third 5-week (5WIII) and Second 8-week (8WII) Terms	Sat., August 14
Commencement	Sat., August 14
Summer Grades Due	Tues., August 17
*classes canceled day and evening	
**classes canceled from Wednesday at 5 p.m. until Monday at 6:45 a.m.	

7. Research Grants and Sponsored Programs Report – October 2008

For July-October 2008, funding for externally funded research and other sponsored programs was \$21.7 million to support 196 projects. For the same period in the prior fiscal year, funding totaled \$18.7 million for 199 projects. For FY2009 to date, four patents were awarded, seven patent applications were filed, and 28 disclosures were submitted. For the first four months of the prior fiscal year, one patent was issued, 11 patent applications were filed, and 19 disclosures were submitted.

External Affairs Committee

1. Cumulative Gift and Grant Income Report – October 2008

For July-October 2008, total giving was \$7.6 million, or 23 percent less than the \$9.9 million received during the first four months of FY2008. UA received 7,576 gifts in the 2008-09 fiscal year to date, compared to 7,025 for the prior fiscal year to date.

2. Honorary Degrees for Kennedy, Alexander, Read and Smith

The honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree will be bestowed upon an extraordinary faculty member and three alumni who are community leaders and philanthropists: Distinguished Professor of Polymer Science Dr. Joseph P. Kennedy, FirstEnergy Corporation President and CEO Anthony J. Alexander, teacher and community activist Judith Read, and noted attorney Dean E. Smith.

3. Honoring the Memory of Janet Beverly Purnell

Trustees expressed their sincere condolences to the family of former Board Chair Janet Beverly Purnell in her passing and directed that an appropriate resolution in her honor be presented to her family.

Facilities Planning and Oversight Committee

1. Bath Nature Preserve Field Station Renovation

Contracts for renovation of the field station at Bath Nature Preserve were awarded to low bidders – Stanley Miller Construction Company, \$171,057 for general trades; S.A. Comunale, \$36,135 for HVAC and plumbing; and Thompson Electric, \$51,935 for electrical work. The project includes adding accessible restrooms, accessible parking, and new classroom and laboratory space.

2. Multiplex Football Stadium – Audio Visual Equipment

Board members authorized the administration to enter into a \$1,313,122 contract with low bidder Capturion Network, LLC to supply audio visual equipment for the multiplex football stadium.

3. Multiplex – Student Housing

Trustees approved contracts with low bidders Cavanaugh Building Corporation (\$1,077,300 for foundations, site work, utilities, and rough grading) and Mack Industries, Inc. (\$586,400 for precast concrete plank materials).

4. Campus Energy Plan

As required of the University by H.B. Sub 251, the Board adopted a multi-phase, 15-year plan to improve building energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption.

Finance, Fiscal Policy, and Investment Committee

1. Quarterly Report – July-September 2008

Trustees reviewed the financial report for the first three months of the current fiscal year, covering July 1-September 30, 2008. In that period, revenue for the Akron campus was \$149.7 million, or about 0.2 percent less than what was estimated in the budget. Total expenditures were \$82 million for the period, or about 0.1 percent less than what was budgeted. Revenue at Wayne College for the period was \$5.6 million, or about 1.2 percent more than budget. Total expenditures for the same period at Wayne were \$2.5 million, or about 5.9 percent less than budgeted.

2. Purchases More Than \$150,000

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

- To Waters Corporation, \$324,778.20 plus shipping costs for a Synapt HDMS with Acquity UPLC system and accessories
- To Bruker Daltonics, \$575,000 plus shipping costs for a Ultraflex III MalDI-ToF/ToF Mass Spectrometer and a HCT ultra ETD Quadrupole Ion Trap and accessories
- To Sirius Computer Solutions, \$301,450 for an IBM P6-570 Server and accessories

3. Capital Projects Financing

The Board approved the internal reallocation of funding to support the financing of various capital projects, including those for the College of Engineering, School of Law, Athletics, Parking and units in the Administrative Services Building.

4. University 403(b) Plan

Trustees approved the use of a draft plan document to be finalized by a 403(b) committee to comply with new IRS regulations that increase the University's responsibilities as plan sponsor of 403(b) plans for its employees.

5. Asset Allocation/Investment Policy

The Board adopted an Asset Allocation/Investment Policy to establish a clear understanding of the investment objectives of University of Akron endowment funds. Those objectives are – (1) to provide current income and long-term financial support for the academic programs, student scholarship, and general operations of the University and (2) to preserve the real principal value of the endowed assets, as well as the level of spending of real dollars, over the longer term.

6. Designated Allocation of Facility Fee

Trustees formally affirmed the facility fee's dual usage to support both debt service and operations for the Student Union and the Student Recreation and Wellness Center.

7. Ohio Fair Minimum Wage Amendment

To comply with Ohio's Fair Minimum Wage Amendment, the Board accepted the recommendation that the University implement a revised minimum wage for non-tipped employees of \$7.30 per hour. Minimum wage rates here will increase with the beginning of the January 1, 2009, pay period, which is December 22, 2008.

8. Personnel Actions

The Personnel Transactions approved by Trustees as amended are posted online at <http://www.uakron.edu/president/docs/Personnel-transactions-Dec08.xls>.

Rules

1. Rule Change to 3359-2-02, Organization of Instruction

The additional language in this Rule [item (A)(3)] provides the authority for creating temporary units of administration as recommended by the president and approved by the Board of Trustees. The purpose of this authority is to formally address the creation of temporary entities such as the University Park Alliance.

New Business

1. Establishment of the Office of University Park Alliance

The University Park Alliance has existed as an unincorporated organization comprised of many volunteer public and private community partners but not a legal entity separate from the persons or organizations that composed it. To better fulfill the responsibility of carrying out the terms of grants received from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and other support organizations to revitalize University Park, the Board approved the formal establishment of an Office of University Park Alliance at The University of Akron, reporting to the Office of President.

2. Audit

Trustees accepted the external audit results for fiscal year 2007-08 as provided for in the Office of Auditor of State, Plante Moran PLLC, and University audit contract.

3. Mutual Aid

The Board approved mutual aid agreements between the University's police department and the city of Orrville police and the SWAT Teams of Summit County.

4. University System of Ohio Report

Trustees approved submission of two Institutional Affordability Reports to the University System of Ohio. Two Inter-University Council (IUC) strategies guided the development of the reports – (1) a six-percent voluntary cap on tuition increases should the University receive no additional state funding and (2) a five-percent voluntary cap on tuition increases should the University receive a two-percent increase in state funding. Both reports adhere to the IUC Affordability Pledge, which states that net tuition will not increase above the Higher Education Price Index (currently 3.6 percent) for those students in the lowest income (Pell Grant eligible) categories. The two reports also outlined the University’s best-estimate predictions about our contributions to meeting the Chancellor’s goals for each of the metrics for the system. Our predictions were based on our recent successes in each of the areas and our good-faith attempts to aggressively pursue helping the system meet the goals while recognizing the University’s own distinctive roles and areas of excellence.

5. Mill Street Bridge

Because the city of Akron and the Ohio Department of Transportation plan to reconstruct the Mill Street Bridge, which will require certain property rights from the University, the Board authorized the administration to negotiate, draft and execute such agreements, licenses, easements and fee simple titles as necessary to permit reconstruction of the bridge.

6. Authorizing Settlement/Negotiation of Final Terms of Eminent Domain Process

Legal counsel for the University was authorized to finalize the settlement documents consistent with the terms of the settlement agreement that was read into the record before the Court on December 2, 2008, related to property at 445, 451 and 437 East Exchange Street.

Notes

1. President's Report

In the interest of time, I abbreviated my remarks for this meeting.

I began by introducing to the Board Kristin Bowman and her colleague David Robinson. Kristin is president of our Associated Student Government and David is part of the Executive Committee. I welcomed and thanked them for the leadership that they and their colleagues have exhibited for many years. We look forward to a great year from ASG.

After noting the passing of Janet Purnell, former chair of our Board, I thanked Chairman Kaufmann for outlining her contributions to the University. In that context, I advised Trustees that Mary Schiller Myers had suffered a severe stroke a couple of days ago, and we were not certain if she would be able to recover. I asked that they please remember her in their thoughts. (Ms. Myers passed away on Dec. 10.)

Next, I said that commencement is, of course, a time of great joy for the University, and we have two ceremonies on Saturday which I hope most of you will be able to attend. Significant amongst these ceremonies are the graduation of a very special student and the recognition, which you authorized, by way of honorary degree presentations to Professor Joe Kennedy, who recently received his 100th patent, and to Judge Harold White. As you know, we had intended to honor both Judge White and his wife at commencement. Unfortunately, Mrs. White passed away recently; however, we were able to award her an honorary degree at a special ceremony, and I want to thank Chairman Kaufmann and Trustee Bond for joining me in that opportunity just before Jeannette's passing.

I called the Board's attention to the model of the stadium that was by the window and asked that Trustees please take a moment to see how the stadium will eventually look. It is a very detailed model and gives a good sense of the building.

I am particularly pleased to tell you that, about a month ago, four trustees from a sister public university in Ohio visited our university with the specific intent of asking and learning about how we've gone about creating the success that The University of Akron is enjoying. This is the highest testament, I think, that we can expect to gain from our public university colleagues, namely, that four trustees – the chairman, vice chairman, and two others – would take a full half day of their time to come and ask how we've gone about creating a New Landscape for Learning and the other initiatives that the University has undertaken. I am most heartened by that recognition.

I want to briefly note for you the great success of our men's soccer team throughout the past four years. That team has posted 63 wins, 12 losses, and 11 ties for a record-breaking four-year set of seasons in a very demanding schedule that increasingly is nationally competitive. This year, as you know, they were seeded fifth in the country for the NCAA tournament.

My report concluded by thanking Board members for their role in all that the University has accomplished in the past year through their leadership and with your support. We look forward to a most exciting academic second semester and year 2009, and I took this opportunity to wish all in attendance season's greetings and a happy new year.

2. Next Regular Meeting

The Board will reconvene on Wednesday, January 21, 2009, in the Board office on the third floor of the Student Union, with an executive session to begin at 8 a.m. and the public session to begin no earlier than 10 a.m.

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