

September 13, 2008

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 the regular meeting on August 6, 2008.

Presentation to the Board

Barbara O'Malley, the associate vice president for communications/chief communications officer, and Jim Sage, the vice president for information technology and chief information officer, discussed the strategic plan for the University's new Web site.

Educational Policy/Student Affairs Committee

1. Approval of Proposed Curricular Changes

Board members approved a series of curricular changes:

- Certificate in Research Methods for the Social Sciences — The Department of Sociology will add an undergraduate certificate program designed for students interested in interdisciplinary social science research. The goal of the program is (1) to encourage and support the broad understanding and application of many social science research methodologies and (2) to help bridge the divide between disciplines and methodologies.
- Graduate Certificate Program in IS Project Management — This new graduate certificate program in IS project management is designed to meet the needs of IT and other professionals who are interested in developing expertise in off-shore and on-shore outsourcing, as well as in-house development. The 15-credit-hour certificate program will consist of coursework addressing project planning, requirements analysis and design, rapid application development and implementation.

- Certificate Program in Post MSN Psychiatric Family Nurse Practitioner — The College of Nursing will establish a Post-MSN Psychiatric Family Nurse Practitioner Program for advanced practice nurses who (1) have a master's degree in nursing, (2) are certified as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner and (3) want to be eligible to sit for the American Nurses Credentialing Center's certification as a Family Psychiatric & Mental Health Nurse Practitioner.
- Certificate in Professional Writing — The Associate Studies program in Summit College will add a Certificate in Professional Writing that will help students enhance their professional writing skills. This certificate, requiring a minimum of 12 credits of writing-intensive courses, further enhances students' understanding of writing-related issues relevant to the workplace, and it requires students to produce effective documents in a variety of styles, formats and media.
- Program in Paraprofessional Education in Early Childhood — This program in Paraprofessional Education - Early Childhood, to be offered at Wayne College, is designed for individuals who want to serve children ages 3 to grade three. The program will help address the growing need for highly qualified early childhood assistants within private and public preschool programs and Head Start programs in Ohio. This associate's degree program will provide a means for addressing the expansion of services to young children and creating a pipeline for students into the bachelor's degree program for early childhood education.

The new programs and certificates were approved of Faculty Senate earlier.

2. Approval of Proposed Curricular Changes – Online Course

The Board also approved the M.S. Postsecondary Technical Education Online Program. The postsecondary technical education program strives to prepare the instructor and other educational personnel for postsecondary educational institutions, industry, and public and private agencies engaged in the education and training of technicians and middle-level workers. This program will be available online and in a more traditional face-to-face format.

3. Tentative Graduation List and Statistics for Summer 2008

The Board approved a tentative list of prospective graduates for Summer Commencement ceremonies, at which time the University anticipates conferring 1,090 degrees (52 doctoral, 369 master's and 669 undergraduate).

4. Research Grants and Sponsored Programs Report – 2008 Fiscal Year

For the 2008 fiscal year (covering July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008), funding for externally funded research and other sponsored programs was \$34,270,142 to support 503 projects. The \$34.7 million represents a new record for the University. For the 2007 fiscal year, the year-to-date amount was \$32,832,284 to support 459 projects.

For the 2008 fiscal year, three patents were awarded, 27 patent applications were filed, and 42 disclosures were submitted. For the prior fiscal year, 10 patents were issued, 33 patent applications were filed, and 60 disclosures were submitted.

External Affairs Committee

1. Cumulative Gift and Grant Income Report – July 2007-May 2008

Between July 1, 2007, and May 31, 2008, total giving was \$33.3 million, or about 6 percent more than the \$31.5 million received during the first 11 months of the prior fiscal year. This fiscal year, 16,861 gifts have been accepted, compared to 15,109 for the same period last year.

Facilities Planning and Oversight Committee

1. Utility Easement

Board members authorized the administration to enter into a utility-easement agreement with the city for UA-owned property at 456 Brown Street. The purchase price is \$1.

2. Construction Contract at Wayne College

Board members authorized the administration to enter into a \$777,400 contract with low-bidder Jeffrey Carr Construction Inc. for contracts related to the Student Life building under construction at Wayne College.

3. Bleacher Contract for Stadium

Board members approved a \$5.67 million contract with low-bidder E&D Specialty Stands Inc. for seating in InfoCision Stadium.

4. Plumbing Rebid for Stadium

Board members authorized the administration to enter into a \$2.82 million contract with low-bidder S.A. Comunale for plumbing work for InfoCision Stadium. The project was rebid because S.A. Comunale would guarantee pricing for only seven days from the date of the bid opening.

5. Auburn West Tower Rehabilitation, Phase I, II and III

Trustees awarded a \$1.7 million contract to low-bidder Kewaunee Scientific Corp. for lab

casework and fume hoods for the Auburn West rehabilitation project.

Finance, Fiscal Policy, and Investment Committee

1. Purchases of more than \$150,000

Board members approved purchases of: (1) \$1 million to low-bidder SARCOM Inc. of Cleveland for three years of maintenance for Cisco Systems SMARTnet equipment; (2) \$181,668 to low-bidder Roy's Travel of Stow for charter air service for the football team to Newburg, N.Y., Madison, Wisc., and Philadelphia for the coming season; and (3) \$338,219 to Avaya Inc. of Worthington, Ohio, for phone equipment and installation services. Avaya is the sole source and thus the project was not submitted for competitive bidding.

2. Revision to Graduate School Fee

Trustees approved a revision to a Graduate School fee that the Board first approved in April. The UMI Microfilm/Digital Vault Fee — collected by UA on behalf of Proquest-UMI for microfilming and copyrighting of doctoral dissertations and mater's theses — will increase from \$55 to \$65.

3. Personnel Actions (appended as amended)

New Business

1. The Board authorized the administration to finance the purchase of nine shuttle buses through the Transportation Sales Corporation for \$789,813 via a three-year municipal lease with Key Government Finance. The Trustees in May approved the purchase of the shuttles, which are being used for the Roo Express shuttle service.

Notes

1. President's Report

I began my remarks by acknowledging our new Board Chairman Philip S. Kaufmann and other 2008-09 Board officers, and by thanking all members of the Board for their continued leadership. I noted that I am looking forward to working with the new officers, as it looks to be an exciting and very positive year.

I noted that Provost Stroble would report later in the meeting on the details of our North Central Association final report on its recent focus visit, which was most successful and signifies the tremendous progress that the University continues to make.

At each Board meeting for the balance of the year, I will focus on one initiative. In this report, I just want to note that, through the Board's leadership, we have worked exceedingly hard to guide and influence this University into its third major transformation. Certainly one

of the most visible signs of these initiatives is the New Landscape for Learning that this Board began when I came here 10 years ago. In the next month our Trustees will be visiting our Medina County University Center, a new facility in which we provide University courses and programs as well as professional development workshops and workforce training opportunities in one of the fastest growing counties in all of Ohio.

Also, on October 8, the Board will meet at our Wayne College campus, which continues as a vibrant and vital component of the University's mission. As you know, we are currently beginning construction on the Wayne College Student Life building, the first freestanding academic classroom building added there since the campus' founding in 1972.

Meanwhile, of course, you can see the progress that is being made on the steel frame for the press box of our multiplex stadium facility that will open in just a little bit more than a year. We also can see that the Coleman Common, our "outdoor living room," is well under way in its first phase of development. This nearly four-acre project will provide a natural retreat for our students, faculty and staff. So, again, I think we can stand very proud with the transformation that we enjoyed in the campus, the transformation that we are catalyzing in our community, the partnerships that we are developing and the success that those partnerships are bringing to us.

2. Personnel Transactions

Beginning with this memo, the personnel report will be presented in a format that can be produced more efficiently. The August report is at <http://www.uakron.edu/info/docs/personnel-report-aug08.pdf> . If you have any questions or comments about the new format, send an e-mail to bobk@uakron.edu.

3. Next Regular Meeting

The Trustees met September 3. A summary of the actions taken at that meeting will be made available soon. The Board will reconvene on October 8 at Wayne College, with an executive session to begin at 8 a.m. and the public session to begin no earlier than 10 a.m.