

Board of Regents Update | May 20, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

I wanted to take just a moment to highlight several important developments from the University of Michigan Board of Regents' meeting on Thursday. The meeting in Grand Rapids included a reception the night before with alumni and donors as well as lunch on Thursday with a group of business and community leaders. President Mark Schlissel took the opportunity during those meetings to highlight the important work being done in Flint to create a healthy community and create partnerships that strengthen our community.

President Schlissel especially noted the work being done to create the [Health Flint Research Coordinating Center](#), which brings together Flint community partners with experts from UM-Flint, U-M Ann Arbor, and Michigan State University. Thank you to Suzanne Selig and Vicki Johnson Lawrence from the Department of Public Health and Health Sciences for your leadership in this effort and for creating a partnership that supports the long-term response to the water crisis.

During my report to the Regents, I talked about a few milestones of the year including a record number of participants in our May commencement and our newly established [partnership with Google](#)—which provided \$150,000 for a team of students being led by Computer Science Assistant Professor Mark Allison to work with our Ann Arbor colleagues to create a smartphone app and other digital tools to determine where lead risks are greatest as well as provide information to make it easier for residents to find help.

At the recommendation of the faculty governance committees and the provost, I recommended and the Regents approved:

- The creation of [two new graduate programs](#), Master of Science in Engineering and a doctoral degree in Occupational Therapy.
- The creation of [two new departments](#) in the School of Management,

the Department of Accounting, Finance, and International Business as well as the Department of Management and Marketing.

A key element of the Regents meeting was the recommendations of promotion and tenure. As announced this morning by Provost Douglas Knerr, the Regents approved promotion of five UM-Flint faculty and tenure for an additional eleven faculty. In the fall, one of these newly promoted faculty will be invited to present during the Regents' meeting. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments and thank you for your commitment to the University of Michigan-Flint!

These are just a few highlights from yesterday's meeting. If you wish to view the full agenda, you can find it [here](#). It was a pleasure to be able to highlight so many wonderful developments and accomplished faculty from our campus during the meeting. Thank you for your efforts.

Best and GO BLUE!

Sue