

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON



LUIS M. PROENZA
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

June 11, 2012

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 May 2, 2012.

Presentation to the Board

Dr. Linda Subich, associate dean of Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences, provided an update on the general education revision process and implementation plan.

Finance & Administration Committee

1. Personnel Actions

The personnel transactions approved by Trustees as amended are posted online at <http://www.uakron.edu/bot/docs/personnel-reports/Personnel-transactions-May2012.pdf>.

2. Cumulative Gift and Grant Income Report for July 2011-February 2012

For July 2011-February 2012, giving totaled \$43 million, 75 percent more than the \$24.6 million received for July 2010-February 2011 and 84 percent more than the five-year average of \$23.3 million. The number of gifts increased from 15,167 for July 2010-February 2011 to 16,444 for the fiscal year to date.

3. Quarterly Financial Report for Period Ended March 31, 2012

As of the end of the third quarter, the overall year-to-date budget trailed estimates by \$6 million. This variance is the result of total year-to-date revenues falling short of the budget estimate by \$8.4 million (2.4 percent); and total year-to-date expenditures slightly below the budget estimate by \$2.2 million (0.7 percent).

Total expenditures are projected to be very close to original budget. However, there are variances in specific areas. For instance, projected total compensation expenditures are tracking at \$7.7 million below budget. This is a combination of savings from vacant positions and lower-than-expected fringe benefit expenses. An unfavorable variance in non-personnel operating (-\$2 million) is more than offset with a favorable (+\$2.1 million) utilities variance. At the same time, it is projected that scholarships will exceed budget by \$4.5 million. Roughly \$2.5 million of the scholarship overage is funded from prior-year balances.

4. Quarterly Investment Report for Period Ended March 31, 2011

The third-quarter rate of return was 0.24 percent with an annual return of 2.48 percent for operating funds. These investments generated \$1.7 million in income for the first nine months of the fiscal year. The market value of endowments has recovered almost its entire \$5.2 million market decline experienced in the first half of FY12. The portfolio composite of the pooled endowments posted a 10- percent rate of return for the third quarter and a 1.36-percent return for the trailing 12 months.

5. Purchases for More Than \$350,000

- contract to Schindler Elevator for elevator maintenance and repair services at a total net cost of \$1,566,945 for a five-year contract based on existing elevators
- contract to Coca-Cola for exclusive pouring rights of the entire University for 10 years, effective July 1, 2012

6. Procurement of Natural Gas

The administration, in conjunction with campus energy management consultant McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC, was authorized solicit proposals for natural gas from qualified suppliers for contract periods of July 2012-June 2015 and July 2012-June 2017. That approach will allow the University to analyze whether it is time to take longer-term advantage of a natural gas market that currently is at a five-year low but constantly fluctuates. Bid prices for this commodity, similar to other utilities, are typically valid for only 24-48 hours. The Board approved a resolution allowing the University to lock in prices immediately following the bid closing.

7. Contract with Pearson eCollege

The Office of the Vice President for Finance and Administration/CFO requested Board authorization to contract with Pearson eCollege. The recommendation was based on a thorough fiscal analysis of scaling eLearning at the University with and without the contract with Pearson eCollege. The analysis included estimating incremental costs for scaling eLearning at the University up to 10,000 enrollment and an assessment of Pearson eCollege's learning platform and ancillary services.

8. FY2013 Tuition and Fees

The administration's request for an increase in undergraduate and graduate tuition and general service fees of 3.5 percent, effective fall 2012, was approved. A 6.3-percent increase in tuition, a 5-percent increase in non-resident surcharge and a general service fee increase of 3.3 percent were requested for the School of Law. A transportation fee increase of 3.3 percent also was approved as proposed, effective fall 2012.

9. FY2013 Room and Board Rates

Revised Room and Board rates for 2012-2013 were approved. On average, dining service for student meal plans will be increasing by 3 percent to cover increased food and labor costs. Residence Life and Housing room rates will increase 3 percent with the exception of Grant and Gallucci Halls, which will have no rate change. Significant increases in personnel expenditures, overhead costs and debt service necessitated an increase to create a balanced budget without use of reserve funds.

10. Holiday Schedule 2012-2013 and Summer Hours 2012

The proposed University holiday schedule for FY2012-13 was approved, as listed below. In addition, summer hours were proposed to run May 7-August 17, 2012, with a work day from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. including a 30-minute lunch break.

Independence Day	July 4, 2012
Labor Day	September 3, 2012
Veterans' Day	November 12, 2012 (Staff holiday; classes held)
Thanksgiving Day	November 22, 2012
In honor and in lieu of Columbus Day	November 23, 2012
In honor and in lieu of Presidents' Day	December 24, 2012
Christmas Day	December 25, 2012
New Year's Day	January 1, 2013
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	January 21, 2013
Memorial Day	May 27, 2013

Academic Issues & Student Success Committee

1. Alan N. Gent Ohio Research Scholar Professor of Polymers

As a tribute and honor to Alan N. Gent, professor emeritus of Polymer Physics and Polymer Engineering, the Ohio Research Scholar Professor position at the University was renamed the Alan N. Gent Ohio Research Scholar Professor of Polymers to memorialize Dr. Gent's more than 50 years of dedication and commitment to the University and to recognize his noteworthy achievements in education and research and formative contributions to the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering.

2. Research Grants and Sponsored Programs Reports, July 2011-January 2012

For July 2011-January 2012, funding for externally funded research and other sponsored programs totaled \$45,191,098 for 292 projects. For July 2010-January 2011, funding was \$20,641,951 for 263 projects. For July 2011-January 2012, 6 new patents were issued, 21 patent applications were filed, and 33 disclosures were submitted—compared to 4, 15 and 39, respectively, for July 2010-January 2011.

3. Recognition of John MacDonald, Julia Neal and Deanna Strauss

John MacDonald, associate director of programs for Student Recreation and Wellness Services, Julia Neal, manager of special events for Student Recreation and Wellness Services, and Deanna Strauss, a graduate assistant for Residence Life and Housing, were honored for their outstanding leadership, initiative and bravery while serving as trip advisers during an alternative spring break experience for 13 students. While at Grace House on the Mountain in St. Paul, Va., fire broke out in a bunkhouse where some of the students were staying. Thanks to MacDonald, Neal and Strauss, no one was injured, and the students returned to campus safely.

4. Tentative Graduation List and Statistics for Spring 2012

The tentative graduation statistics for spring and a list of prospective graduates as of mid-April 2012 were approved, pending candidates' completion of requirements. The tentative total of 2,788 degrees included 40 doctoral, 131 Juris Doctor, 648 master's, 1,626 baccalaureate and 343 associate.

Rules

1. Approved Revisions to University Rule 3359-11-15, Reemployment Procedures for Retirees Other Than Retirees Who Elected to Retire Under a University of Akron Early Retirement Incentive Program for all Employees Other Than Bargaining Unit Faculty

The purposes of the revisions to this rule are to simplify and consistently administer health care benefits for reemployed retirees in an equitable fashion.

2. Approved New University Rule 3359-47-01, InfoCision Stadium-Summa Field Alcohol Policy

This University rule indicated that full-time unclassified exempt staff positions (which include post-doctoral research positions) were eligible to earn 22 days of vacation per year. The revisions to the rule exclude the post-doctoral research positions from being eligible to accrue vacation time.

Notes

1. President's Report

I began my report by welcoming Jim Tressel as the newest member of the University's academic support team, a former colleague and alumnus who has returned to the University to focus on student success and the Akron Experience. I said that Jim already has brought many ideas and insights gained over his decades of successful mentoring experiences. I quoted one of Jim's favorite phrases, "With tradition comes responsibility" and said it had made an impression on me, particularly at this time of year when we celebrate some of our history and traditions.

I told Trustees that three inspirational examples would be celebrated later that same week at the annual Founders Day luncheon—John R. Buchtel, Parke R. Kolbe and Norman P. Auburn. Those individuals were designated along the way as "founders" of the institution because they achieved excellence and growth for the University in times of significant economic, social and technological change. We, too, drive toward growth and enhancement under challenging circumstances. I invited Trustees join us for the Founders Day luncheon, at which approximately 80 recent retirees also would be recognized.

After mentioning the dynamic communication and open dialogue that had taken place on campus recently regarding finance and the University's budget, I commended Provost Mike Sherman, CFO David Cummins and Dean Chand Midha for their efforts in developing materials and opportunities to foster a broad and shared understanding of the institution's budgetary conditions with a comprehensive review of the University's budget over the last 10 years. With the support of their excellent staffs, they assembled forums, presentations, online resources and other communications that provided the informational foundation for a reasoned and collaborative discussion among the campus community. I expressed particular appreciation to Mr. Cummins, noting that his forthright manner and financial acumen brought clarity to an often-perplexing array of financial data, and his good-natured and timely wit contributed greatly to the collegiality of those meetings. Dr. Midha brought the statistician's perspective and reflection that percentages are not as meaningful when taken out of context. Those conversations and materials brought the campus together with a mutual understanding and appreciation of the facts and the challenges.

As further evidence that we can accomplish something significant when we come together, the University received the United Way of Summit County Spirit of Caring Award. I informed the Board that our employee campaign broke a record this year, raising \$183,585, a 24-percent increase from 2010. Participation improved to 35 percent, from 18 percent the year before. I extended my heartfelt thanks to the entire campus and particularly to Holly Harris Bane, who led the campaign resulting in the University having the community's largest increase in donations.

I then reported on the J.M. Smucker Company's gift to the College of Business Administration that would establish an Institute for Leadership Advancement. It will be open to honors, undergraduate business, and MBA students. I congratulated Dean Ravi Krovi.

I highlighted the following recent awards, appointments and achievements and congratulated those individuals and all of the other students, faculty and staff who received due recognition and whose names have not yet been mentioned:

- Dr. Sherman has been invited by Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor Jim Petro to participate in the newly created Ohio Completion Task Force.
- Candace Campbell Jackson is one of four people to receive the School of Law's 2012 Outstanding Alumni Award on May 11. She also is a recipient of the 2012 Athena Award from Inside Business magazine.
- Several student teams distinguished themselves with winning performances at recent competitions, including the LaunchTown Entrepreneurship Awards, and the 2012 RoboGames. In addition, the new Formula One car was unveiled, another outstanding example of a tradition that is second to none in the country.

I said that, in addition to the Founders Day activities that coming Friday, five commencement ceremonies would take place over the same weekend, with the School of Law's commencement ceremony being held the following Sunday. I told Trustees that nearly 2,800 degrees would be conferred on more than 2,700 students, making this the largest spring graduating class of the 21st century, a record I hope does not stand for very long.

I also noted that the annual Alumni Day gala would be held on May 18. Inductees to the Alumni Honor roll for this year are Mark T. Clark, Irvin "Jay" Musson III and Philip A. Lloyd, and Honorary Alumni Awards recipients are Arthur F. Anton, Frank L. Douglas and Vanita Oelschlager.

Mrs. Brennan would be recognized as Outgoing Chair of the Board of Trustees. I again offered congratulations to her on receiving the 2012 Sir Thomas More Award on May 1.

I asked Vice Chair Ralph Palmisano to convey the University's congratulations to his wife, Barbara, who would be profiled in Crain's Cleveland Business and recognized at an awards luncheon as one of 2012's Care Heroes for her work in allied health-palliative care. I also noted that, on June 23, Vice Chair Richard Pogue and his wife, Pat, would be recognized by the American Red Cross with its Humanitarian Award.

2. Provost's Report

Dr. Sherman said that the University is pursuing its Higher Learning Commission reaccreditation. He said the self-study steering committee continues to meet regularly to guide that process, and writing teams are drafting the self-study document. He said Trustees would be involved in that process during the site visit in March 2013, as well as through other interactions.

Dr. Sherman said all departments and department-level academic programs had been reviewed in a five-year cycle, and those were undertaken in a formative way. He said that last year those findings were updated, and the Delaware Study (a teaching load comparison) was used to benchmark that work.

Dr. Sherman said the Academic Program Review Committee has been reconstituted under the leadership of Dr. Midha. He said the committee will perform summative reviews within a shorter time frame so that, over the next academic year, discussions can take place with the Board concerning the potential of reallocating, maintaining or investing in programs in different ways. He said a similar approach is being designed to assess academic-support units, and Trustees would hear more as that framework is established.

Dr. Sherman reported that the Achieving Distinction strategic investment program, of no less than \$2 million per year over the next 10 years, will be created by faculty coming together and conducting interdisciplinary research. He said an open question-and-answer forum about that initiative had been conducted during the prior week and was attended by approximately 40 faculty. Dr. Sherman said it was a great conversation that clarified how to move that agenda forward in the most effective and productive ways. He noted that information is updated regularly on the Achieving Distinction website: <http://www.uakron.edu/provost/achieving-distinction/>. He said that proposals would be received on May 18 and reviewed by Dr. Proenza, Dr. Newkome and him, along with an advisory group this summer. Those resources will be allocated for the beginning of the next academic year.

Dr. Sherman said the University's summer enrollment and fall yield activities continue in earnest. He thanked the colleges for their efforts, noting that—9,000 letters had been sent to admitted students, faculty contributed significantly to the senior visit days, and hundreds of phone calls had been made by faculty and staff to both prospective and current students.

Dr. Sherman said that May 1 was the due date for student confirmations, which are being monitored closely as they provide a very strong indicator of fall enrollment numbers for full-time, first-time students. He said that the fall 2012 freshman profile promises to be more academically prepared, reflecting a 9 percent increase in students with an ACT score of 25 or higher. He guaranteed that recruitment efforts would be robust and relentless and that those involved would learn which strategies are most effective, improve tactics and make sure to execute them in the following year.

Dr. Sherman said that, during the summer, a great deal of effort would be focused on transfer students with the goal of a 6-percent increase in confirmed transfer students. He expressed confidence in attaining and exceeding that goal, noting that the increase was at 5 percent already. He said that work will continue with a focus on adult learners and veteran students.

Dr. Sherman said that, as I had indicated, the budget forums over the last several weeks were very productive. He said those conversations were steered in great part by University Council and are a strong example of shared academic collegial governance.

Dr. Sherman said he had the wonderful opportunity to join with Dr. Newkome and me in presenting awards to the University's outstanding teachers, researchers and exemplary University service awardees for creating a remarkable Akron Experience. The award winners are:

- Outstanding Teacher Award – Dr. Curtis B. Clemons, professor of Applied Mathematics;
- Outstanding Teacher/Mentor of First-Year Students Award – Dr. Dr. Sheldon B. Wrice, professor of technical writing and composition and chair of Associate Studies;
- Outstanding Researcher Award – Dr. Matthew D. Shawkey, associate professor of Biology;
- Staff Exemplary University Service Award – Cpl. Robert W. Stachowiak, Jr., departmental systems administrator, University Police Department; and
- Contract Professional Exemplary University Service Award – Mrs. Karen E. Dickerson, director of Transfer Student Services.

Dr. Sherman said a video presentation introducing those individuals would be made at a future Board meeting.

He concluded his report by saying that this past academic year was very rewarding for the campus and, with the Board's endorsement of Vision 2020, the University is on an improved trajectory of accomplishment.

3. Next Regular Meeting

The Board's next regularly scheduled meeting will occur on Wednesday, June 13, 2012 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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