

January 12, 2007

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 meeting on December 13, 2006.

**Educational Policy/Student Affairs Committee**

1. Remarks Concerning Residence Hall Policy

To continue to offer students a safe living and learning environment, I announced several changes to our residence hall policy at this point in the meeting. My remarks are summarized below.

As you know, we are very committed to safety on our campus. Our annual statistics show that our campus is either comparable or better than other campuses in the state and nation. We have a certified police department that operates around the clock, the staff members in our residence halls are caring and responsible, and there are many other safety-related programs available to students. I will not detail all of them, but do note that our Office of Residence Life and Housing has worked very diligently, and for its efforts, the office has received well over 30 national and regional awards. The residence hall experience provided to our students at The University of Akron must be among the very best and, of course, we are concerned whenever something occurs to the contrary. Recent news media stories have focused on two campus-housing practices that warrant our attention.

I wish to advise you of actions that I have asked be taken immediately to ensure that we continue to provide students with a safe and comfortable environment. These actions make a strong statement about our commitment to safety and student satisfaction.

One of these changes deals with how age differentials between students are taken into account when making room assignments. First, let me provide some context for everyone. At the present time, only 9 of more than 2,500 students living on campus are over the age of 25. So, a Residence Life issue involving age differential is, first and foremost, a relatively rare occurrence. In addition, I have learned that several of these individuals actually requested to live with one another. Nevertheless, I have instructed our administrative staff to recommend a procedure that we can put in place by the spring semester that will more appropriately take into consideration age when we make room assignments. As part of this procedure, when the rare case presents itself and there is an age differential greater than five years between a proposed roommate pairing, staff members from Residence Life and Housing will consult with both individuals to determine if they are comfortable with the proposed arrangement. Some older students may request roommates in traditional-style residence halls for financial reasons, because single rooms in our apartment-style facilities are more expensive by contrast. Whatever the case, all efforts will be made to find an age-appropriate pairing or a single room for an older student on our campus. We value the diversity in our student body, and we will take the necessary measures to create the sense of community and belonging for all students who are committed to pursuing an education.

The second issue that has come forward deals with the background of students admitted in the residence halls. I have directed that, beginning with this spring semester, appropriate language be included in our housing contracts to require self-disclosure of criminal offenses other than minor traffic violations. In addition, I have asked that the housing contract include specific student authorization for the University to conduct a criminal background check to verify the information provided in the housing contract. While the existence of a criminal background may not automatically disqualify a student from living in the residence halls, certain criminal histories might. For example, already we exclude student employees from working in the residence halls who have prior criminal histories that include the commission of a felony, certain sex offenses, and offenses of violence, drug abuse, or theft. I would expect that the existence of similar criminal histories might also disqualify students from living in the residence halls.

These procedural changes will be effected immediately through our contract housing provisions and the management of age disparities over five years. We will certainly be following up with the Board on any issues that require a policy change on your part; however, I think that these will go into effect without any of that. These changes that I have described, ladies and gentlemen, are, of course, in addition to the two policy revisions that this Board approved recently for criminal background checks of employees in our Office of Residence Life and Housing. This new policy applies broadly to full-time employees as well as to student employees who have access to student living quarters or common areas.

2. Approval of Transfer of Copyright

Trustees approved the transfer of copyright to D.A.R.E. America for a curriculum and associated materials developed by the University's Institute for Health and Social Policy. The curriculum and materials were developed for high school students worldwide by the institute, which received \$13.6 million in funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for the project. This is the final step in the largest grant-funded project in University of Akron history, a point the Board noted with its congratulations. The University will retain in perpetuity the right to conduct research using the copyrighted material without paying a royalty fee.

3. Approval of Academic Calendars

The Board approved academic calendars for this summer and for the 2007-08 academic year. The calendar includes one week between the spring and summer sessions and between the summer and fall sessions. The summer term is 13 weeks, with multiple summer sessions ranging from five to 13 weeks. The Akron-AAUP was consulted on this matter.

<b>Summer Session I, 2007</b>	
Day and evening classes begin for first 5-week session	Monday, May 21
Day and evening classes begin for first 8-week session	Monday, May 21
Day and evening classes begin for 10-week session *	Monday, May 21
Day and evening classes begin for 13-week session	Monday, May 21
Day and evening classes begin for second 5-week session	Monday, June 11
Final instruction day for first 5-week session	Saturday, June 23
Day and evening classes begin for second 8-week session	Monday, June 25
Final instruction day for first 8-week session	Saturday, July 14
Final instruction day for second 5-week session	Saturday, July 14
<b>Summer Session II, 2007</b>	
Day and evening classes begin for third 5-week session	Monday, July 16
Final Instruction Day for 10-week session	Saturday, July 28
Final Instruction Day for 13-week session	Saturday, Aug. 18
Final Instruction Day for second 8-week session	Saturday, Aug. 18
Final Instruction Day for third 5-week session	Saturday, Aug. 18
<b>Fall semester 2007-08</b>	
Fall commencement	Dec. 15

<b>Spring semester 2007-08</b>	<b>Jan. 14 to May 10</b>
Spring break	March 17-22
Spring commencement	May 10-11
Law School commencement	May 18

\* The ten-week session may be divided into two five-week sessions. Summer term for faculty on federal research grants is defined to be 15 weeks, beginning May 14, 2007.

#### 4. Approval of the Statistics and Proposed List of Graduates for Fall 2006

Trustees approved a tentative list of candidates eligible to participate in commencement ceremonies on December 13, contingent on the candidates' fulfillment of requirements. A total of 1,244 degrees were to be conferred (43 doctoral, 23 juris doctor, 297 master's, and 881 undergraduate degrees).

#### 5. Research Grants and Sponsored Programs Report – July-November 2006

For July-November 2006, funding for externally funded research and other sponsored programs was \$12,291,775 to support 204 projects. In the prior fiscal year, the year-to-date amount was \$21,276,283 to support 174 projects. During the current fiscal year, four patents have been awarded, 18 patent applications have been filed by the institution and 32 disclosures have been submitted. For the same period last year, four patents had been issued, 12 patent applications had been filed, and 27 disclosures had been submitted.

### **External Affairs Committee**

#### 1. Cumulative Gift and Grant Income Report – July 2006-October 2006

Between July 1, 2006 and October, 31, 2006, total giving was \$10.3 million, or about 1 percent more than the \$10.2 million received for the first four months of the prior fiscal year. For July 2006 to October 2006, 5,722 gifts were accepted, compared to 4,796 received during the same period last fiscal year.

### **Facilities Planning and Oversight Committee**

#### 1. Robertson Cafe Renovation

Contracts for construction management services were awarded to Thomarios for \$127,236.

#### 2. Construction Manager for Stadium

The Board authorized the University administration to proceed with seeking a request for qualifications for a construction manager to facilitate and oversee the possible construction of a stadium.

**Finance, Fiscal Policy, and Investment Committee**

1. Natural Gas Agreement

Trustees approved a one-year extension to Interstate Gas Supply for natural gas. The new contract locks in a lower rate for the balance of the current contract, which expires in July, and for the subsequent year.

2. The Ohio Fair Minimum Wage Amendment

Trustees approved the University's compliance with the new minimum wage requirements that went into effect January 1.

3. Constant Maturity Swap Arrangement

Trustees authorized the administration to move forward with a constant maturity swap arrangement, provided that certain conditions are met. In very general terms, the swap is similar to a refinancing plan that takes advantage of changes in interest rates. This resolution replaces and rescinds Resolution 8-10-06, which was adopted in 2006 to authorize a LIBOR swap arrangement. The new resolution provides more precise language regarding the nature of the swap.

4. Personnel Actions (attached as amended)

**New Business**

1. Ratification of the Communications Workers of America Contract

Trustees approved a recommendation to ratify a collective bargaining agreement between the University and employees represented by the Communications Workers of America. The agreement, which covers about 235 employees, will expire September 30, 2009.

2. Honorary Doctorate and Humane Letters Degree for Dean Frank N. Kelley

Dean Kelley, the first and only dean of the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering, retired at year's end after 28 years of service to the University. The Trustees honored his contributions to the University with an honorary degree and by naming the circle north of the Goodyear Polymer Building "The Frank N. Kelley Plaza."

3. Mutual Aid Agreement

The Board approved a SWAT mutual aid agreement among the University and the city of Akron, the county sheriff's office and other local police departments.

Notes

## 1. President's Report

I began my report with an account of a Dec. 11 meeting between the higher education community — the Board of Regents and representatives from the four-year, two-year and private universities — and Governor-elect Ted Strickland. This meeting suggested a very positive environment for the transition that we have been expecting. We met some of his senior staff, among them, Jan Allen, policy adviser; Janetta King, senior policy adviser; and Pari Sabety, a member of the transition team who has been appointed director of the Office of Management and Budget for the state. Each has extensive experience in policy formation and implementation. Ms. Sabety, for example, in addition to having served in the Celeste administration, also has been a consultant and a fellow at the Brookings Institution in recent years.

The Governor-elect commented that he did not think that we needed to worry about his commitment to higher education and his understanding of it. We had wide dialogue with him and his staff about the various issues that we are confronting in higher education, both in Ohio and nationally.

In September, the Commission on the Future of Higher Education — also known as the Spellings Commission after U.S. Education Secretary Margaret Spellings — issued its report. In early December, a national conference of state legislators issued its own report about what states need to do to attend to the very important issue of higher education. When you look at what institutions like ours are doing to set the new “gold standard” for operational excellence, as I like to call it, what states are doing and what the Department of Education nationally is doing, we will have a very full agenda. It was gratifying to see that Governor-elect Strickland had this opportunity to meet with the presidents from each of these sectors (the four-year, two-year and private universities); in fact, it felt at times like a meeting of the Higher Education Leadership Council, which I helped to organize together with Ed Adams, chairman of the Board of Regents, and Nancy Zimpher, the president at the University of Cincinnati.

We had some very special visitors on campus in early December as The University of Akron and the city of Akron, together with other partners in Northeast Ohio, met with the site-selection committee from the Special Olympics as it visits cities competing to host the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games. As the Akron Beacon Journal reported, the University is a key component of the Northeast Ohio bid to host the games because of our first-class facilities – including the possibility of our new stadium – and additional residence halls to house a significant portion of the more than 7,500 athletes that would come and the many other staff and visitors from all of 170 countries with an estimated \$120 million of direct injection into our local economy.

We are gratified to see the continued presence of visitors on our campus, and our enrollment numbers for spring semester are holding strong, with headcount as well as credit hours being up significantly compared to last. These increases are comparable for spring for both undergraduate and graduate students. They clearly reflect the enrollment gains that we have experienced this past fall, especially the more than 16 percent increase in new freshmen students and the 10 percent increase in transfer students.

Several student and faculty highlights were shared with the Board:

- I was pleased to help welcome the 300 students and parents who attended the Honors College's Scholarship Saturday in December.
- The University's Barker Center for Economic Education received a Distinguished Education Program Award for Innovative and Creative Education from the Academy of Educational Leadership. This is a national award that recognizes these efforts.
- Dr. George Newkome, our vice president of research and dean of the Graduate School, along with the staff of The University of Akron Research Foundation, unveiled the University's Inventors Wall of Fame that honors faculty members for the 247 patents they have earned since the first one was issued 44 years ago. The Wall of Fame is on the third floor of the Goodyear Polymer Center.
- I closed my report by noting again that we were preparing to graduate 1,240 candidates in ceremonies three days following the Board meeting. I also wished all of the members of the Board and of our University community season's greetings and much success in the new year.

## 2. Next Regular Meeting

January 24, 2007, 10 a.m., Board Room, Student Union, Third Floor

**Personnel Transactions Approved by the Board of Trustees  
December 13, 2006**

**Appointments**

**Dale Adams**, assistant director, student judicial affairs, Student Life, 10/23/06; **Daniel Dahl**, executive director, Performing Arts Hall, campus special performances coordinator, 01/08/07; **Jennifer Eaton**, postdoctoral research associate, Biology, 11/1/06; **Sebastian Pawlus**, research associate, Institute of Polymer Science, 10/2/06; **Roy Ray**, director, state governmental affairs, Public Affairs and Development, rehire in accordance with reemployment agreement, 01/01/07; **Melissa Smith**, assistant director, fitness and wellness, Student Recreation and Wellness Services, basis change from part time to full time, 12/1/06; and **Xu Wang**, visiting scholar, Civil Engineering, 10/16/06.

**Changes**

**Mark Allen**, manager, intramurals, Student Recreation and Wellness Services, title change from assistant director, sport and adventure, 10/1/06; **Julie Anderson**, college program specialist, Engineering Dean's Office, reclassification via job audit and title change from administrative assistant, 6/26/06; **Pamela Arrington**, associate director, Student Financial Aid and Enrollment Services, reclassification via job audit and title change from assistant director, Student Financial Aid, 10/16/06; **Dolores Awalt**, student account specialist, Loans and Receivables, title change from student loan specialist, 12/11/06; **Barbara Berasi**, coordinator, student life administration, Student Life, reclassification via job audit and title change from administrative assistant, 9/18/06; **Laurel Bleil**, examiner associate, Admissions, reclassification via job audit and title change from secretary, 9/4/06; **Cheryl Buchanan**, coordinator, baccalaureate programs, assistant professor, Nursing, primary responsibility change from teaching to administration, 10/1/06; **Alper Buldum**, assistant professor, Physics, assistant professor, Chemistry/Physics, joint appointment with Physics (primary) and Chemistry, 8/28/06; **Cheryl Collins**, administrative secretary, Education Dean's Office, transfer from Curricular and Instructional Studies, 9/18/06; **Stephanie Davis**, manager, fitness and wellness, Student Recreation and Wellness Services, title change from manager, fitness, 9/1/06; **Valery DuBoise**, administrative assistant, Curricular and Instructional Studies, transfer from Education Dean's Office, 9/18/06; **Laurie Dunlap**, assistant professor of education in mathematics, Theoretical and Applied Mathematics, to correct title from assistant professor of mathematics in education, 8/28/06; **Rosemarie Eichler**, instructor, History, title change from college lecturer, 8/28/06; **Neadra Ferguson**, student account specialist, Loans and Receivables, title change from student loan specialist, 12/11/06; **Patricia Ford**, student account specialist senior, Loans and Receivables, title change from student loan specialist senior, 12/11/06; **Pamela Grohosky**, assistant building services worker, Physical Facilities, promotion and title change from seasonal grounds worker, basis change from part time to full time, 11/13/06; **Constance Jones**, student account specialist, Loans and Receivables, title change from student loan specialist, 12/11/06; **Brenda Laster**, student account specialist, Loans and Receivables, title change from student loan specialist, 12/11/06; **Maria Lenardon**, instructor, Modern Languages, title change from college lecturer, 8/28/06; **Sergei Lyuksyutov**, associate professor, Physics, associate professor, Chemistry, adjunct associate professor, Polymer Engineering, joint appointment with Physics (primary) and Chemistry, 8/28/06; **John**



**MacDonald**, assistant director, sport and adventure, Student Recreation and Wellness Services, title change from manager, outdoor adventure, 10/1/06; **Lorri March**, assistant director, campus programs, Student Life, reclassification via job audit and title change from coordinator, 10/1/06; **Daniel Martin**, building maintenance superintendent, Physical Facilities, promotion and title change from maintenance repair worker, status change from regular to temporary, 11/13/06; **Valerie Mauck**, student account specialist, Loans and Receivables, title change from student loan specialist, 12/11/06; **Douglas McNutt**, director, Student Financial Aid and Student Enrollment Services, title change from director, Student Financial Aid, 10/16/06; **Denise Moss**, director, Student Accounts, Bursar, title change from director, Student Financials, 9/1/06; **Grace Olmstead**, academic adviser II emeritus, Academic Advisement Center, title change from academic adviser II, 12/31/06; **Elizabeth Onie**, coordinator, academic affairs support, Wayne College Dean's Office, title change from administrative secretary, 11/2/06; **Marlene Otto**, student account specialist, Loans and Receivables, title change from student loan specialist, 12/11/06; **Claire Purdy**, director, financial services and systems, Associate Vice President and Controller, reclassification via job audit and title change from associate controller, 01/01/07; **Roderic Quirk**, distinguished professor and Kumho professor, Polymer Science, additional title of interim director, Institute of Polymer Science, 8/28/06; **Brett Riebau**, director, financial reporting, Associate Vice President and Controller, title change from interim controller, 01/01/07; **J. Morgan Robison**, instructor, Modern Languages, title change from college lecturer, 8/28/06; **Deborah Schindewolf**, student account specialist senior, Loans and Receivables, title change from student loan specialist senior, 12/11/06; **Karen Schwarz**, professor, Nursing, fellow, Institute for LifeSpan Development and Gerontology, additional title of interim assistant dean, nursing research, 11/15/06; **Roy Shafer**, manager, physical facilities service center, Physical Facilities, promotion and title change from custodial superintendent, 10/16/06; **Sara Sollenberger**, examiner associate, Admissions, reclassification via job audit and title change from secretary, 9/4/06; **Richard Stratton**, associate professor, Economics, additional title of Faculty Senate Executive Committee secretary, 8/28/06; **Tracy Thomas**, professor, Law, Intellectual Property Center fellow, additional title of director, faculty research and development, 1/16/07; **Betsy Tierney**, student account specialist, Loans and Receivables, title change from accounting clerk senior, 12/11/06; **Crystal Villers**, student account specialist, Loans and Receivables, title change from student loans specialist, 12/11/06; **Nickole Walker-Wheeler**, student account specialist, Loans and Receivables, title change from student loans specialist, 12/11/06; **Nicholas Weber**, assistant director, aquatics, Ocasek Natatorium, title change from manager, aquatic operations, 10/1/06; and **Stephanie Woods**, associate professor, Nursing, relinquish title of interim assistant dean, nursing research, 11/14/06.

### Separations

**Robert Algera**, counselor, Office of Technology Transfer, 10/31/06; **Neil Ayers**, postdoctoral research associate, Institute of Polymer Science, 10/13/06; **Nora Basile**, enrollment services associate, Registrar, 12/31/06; **Kimberly Duzyk**, manager, ticket office, E.J. Thomas Hall Box Office, 9/29/06; **Joanne Ferris**, administrative secretary, nursing instruction, 10/12/2006; **Ginger Gray**, data systems specialist, Registrar, 11/30/06; **Charlene Kemp-Queener**, academic adviser international, Business Administration Dean's Office, 10/23/06; **Doseong Kim**, associate professor, Finance, 12/18/06; **Dennis MacFarland**, patrol captain, University Police, 10/31/06; **Shawn Nestor**, assistant athletics director, athletics media relations, Athletics, 11/20/06; **T.**

**Shane Olivett**, coordinator academic advising – athletes, Academic Advisement Center, 10/6/06; **Grace Olmstead**, academic adviser II, Academic Advising Center, 12/31/06; **Cheryl Purefoy**, director, materials handling, Printing Services, 11/30/06; **Craig Schraft**, mover, Physical Facilities, 10/26/06; **Marie Smith**, administrative assistant, Engineering and Science Technology, 12/31/06; **David Sumitra**, systems administrator, Hardware Operations and Systems Services, 12/31/06; **James Tenney**, maintenance repair worker, Physical Facilities, 11/9/06; **Ann Thornton**, regional coordinator, Institute for Health and Social Policy, 8/31/06; **Allyson VanHorn**, secretary, Student Life, 9/15/06; **Katherine Waite**, instructor, Nursing, 12/31/06; **Kathy Watson**, executive director, Human Resources, 12/31/06; **Phyllis Wiebe**, administrative assistant senior, Wayne College Dean's Office, 2/28/07; and **Christine Williams**, associate general counsel, 11/15/06.