Good morning, colleagues:

Yesterday the University of Michigan Board of Regents held its December meeting at the Richard L. Postma Family Clubhouse in Ann Arbor.

It was a big day for our University of Michigan-Flint campus, starting with the approval of our new Vice Chancellor for University Advancement, William (B.J.) Hull, who was selected after a national search facilitated by UDO Talent Management.

Mr. Hull has nearly 20 years of progressively responsible experience in the field of development, with the past ten years in higher education. Most recently, he has served as the vice president for advancement at Olivet College in Olivet, Michigan.

During his time at Olivet College, he developed, guided, and achieved a record-setting $47 million comprehensive campaign in support of their 2020 strategic plan. Mr. Hull also created and directed the implementation of a modern alumni engagement program and was instrumental in the development of quality data analytics aiding in prospect selection for all fundraising programs.

Mr. Hull received his B.A. in English from Alma College and his M.B.A. from Michigan State University.

As vice chancellor for university advancement, Mr. Hull will serve as UM-Flint’s chief development officer and provide strategic and operational leadership of Development, Alumni Relations and Annual Giving, Career Center, Corporate and Foundation Engagement, Communications and Marketing, and Government and Community Relations.

My sincere thanks to the VCUA search committee and UDO Talent Management who worked diligently this semester. Please join me in welcoming B.J. to our UM-Flint family.

I’d also like to update you on the plan to replace Dr. Alcock in the Provost’s Office, as promised in my email from Nov. 19. I’m pleased to report that the Regents approved the appointment of Dr. Keith Moreland as our new interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. His appointment runs through June 30, 2020.

Dr. Moreland has been with UM-Flint since 1994 and currently serves as a professor of accounting. He was an associate dean of the School of Management from 2004-2006 and also served as interim dean of the School of Health Professions and Studies in 2015.

Professor Moreland is an active researcher with a current focus on personal financial capability and accounting pedagogical issues. He is also active in professional organizations, including the Michigan Association of CPA's Financial Literacy Task Force and Accounting Educators' Task Force, of which
he is a former chair and vice-chair.

His depth of experience and knowledge of the university provide him with the necessary foundation to undertake this important role. My thanks to Keith for taking on this vital role for our campus.

The national search for provost will launch early next year.

The Regents also approved several additional appointments and action items for our UM-Flint campus, including:

- the reappointment of Dr. Christopher Pearson as associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences, effective July 2020 through June 2025;
- the appointment of Dr. Bénédicte Veillet as interim chair of CAS’ Department of Philosophy, effective January 2020 through June 2020;
- the appointment of Dr. Adam Lutzker as interim chair in the CAS’ Department of Economics, effective Jan 2020 through June 2020;
- the reappointment of Dr. Mark Simon as the Hagerman Faculty Development Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation in the School of Management, effective September 2019 through June 2024;
- the transfer of appointment and tenure for Dr. Greg Rybarczyk, from associate professor of earth and resource science to associate professor of geography, with tenure, in the College of Arts and Sciences;
- the transfer of appointment and tenure for Dr. Victoria Morckel, from associate professor of geography, planning, and environment to associate professor of urban planning and public policy, with tenure, in the College of Arts of Sciences;
- and the approval of appointments to the UM-Flint Citizens Advisory Committee for Robert Eickholt and Daniel Scheid.

Congratulations to each of you, and, again, my thanks for your service to our UM-Flint community.

During my opportunity to update the Regents on our campus’ news and accomplishments, I volunteered a preview of our December Commencement. At the latest count, we have 563 students who have applied for December graduation, including 410 undergraduates and 153 graduates.

These students will have the pleasure of hearing from our Commencement speaker, Angie Hendershot. Angie is the award-winning anchor of ABC12 News at 5, 6, and 11 p.m.

I also spoke with the Regents about the success of our Dual Enrollment Education Partnership, known to most of us as DEEP.

In 2007, the DEEP program began in Lapeer County with 17 students. This year, the program has nearly 700 students from 25 different K-12 districts in 5 Michigan counties. In addition, we have expanded to include Early College options for nine local districts.

These students earn up to 60 credits that are transferable to public universities. Our DEEP courses are evaluated for transfer credit in the same manner as traditional college transfer courses because they are taught by UM-Flint faculty. This makes our program the most desirable dual enrollment program in the
state, offering direct transfer credit to all public universities, including at U of M Ann Arbor and Michigan State University.

Finally, I proudly told the Regents about the successes of our Entrepreneur Society, one of the best of its kind in the nation. The student organization won the 2019 Global Chapter of the Year award from the Collegiate Entrepreneur’s Organization. The chapter was ranked top five in Chapter Advisory and Chapter Leader at last year’s CEO awards.

One student involved with the society, Raymond Kusch, is our student speaker for December commencement, a Maize and Blue Scholar, and a veteran.

These are highlights from the Regents meeting yesterday. The full board agenda is available here.

With best wishes,

Go Blue!

Deba Dutta
Chancellor