

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON



LUIS M. PROENZA
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 18, 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 December 12, 2012.

Presentation to the Board

In place of his usual report to the Board, Senior Vice President and Provost/COO Mike Sherman gave a presentation on The University of Akron and Complete College Ohio. Those remarks are printed under "Provost's Report" on page 5 of this memorandum.

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-December2012.pdf>.

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

The University recorded total giving of \$24,149,119 for July-October 2012. That total compares to \$25,330,790 for July-October 2011 (a decrease of 5 percent) and a year-to-date average of \$13,884,115 for the previous five years (an increase of 74 percent). During July-October 2012, 7,993 gifts were received, as compared with 7,973 for the same period in the last fiscal year (an increase of 0.25 percent).

3. Purchases for More Than \$350,000

The Office of the Vice President for Finance and Administration/CFO proposed the award of a contract to U.S. Foods to be the University's primary supplier for regularly ordered food and food-service-related supplies. The initial contract will be for a three-year period that is renewable for up to two additional one-year periods. The University spends approximately \$3-4 million on those items annually to service the main dining operations throughout campus. It is estimated that this Prime Food Vendor Program will save the University \$25,000 per year.

The Office of the Vice President for Talent Development and Human Resources proposed an award to Highmark Insurance Group to renew the University's stop-loss coverage for the plan year 2013. Annual premiums to provide specific medical and prescription-drug stop-loss coverage of \$250,000 per individual, with an unlimited lifetime maximum per individual, are approximately \$1,230,000.

4. Auburn South/West/North Tower Roof Replacement

Bids for the Auburn South/West/North Tower roof replacement were solicited in October 2012 and received by the Purchasing Department on November 7, 2012. The low bidder, Campopiano Roofing Company, was awarded a construction contract of \$658,000 to remove completely the existing roof membrane, insulation, sheet metal and all respective components and to install a new 60-mil, reinforced, ethylene-propylene-diene-monomer-membrane roofing system.

5. Endorsement of 2012 Campus Development Guide Plan Update (Tab 5)

On June 13, 2012, Sasaki Associates presented its preliminary update of the Campus Development Guide Plan to the Board, which accepted it via Resolution 6-7-12. On December 3, 2012, the Board's Finance & Administration Committee reviewed the final update report. It was presented to the full Board of Trustees, which endorsed the 2012 Campus Development Guide Plan Update provided by Sasaki as the framework for campus capital development going forward.

Academic Issues & Student Success Committee

1. Curriculum Proposal

Five-year BS in Applied Mathematics with an MBA: BUS-11-1006 & A&S Math 11-0653

Local companies are seeking individuals trained in quantitative skills, finance and financial modeling. Typical business majors do not have quantitative skills, and mathematics majors do not have finance backgrounds. The proposed program offers an opportunity for students to study mathematics and applications to the financial industry with experts in both fields. The addition of this new program will fill a need in the market place and offer an accelerated option for students.

Masters in Music: Wind Conducting: CPA-Music 11-0542

The purpose of this proposal is to provide graduate study in the field of wind conducting for interested and qualified graduates of a bachelor's program. The degree is intended for students who wish to continue post-master's-degree study at the doctoral level in wind conducting and/or to teach instrumental music in public or private institutions. This program will be aligned with current Master of Music Performance degree programs in Choral and Orchestral Conducting. This degree will enhance our ability to recruit and retain high-quality graduate students.

2. Tentative Graduation List

The tentative graduation statistics for fall and a list of prospective graduates from the Office of the Registrar included the names of the candidates, listed by college and degrees, who were eligible to participate in the University's fall 2012 commencement ceremonies. Tentative totals were 1,553 degrees, including—44 doctoral, 341 master, 40 juris doctor, 927 baccalaureate and 201 associate degrees.

3. Proposed Department of Geosciences

The name of the Department of Geology and Environmental Science was changed to the Department of Geosciences.

4. Research Grants and Sponsored Programs Reports, July-October 2012

For July-October 2012, funding for externally funded research and other sponsored programs totaled \$17,471,873 for 240 awards, as compared with \$38,120,499 for 195 awards for the previous year to date. For July-October 2012, 9 new patents were issued, 8 patent applications were filed, and 25 disclosures were submitted—compared to 1, 8 and 17, respectively, for July-October 2011.

Audit & Compliance Committee

1. External Audit Results for the Period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

The University, The University of Akron Foundation and the University of Akron Research Foundation each received an unqualified opinion (often referred to as a “clean” opinion) from the external auditors, Plante Moran.

2. SSAE 16 Audit Results for the Period of May 1, 2011 through April 30, 2012

Since January 2010, the University is considered a service provider in that it provides certain IT hosting and management functions for Lorain County Community College. Those services necessitate the need for an SSAE 16 audit, which varies in scope and objective from an annual financial statement audit. External auditors from SS&G conducted the SSAE 16 audit and issued an unqualified opinion (often referred to as a “clean” opinion).

New Business

1. Appointment of Sandra Pianalto as Advisory Trustee

The Board appointed Sandra Pianalto, president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, to the position of Advisory Trustee. She is the first person to hold the Advisory Trustee position, established by Board rule last year “to permit the university to take advantage of the talents, resources and experiences of individuals who may or may not be residents of the state of Ohio.” The Board considered well over 100 individuals for its first advisory trustee appointment “to bring into the boardroom expertise, knowledge and wisdom” that can provide different perspectives to the Board. Pianalto, who has held several positions at the Bank since 1983, becoming president in 2003, participates in the formulation of U.S. monetary policy, and oversees 1,000 employees in Cleveland, Cincinnati and Pittsburgh who conduct economic research, supervise financial

institutions and provide payment services to commercial banks and the U.S. government. She is a graduate of The University of Akron, The George Washington University and Duke University's Advanced Management Program in the Fuqua School of Business.

2. Endorsement of Complete College Ohio

The Board gave its unequivocal endorsement of the Complete College Ohio initiative and affirmed the University's commitment to forming increasing numbers of skilled, critical thinkers that will attract and keep businesses in Ohio, in addition to being effective citizens and valued members of the community.

3. Central Hower High School

The Board considered a Real Estate Disposition Agreement between the University and the Board of Education of the Akron City School District enabling the University to acquire the former Central Hower High School facility and property. In exchange, the University will provide the school district with in-kind services, educational programs or other assistance with an aggregate value of \$13.5 million, Central Hower's appraised fair-market value. David Cummins and Ted Mallo were authorized to execute the agreement on or before December 31, 2012, the final day to act under the enabling legislation of Section 733.10 of Amended Substitute House Bill 487 of the 129th General Assembly.

Notes

1. President's Report

After welcoming Mrs. Blicke to the Board, I shared one item about the November 2012 annual meeting of the Council on Competitiveness. I was on a panel next to three senior corporate executives and the president of The University of Chicago, Bob Zimmer. The moderator of the panel was a gentleman who formerly was with the Kauffman Foundation and is now with Bloomberg News, the media sponsor. I was absolutely thrilled by the way the moderator introduced the University, as follows: "I'll just give a commercial for Akron because I was there about a year ago, and it's a not-so-secret source of a tremendous amount of R&D and innovation in the United States." Without any invitation or provocation, the moderator praised the University extensively.

I reported that Governor Kasich has been quite pleased with the work that the Inter-University Council has done to support a restructuring both of the capital budget formula for allocation of capital dollars to higher education and, most recently, the allocation of dollars within the SSI. I reminded everyone that this is particularly moving toward something that was begun long ago within the legislature and the Board of Regents—making the available dollars allocable increasingly on the basis of outcomes. It had begun in terms of allocating some dollars years ago with regard to course completions, and it now includes half of the SSI dollars allocated in terms of graduation and degree completion. The process, which was very comprehensive, was led by Gordon Gee, president of The Ohio State University, with great input from the chief financial officers. I thanked David Cummins for his very careful and diligent analysis of all of the issues and noted that all of the institutions had an opportunity to provide input and, in the long run, are likely to see several benefits. One is that the universities will be having a much greater say in how this moves forward, with an agreement in place that the universities will review how the allocation process is working on

a regular basis. Second, the governor's delight at the process and the outcome has come along with an indication that he will likely be able to at least hold public university funding constant for this coming biennium and possibly allocate some additional dollars. The IUC looks forward to continued good relationships and working productively with the governor and his policy staff.

I told Trustees that a University of Akron delegation attended the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities meeting on November 11 and initiated a national discussion on the kind of model that was represented at the State of the University Address, the "I AM" model. An unprecedented 23 university presidents joined the urban-serving universities for the discussion, which I hope will move forward. There was a lot of interest, and the colleagues from the University who were there—including Dr. Sherman, Mr. Sage and Ms. Harris Bane—took it upon themselves to sit down with staff from the other universities and begin an action plan that is now moving forward. They will be identifying some additional areas for collective exploration, forming faculty work teams across the universities and proceeding to develop and assemble online resources for those who want to participate in the process.

I was delighted to announce that the Ohio Board of Regents had advised the University that it had a \$900,000 grant to improve and expand its internship and co-op programs. The grant was part of the state's initiative to award \$11 million in grants to enhance experiential learning and career opportunities for students. The grants are competitive and require matching funds either from the institution or the students. The University has letters of commitment from more than 60 companies in 18 counties supporting its proposal, as well as from several chambers of commerce and developmental organizations. One should realize that this \$11-million opportunity was open to all universities, and The University of Akron got \$900,000 of that, one of the largest awards.

I then paused for a moment to observe the untimely passing of three former Board members:

- Mr. Ray Meyo, who served from 1992 to 2000, died on November 8;
- Mrs. Rainy Gates Stitzlein, who served from 1988 to 1997 and was awarded the title of Chair Emeritus, died on November 30; and
- Mrs. Kathryn Hunter, who served from 1989 to 1996, died on December 8.

I informed Trustees that Rainy Stitzlein would have a moment of silence in her memory offered during the December 18 game of the Zips men's basketball team, because she attended, before her illness, nearly every game that was ever played on the campus. She was quite a remarkable lady.

I encouraged Trustees to attend the commencement ceremonies during the coming weekend, when the University would confirm more than 1,500 degrees on Friday evening and in two ceremonies on Saturday.

I concluded by extending good cheer and goodwill for the very best possible holiday season and offering Trustees best wishes and thanks for all they do.

2. Provost's Report

Reiterating that the Chancellor convened the Boards of Trustees of the state universities on November 13 to release the Complete College Ohio Task Force Report, Dr. Sherman said there were 20 recommendations made in that report, but its substance requests the Chancellor to secure from each state institution a completion plan for the institution. He said The University of Akron is well on its way to having created a completion framework, but there certainly is a lot more to do.

Dr. Sherman said this certainly is an important issue because, for every 100 ninth-grade students in Ohio, only 73 graduate from high school, only 46 enter college, only 33 are still enrolled in their sophomore year and only 22 graduate with either an associate degree within three years or a bachelor's degree within six years. The state can do much better than this, he said. The adjustments that the General Assembly has made in the completion requirements coming out of high school, the impact and influence of the task force report as universities develop their own completion plans, and a significant interface with business and industry to place students in jobs are the essential commitments of each institution, particularly The University of Akron, to the completion agenda.

The University is at the far end of the cradle-to-career continuum, he said, and it is well known that there are many milestone points across the continuum at which a lack of success indicates a greatly diminished likelihood of success in the future. As an example, the provost said, if students are not ready to learn, they do not learn to read as well; if they do not read as well as they should, they cannot complete math as needed; and if they are not doing well in math, they are going to have trouble completing ninth grade. He said if they are not starting to think about college readiness, both academically and from a career perspective, at that time, they are not going to do as well as they potentially could do in college. While the University recognizes that it plays a major role in that component of the continuum, he said, it will accept responsibility to play a role across the entire continuum.

He asked, "Why is this important to Ohio in particular?" He said 40 percent of individuals coming to college out of high school require remediation, only 50 percent of individuals who start college complete college, and Ohio is in the bottom 25 percent nationally for the percentage of adults with a baccalaureate degree or greater. Perhaps most important, about 60 percent of all Ohio jobs by 2020 will require some level of post-secondary education, Dr. Sherman said.

Dr. Sherman described how the University is responding. The Board has endorsed a strategic plan, Vision 2020, that certainly is aspirational, he said, adding that Mr. York has said, "It's just a plan if you don't execute." The provost said the University's approach to execution is to create an annual leadership agenda. He said the current leadership agenda is:

- Student success;
- Creating alternative course offerings and program delivery systems; and
- Assuring the excellence of the University's academic programs.

He said the University's aspirational goals of at least a 60-percent graduation rate and at least an 80-percent job- or graduate/professional-school placement rate within six months of graduation, clearly are attentive to the obligation, responsibility and the accountability accepted by the University.

Part of Vision 2020 indicates that the University is successful when its community is successful, and it will be more successful when its community is more successful, Dr. Sherman said. Because the University takes responsibility during the entirety of that cradle-to-career continuum, the initiatives of School-Embedded Literacy Coaching, the Center for Literacy's Web-based courses in reading instruction, Camp Digi-Lit and Academic Achievement Programs, among many others, will be quantified for the University's official completion agenda, he said. He noted that those programs, having been embedded in the school districts, enhance third-grade reading, enhance the ability of teachers to teach more effectively and serve students at The University of Akron in the summer and as they prepare to be successful.

The provost said the University's Pathways to Academic Success enrollment model, which is really the centerpiece of its Higher Learning Commission Reaccreditation Report, creates a cycle of student success by:

- Providing particular support mechanisms for students who are emergent, where they need intensive, intentional support and advice;
- Creating the opportunities for students who are college ready to be admitted into degree programs and to be introduced to their majors, research and experiential learning early in their experience at The University of Akron; and
- Working with community college partners to assure that those who need specialized support receive it and, having been successful at community colleges, then can be successful at The University of Akron.

He said the regional articulation agreements and the whole strategy will increase completion at a faster rate and at a lower cost. "That is our obligation to our students," he said, "and it is our accountability structure to the state, to ourselves and to our students."

Dr. Sherman said that a particularly important adjustment to the framework has been made to assure that students receive optimal support. In particular those who are preparatory students or emergent or college-ready students who cannot or have not yet declared a major will be served by being placed in pre-majors and supported in very particular ways to secure the successful completion of a major. He said this is a better approach to tailor to the needs of students their academic programs for their success, because starting with the intentionality of a major from the very beginning, in and of itself, facilitates a more rapid completion of an academic program. He said, "As Vice President Tressel has illustrated before, this adjustment to eliminate essentially the undeclared major to create a pre-major program is an adjustment that is responsive to the completion agenda."

He said the University has placed a significant emphasis on the continuum that leads to a career, and he thanked the faculty who were significantly involved in completing that application for the grant from the Board of Regents to enhance and advance co-op and internship programs at The University of Akron. He said that individuals who have significant experiential learning have higher graduation rates, are more likely to attain full-time employment and have higher starting salaries. He cited the College of Engineering as an illustration, having nearly 100-percent job placement rate of its graduates and said that the same companies who hire engineers also hire individuals who have marketing experience, who are accountants, who can do public relations, who can do math, who can write, who can read, who can present. He said it creates opportunities for students across all the colleges of the University to secure gainful employment, so one component of that grant is to leverage the success of the College of Engineering with the businesses and industries that now hire engineers to hire more than just engineers, to hire students out of the College of Business Administration, the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Education and, perhaps, the College of Health Professions.

Dr. Sherman said the Pathways to Completion at The University of Akron include both the notion of access as a result of the implementation of the Student Pathways to Academic Success and its concern with graduation rate, knowing that by shifting the profile of incoming students at minimum will secure over time a 60-percent graduation rate. He said, "We have to, as faculty and staff, remind ourselves that that adjustment will receive a 60-percent graduation rate if we do not change our current behavior. We are working with the colleges, with the faculty, with the staff to significantly adjust our behaviors so that we exceed the 60-percent graduation rate perhaps sooner

than we anticipate.” He said the career focus of an 80-percent job placement or graduate-school placement is the value proposition for a degree from The University of Akron.

He concluded, “I think you’ll agree, on the basis of this high-level presentation, an illustration of the steps The University of Akron has taken in the last three years to attend to the completion of our students, we are well on our way, but we have more work to do.”

3. Next Regular Meeting

The Board’s next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, January 30, 2013 in the Student Union, Board Room 339, with an executive session to begin at 7:30 or 8 a.m. and the public session to begin no earlier than 9 a.m. Committee meetings will be held on Tuesday, January 22.

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